

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

11 February 2024

The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time/Lent



We are more aware today of the suffering people of our world than at any time in the past. Daily we see on our television screens scenes of horror and destruction. The more we try to help, the greater seems to be the need. One of the consequences of the events, we see unfolding, is the refugee crisis; we see the arrival of displaced people coming to our shores in search of safety and security. The Holy Family were refugees in Egypt, victims of the terror caused by King Herod. If we turn away people in need, we turn away Christ, creating an outcast of the Son of God.

In our first reading we hear about the very strict laws covering the treatment of Lepers, the outcasts of the Old Testament. This was based partly on the Jewish idea that illness was caused by sin, often stretching back over many generations, but also on the fear of infection. The Israelites lived in a camp, constantly moving across the desert, and under strict rules of hygiene to prevent infection. Leprosy, the most feared of illnesses, was very contagious and any signs of the illness had to be examined by a priest and, if it was proved, then that person must live "outside the camp".

In the emerging Christian communities when any misfortune fell on a member of the community there was a positive reaction. This shows through a sense of compassion and a caring attitude to the one who is suffering and those close to them. Paul tells the Corinthians they must "be helpful at all times". To act as Christ would in all circumstances.

In the atmosphere of healing that followed Our Lord as he travelled the land there was a sense of new hope among those who were suffering from illness. Here was a man who instead of punishing those who were ill was curing the people of all sorts of illnesses. The Leper, the outcast, has heard the good news of the healing power of Jesus and comes to him pleading, on his knees, for help. Touching the man, an act strictly forbidden by the law, Jesus cures him of his infection. The news of this healing causes many more to seek Jesus so that he cannot go into the towns, and so he becomes an outcast, exiled from society, because he has shown the love and compassion of God for his people.

David Frank

Masses & Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 2

Divine Office Week 2; Roman Missal: p 227

Readings: p231. Preface: At Priests Choice

Sunday 11 February

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

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

12.15pm Baptism (SB)

Monday 12 February

No Mass Today

Tuesday 13 February

10am Mass (SB)

Wednesday 14 February - Ash Wednesday (A Day of Fasting & Abstinence)

9.15am Service for School (SB Church)

9.30am Mass (SJ Church)

10.45am Service in School (SJ)

2.30pm Service in School (SC)

6.30pm Mass (SB Church)

Thursday 15 February

9.15am Mass (SB) - SB School Lenten Mass

Friday 16 February

11am Funeral Service for Steven Shields (St Anne's Turton)

12.15pm Requiem Mass for Lauren Kilmartin (SB)

Saturday 17 February

10.45am Reconciliation, Exposition & Adoration (SJ)

11.30am Mass (SJ)

5pm Vigil Mass (SB)

Sunday 18 February - First Sunday in Lent

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

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

3pm Stations of the Cross followed by short Adoration & Benediction (SJ)

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, 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, John O'Connor, Margaret O'Brien

Lately Dead: Marie Faria, Arnold Crompton, Lauren Kilmartin, Steven Shields, Bernard Cowen, Bill & Edward Brandwood, George Brooks, William Dwyer, David Leyland, Walter Leyland, Mary Breslin

Anniversaries: Roger Kershaw, Cliff Partington, Martin Feeney

Mass Intentions: Arnold Crompton, Bill & Edward Brandwood, A sick person, Cliff Partington, George Brooks, For someone having major surgery, Bridget Knowles, Edna Brooks, Josephine Knowles (In Remembrance), Mary & Thomas Watson, Martin Feeney, Bernard Cowen, Betty Finn, Frank Finn (In Remembrance), William Dwyer, David Leyland, Walter Leyland, A sick person, Mary Breslin

During ordinary time (winter), we are asked to pray for these intentions: Candidates for the Sacraments; women; the needy and hungry of the world; penitents and wanderers.

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

Destitution Project Lenten Gathering: Last year there was a tremendous response to this food collection. This Lent, with your support, the SVP have again set a target to collect 40 items of each the following for the Destitution Project: Tins of Chickpeas, tinned tomatoes, tinned fruit, long-life whole milk, long-life orange/apple juice, dried pasta (incl spaghetti), vegetable oil, sardines/tuna in oil, bags of sugar, carrier bags, & toilet rolls. The Destitution project is always so grateful for the support we give them. Thank you.

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. For more information and expressions of interest, please contact the Parish office or contact Ann on 07528 027295. Please complete your contact details on the form found at the entrance of both churches.

Lenten Activities

Walk With Me: The Lenten booklets and calendars are now available for you to take away this weekend. These are free of charge.

Ash Wednesday Masses: We are having two Parish Masses (as usual). Schools will be having Services of Ashes. Whilst it is a very important day in our Liturgical Calendar, it is not a holy day of obligation, and Fr Alf is limited to two Masses for pastoral reasons.

Stations of the Cross: Will be held each week (at 3pm) throughout Lent. Beginning on Sunday 18 February, the first will be held at St John's and will then run at each church in turn.

Lenten Course: Churches in Harwood are using West Side Story as the theme for the Lenten Group. There are five weekly sessions finding connections between the film's story, Jesus' story and our own stories. The sessions start at 7.30pm, the first one of these is on Tuesday 20 February at Harwood Methodist Church. More details are available in church, but the dates will be published each week on our newsletter.

CAFOD Lenten Family Fast Day: Is Friday 23 February. Envelopes will be available next weekend. Thank you.

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 to get their subscriptions to me, so here are 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 in an envelope FAO Ann Gracie. Please make cheques payable to **Corpus Christi**. Thank you, Ann.

Prayer in Lent - Our Father: The first of a series of prayer workshops will begin this February with a focus on the Our Father. In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee, Pope Francis has designated 2024 as a Year of Prayer, calling people to revisit the basics of the prayer, and particularly the Our Father. The workshop invites you to rediscover this beautiful prayer on Friday 16 February, 10am, at Wardley Hall. To book or find out more, visit. <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/lent-prayer-programme-1/>

Readers For 17/18 February 2024		
5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
C Grundy	A Hayes	A Moore
Eucharistic Minister's 9.30am (SJ) 18 Feb		
P McArdle & A Gracie		