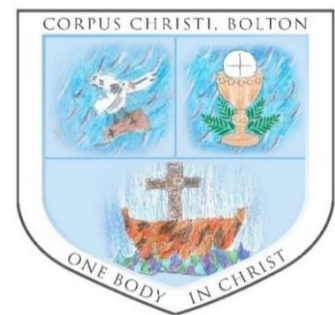


# Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

St John, the Evangelist, Bromley Cross, St Columba's, Tonge Moor  
and St Brendan's, Harwood

**21 January 2024**

**The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**



The Psalms are known as the prayerbook of the people of ancient Israel, but they are more than just prayers. They are the dialogue between the chosen people and their saviour God. They are songs of praise and worship, words of hope and lamentation, wisdom and guidance, covering all the triumphs and tribulations of a people searching to find their way to God.

Today's psalm provides us with a way to make sense of today's readings which seem to be mismatched and difficult to follow. They are a guide to those chosen by God. If you are struggling for understanding do not lose heart, place your faith in the wisdom of God who never fails to help us in our understanding of the Word. Jonah was a reluctant prophet. He comes across as a man who has little faith in his fellow man and has no time for those who do not think the way he does. God chooses not as we choose; he seeks repentance from Jonah but does so by sending him among the disobedient people of Nineveh who have turned away from him and whom he has threatened to destroy. Jonah goes through this mighty city calling them to repentance. The people turn away from their wickedness, repent and ask for forgiveness and their prayers save them from the wrath of God.

Why does God choose one person and not another? Saint Paul wants to ensure all who believe in Christ are saved and he writes to the Corinthians begging them to put Jesus before all earthly thoughts. In the coming weeks we will read some difficult advice from Paul, but he speaks in this way because he wants everyone to live lives worthy of God and be saved. In the psalm we call upon God to teach us His ways. These ways are difficult, he calls us to serve him alone and this can cause difficulties in our personal life, but God never asks us to do something beyond our capabilities.

Fishermen are a hardy breed, they are independently minded and used to working through the calms and storms of life. Mark tells us that when Jesus calls Andrew and Simon Peter, James and John, they show no reluctance and drop everything to follow Him. Perhaps the words of today's psalm speak to them clearly "He guides the humble in the right path, he teaches his way to the poor". *David Frank*

## Masses & Activities this Week

*Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 2*  
*Divine Office Week 3; Roman Missal: p 195.*  
*Readings: p198. Preface: At Priests Choice*

### Sunday 21 January

9.30am Mass (SJ) - *With Children's Liturgy*  
11am Mass (SB) - *With Children's Liturgy*

### Monday 22 January

6pm Mass (SJ)

### Tuesday 23 January

10am Mass (SB) with Yr1 Children  
10am Funeral Service for Peter Sharples (SJ)  
7.30pm Christian Meditation (SB)

### Wednesday 24 January - St Francis de Sales

9.30am Mass (SJ) - with Yr1,3&5 School Children  
- followed by SVP Coffee Morning

### Thursday 25 January - The Conversion of St Paul

10am Mass (SB)  
6pm Confirmation Programme (Patmos Room SJ)

### Friday 26 January - Ss Timothy & Titus

12noon Mass (SB)

### Saturday 27 January

No Morning Mass Today  
5pm Vigil Mass (SB)

### Sunday 28 January - Caritas Sunday - Special Collection this weekend

9.30am Mass (SJ) - *With Children's Liturgy*  
11am Mass (SB) - *With Children's Liturgy*

## Parish Contact Details

Parish Priest: Fr Alfred Rebello  
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**HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE**

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**We pray for all the sick and housebound in our parish, and other relatives and friends:** Jackie Harte, Moya Fau-Goodwin, Fred & Joyce Heywood, Pat Margiotta, Frances Skemp, Edwin Rankin, Philip Anderson, Vincent Hopkinson, Irene Clappison, Dorothy Killoran, Pat McDowell, Richard Crichton, Michael Latham, Irene Sheridan, Thomas Baker, Kathryn Browning, Fr Leo Heakin, Frank Vickers, Frederick Parkinson, Eileen Fitzgerald, Helen Fraser, Peter Reilly, Terry Scott, Michael O'Connor, Joyce Strickleton, Christine Gardner, Margaret Doreen Kay, Tony Martin, Annie O'Brien, Joan Turner, Dr Allan Needham, Margaret Roberts, George Brooks

