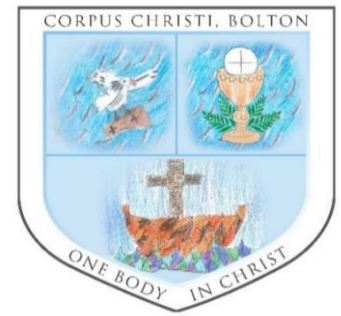


Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

28 January 2024

The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Words can convey many things, they can hurt, they can heal, they can convince and confuse, mend and break. The ideas they express can create allegiances or cause division; it all depends on who is speaking. Sometimes you can hear someone speak and you can see the truth and authority they possess. Words can build kingdoms or create movements which have the power to change the world in which we live, for better, for worse, forever.

In the Old Testament certain characters so changed the lives of the Jewish people that they became beacons by which ideas gained a certain measure of validity because they were spoken in his name. Moses is a great example of this. The Book of Deuteronomy was written many hundreds of years after his death yet so important was his name that the book was written as if he were the author. Today's passage underlined the need for prophets to speak God's words not their own. The punishment for using God's name, to the prophet's own advancement, was death and to emphasise the gravity of the offence this warning comes in the name of Moses.

So when Jesus spoke in the synagogue in Capernaum he was very aware of what he was doing. He was standing on Holy Ground and teaching the people sitting before him. He spoke with authority. To an audience who were used to the scribes reading words from the scriptures, this was something new and his teaching made a great impression on them. In the midst of his teaching came a voice of dissent, not from the listeners, but from an unclean spirit, yet Jesus had the power to dismiss the spirit and release the man possessed from its power. This caused great consternation from the people gathered in the room, they were astonished at his words and his actions, and his reputation spread throughout the countryside.

Mark wrote his Gospel to the Christians of Rome who had survived the persecution of Nero and the loss of the great apostles, Peter and Paul. They needed reassurance that their belief in Jesus would help them in their troubles. Mark assures them, through this passage, that the authority of Jesus is greater than human authority and that He has the power to defeat evil in the world no matter where this evil comes from. Through His word the world is changed, power is no longer solely in the hands of the rulers of this world, it is in God's hands.

David Frank

Masses & Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 2

Divine Office Week 4; Roman Missal: p 206

Readings: p209. Preface: At Priests Choice

Sunday 28 January - Caritas Sunday - Special Collection this weekend

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

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

Monday 29 January

No Mass Today

Tuesday 30 January

10am Mass (SB)

7.30pm Christian Meditation (SJ)

Wednesday 31 January - St John Bosco

9.30am Mass (SJ) - with Reception & Yr 6 Children

Thursday 1 February

10am Mass (SB)

Friday 2 February - The Presentation of the Lord

10am Funeral Service for Terry Tynan (SB)

12noon Mass (SB)

Saturday 3 February - St Blaise

10.45am Reconciliation, Exposition & Adoration (SJ)

11.30am Mass (SJ)

5pm Vigil Mass (SB)

Sunday 4 February

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

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

Parish Contact Details

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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

Lately Dead: George Brooks, Terry Tynan, Edward Brandwood,

Anniversaries: Lewis Brown, Eleanor Owen, Alan Yates, Ernest Grimes, Margaret Gibson, Bernard Coop, James Connolly

Mass Intentions: Lewis Brown, George Brooks, Eleanor Owen, Deceased family & friends of the Owen family, Edward Brandwood, Alan Yates, Ernest Grimes, Margaret Gibson, Bernard Coop, James Connolly, Marie Lamoury (Birthday Remembrance)

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

Advance Notice: The SVP will be arranging for a *Lenten Gathering* of food items for the Destitution Project. More details will follow on the next newsletter. Thanks to all who supported the Coffee morning on Wednesday 24 January; £153 was raised for the Destitution Project.

Harbour Room Book Club: The next two dates for your calendar are:

Wednesday 31 January. *A Rising Man* by Abir Mukherjee.

Wednesday 28 February. *The Maid* by Nita Prose. Refreshments available and all welcome.

Parish Trip to Lourdes 2024: Monday 21 October - Friday 25 October 2024. Cost per person £650 sharing and £780 for a single room. £25 per person discount if booked 15 February. Accommodation will be in the 4* Hotel Pardoue. For more information and expressions of interest, 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. *Booking forms and suggested itinerary are now available.*

4 February 2024

The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Masses & Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 2

Divine Office Week 1; Roman Missal: p 217.

Readings: p219. Preface: At Priests Choice

Sunday 4 February

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

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

Monday 5 February - St Agatha

10am Requiem Mass for George Brooks (SJ)

Tuesday 6 February - St Paul Miki & Companions

10am Mass (SB)

7.30pm Christian Meditation (SB)

Wednesday 7 February

9.30am Mass (SJ) - with Yr2 & Yr4 Children

Thursday 8 February

10am Mass (SB)

Friday 9 February

12noon Mass (SB)

Saturday 10 February - St Scholastica

10.45am Reconciliation, Exposition & Adoration (SJ)

11.30am Mass (SJ)

5pm Vigil Mass (SB)

Sunday 11 February

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

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

12.15pm Baptism (SB)

200 Club Subscriptions: Are now due (£15 per number) The 200 Club is a great way to support the parish. Sadly we have lost several members during 2023, so any new members are greatly appreciated and made very welcome. It may be difficult for some parishioners to get their subscriptions to me, so here are some options to help: 1. Post or deliver to the Parish Office; 2. Leave in the basket provided at each church; 3. Contact me on 07528027295. For option 1 & 2 please place your subscription and contact details on an envelope FAP Ann Gracie. Please make Cheques payable to **Corpus Christi**. Thank you, Ann.

200 Club Winners (January)

1st Prize (£50) J Parkinson (141)

2nd Prize (£25) A Ginty (80)

3rd Prize (£15) R McManus (61)

Caritas Sunday: Caritas Diocese of Salford 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/>.

Readers For 3 /4 February 2024

5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
L Lamoury	A Gracie	C Ezeogu

Readers For 10/11 February 2024

S Mikolajewski	A Grundy	L Lamoury
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Eucharistic Minister's 9.30am (SJ) 4 Feb

V & R Rawlinson