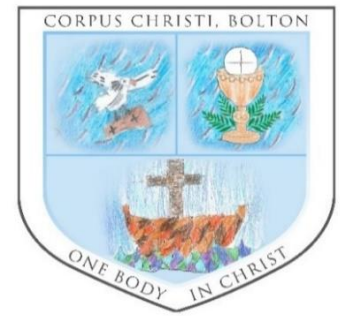


# Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

**18 February 2024**

## The First Sunday of Lent



Whenever we see a rainbow we see a sign of hope, the rain has ceased, and the sun is never far behind. There is a pot of gold which, we have been told, lies at the end of the rainbow; how many times, as children, have we studied the rainbow to see where it ends, so that we may find that gold.

Many childhood stories have a basis in fact, and I would like to believe that the rainbow story is part of the Noah story and that the gold is our faith passed to us through the sacrament of Baptism. The rainbow is also a sign of hope and that is something we are very short of in this world of ours. Lent is a time of hope; during this season we prepare for Easter and the hope that the death and resurrection of Our Lord brings to all humanity. Our actions during this season are concentrated on prayer, repentance, and almsgiving; prayer for the world and all humanity, repentance for our behaviour and that of those around us, and almsgiving, that we may create a better, more equal world, where division is no more, and everyone can live in peace. Perhaps it was a longing for peace that drove Jesus out into the desert.

Mark's passage on the forty days in the desert is very brief; he speaks of wild beasts and angels. Jesus needed time to come to understand the wild beasts and angels in his life; he needed to prepare himself for what was to come, to put on the armour of God and go into the world, to save the world, through his message of love. We too, have wild beasts and angels. Each of us has a good and bad side; sometimes we hide, very successfully, these sides to our nature but life as we know is a constant conflict within ourselves with the powers of darkness and light. Let us pray today that we may see a rainbow of hope in our lives this Lent and perhaps then we may find that elusive pot of gold!

A Prayer based on "The time has come," he said, "and the kingdom of God is close at hand." Mark 1: 15

Lord,

*Lead me through these Lenten days.*

*Help me to see, each day, your presence in the world,*

*So that I may understand what I must do to bring your kingdom closer.*

*Let each day's experiences bring me closer to you.*

*So that, one day, I may dwell, forever, in your kingdom. Amen.*

David Frank

### Masses & Activities this Week

*Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 2*

*Divine Office Week 1; Roman Missal: p 532*

*Readings: p536. Preface: p 541*

#### Sunday 18 February

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)

#### Monday 19 February

No Mass Today

#### Tuesday 20 February

10am Mass (SB)

7.30pm Christian Meditation (SB)

7.30pm Churches in Harwood Lenten Course (Harwood Methodist)

#### Wednesday 21 February

9am Exposition & Adoration (SJ)

9.30am Mass (SJ)

#### Thursday 22 February - *The Chair of St Peter*

10am Mass (SB)

#### Friday 23 February - CAFOD Family Fast Day

10am Requiem Mass for Julie Green (SB)

#### Saturday 24 February

10.45am Reconciliation, Exposition & Adoration (SJ)

11.30am Mass (SJ)

5pm Vigil Mass (SB)

*A Special Collection for CAFOD will be held at Masses this weekend.*

#### Sunday 25 February - Third 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 (SB)

### 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, Irene Clappison, Dorothy Killoran, Pat McDowell, Richard Crichton, Michael Latham, Irene Sheridan, 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, Dr Allan Needham, Margaret Roberts, John O'Connor, Margaret O'Brien

**Lately Dead:** Vincent Hopkinson, Lauren Kilmartin, Julie Green, William Dwyer

**Anniversaries:** William Finlay, Dorothy Tudhope, Betty Carolan, Ian Walsh, Christopher Hailwood

**Mass Intentions:** Vincent Hopkinson, Ian Walsh, Christopher Hailwood, Dorothy Tudhope, Betty Carolan

**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

**Congratulations:** To Luna Rae Waddicar who was Baptised last weekend. Let us pray that both she and her family continue to grow in faith.

**CAFOD Family Fast Day - Lent Appeal:** This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. Please give what you can either in the envelope (attached) or online at [www.cafod.org.uk](http://www.cafod.org.uk) and please join CAFOD in praying with James that our sisters and brothers around the world have what they need to feed their families. Envelopes will be collected at our Masses on 24/25 February. *Thank you.*

**Destitution Project Lenten Gathering:** 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.

### 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.

**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.

**Lent resources:** During Lent, the diocese will be sharing a range of resources to accompany people in prayer over the coming weeks. The resources have been created to support our journey throughout this Year of Prayer as we prepare for the Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee in 2025. For more information, please visit the website at

<https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/lent-2024->

**Harbour Room Book Club:** The next meeting is a 1pm on Wednesday 28 February to discuss *The Maid* by Nita Prose. All welcome.

**Parish Trip to Lourdes:** Places are now full. We now look forward to a memorable trip. Thank you.

**200 Club Subscriptions:** Are now due (£15 per number). The 200 Club is a great way to support the parish. 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.

**Caritas Salford Appeal:** Caritas Salford is appealing for volunteers to support its work across Greater Manchester and Lancashire. Even a few hours can have a huge impact on the lives of others locally. To find out more about the range of opportunities available please visit their website now: [www.caritassalford.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.caritassalford.org.uk/volunteer)

**Right To Life:** Please support an amendment to reduce our abortion law from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Babies born prematurely at 22 weeks are thriving and there is a contradiction to the abortion law. Please collect a postcard today (from the back of each church) and post it to your MP in support of this amendment.

Readers For 24/25 February 2024		
5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
C Molyneux	A Grundy	C Owen
Eucharistic Minister's 9.30am (SJ) 25 Feb		
J Carroll & S May		