**Lately Dead:** Peter Sharples, Bruno Bernini, Joan Turner, Wayne Speeds, Bill Brandwood

**Anniversaries:** Thomas Heyes, Michael Axford

**Mass Intentions:** For Someone who is sick, Bruno Bernini, Joan Turner, Thomas Heyes, Wayne Speeds, Michael Axford, Bill Brandwood, A Special Intention

**During ordinary time (winter), we are asked to pray for these intentions:** Peace on Earth, Openness to the word of God, Christian Unity, The sick and those who care for them, victims of trafficking and those who work to combat it, the Unemployed

*We pray for healing, a peaceful solution and restoration in the Middle East.*

*We continue to pray for peace and an end to the conflict in Ukraine.*

**Offertory:** We are always extremely grateful for all you do to help us financially.

**Cheques:** Please make all cheques payable to *Corpus Christi*. Thank you

**Fr Alf:** Will be away next weekend. We welcome Canon McBride for the Sunday Masses on 28 January.

**SVP Coffee Morning:** Will be held on Wednesday 24 January after the 9.30am Mass at St John's. Everyone is more than welcome to come along and join us.

**Caritas Sunday:** On Sunday 28 January, we will be marking Caritas Sunday by celebrating the work of our diocesan charity, Caritas Diocese of Salford. Caritas operates 10 projects and is the official local social action charity of the Catholic Diocese of Salford. Caritas supports local people experiencing poverty, homelessness and discrimination. To find out more about the work of Caritas Salford and how you can get involved, please visit

<https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/campaign/caritas-sunday/>. We invite you to keep our diocesan charity in your prayers over this coming week.

**Parish Trip to Lourdes 2024:** Much interest has been expressed by parishioners to arrange a Parish visit to Lourdes. Proposed dates are Monday 21st of October until Friday 25th of October 2024. Cost per person £650.00 sharing and £780.00 for a single room. £25 per person discount if booked before 31st of January. Accommodation will be in a 4\* hotel full board. I have checked the reviews of four suggested hotels, one outshines the other three. For more information and expressions of interest in joining the group, please contact the Parish office or contact me on 07528 027295. **Thank you to everyone who has informed me of their intention to join the Parish Lourdes event. Please could you complete contact details on the form found at the entrance of both churches.** Ann

**Exploring Prayer in Lent Programme:** People across the diocese are invited to embark on a special journey of prayer this Lent. Taking place on each of the Fridays of Lent between 10am and 12.30pm at Wardley Hall, the sessions include presentations, discussion, and time for quiet prayer and reflection. Find out more at

<https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/prayer-in-lent/>

### Diocese of Salford Job Vacancies

**Communications Assistant (replacement role)**

**Appointment Type:** Full-time, 12-month fixed term

**Working hours:** 35 hours per week

**Location:** Cathedral Centre, 3 Ford Street, Salford, M3 6DP

**Salary:** £22,672 - £24,343

**Cathedral Estate Caretaker (replacement role)**

**Appointment Type:** Full-time, permanent

**Working hours:** 35 hours per week

**Location:** Cathedral Estate including the Cathedral, Cathedral Presbytery (Cathedral House) Cathedral House, 250, Chapel Street, Salford, M3 5LE

**Salary:** £24,983 - £30,710

**Parish Administrator - Our Lady of Hope, Salford**

**Appointment Type:** Part-time, permanent

**Working hours:** 12 hours per week

**Location:** St Luke's Presbytery, 13 Swinton Park Road, Irlam o' th' Height, Salford, M6 7WR

**Salary:** £12.60 per hour

Find out more and apply all the above positions

at <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/vacancies/>

**Newsletter:** Next week's newsletter will be a two-week edition and will be available on Wednesday 24 January. Please could all items of news and Mass Intentions be handed in before this date.

Readers For 27/28 January 2024		
5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
G Kearns	L Fakanule	F Evans
Eucharistic Minister's 9.30am (SJ) 21 Jan		
A Gracie & M Cropper		