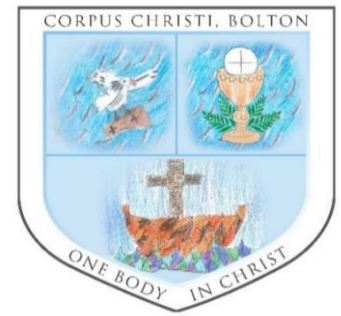


Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

3 March 2024

The Third Sunday of Lent



Signposts are vital to those who are on a journey, they keep us on the right path and prevent us from getting lost in the chaos of life. Today's readings are about signs; in Exodus God gives us a series of signposts for the way to heaven, in Paul's letter we are given a sign to the wisdom of God and in the Gospel Jesus gives us a clear sign as to where his ministry will lead Him.

The Ten Commandments were part of religious lessons at school. We were taught to recite them and even if we did not know what the 'Sabbath' was or what 'covet' meant we still had to know them 'off by heart'. Those early lessons on living a life that was pleasing to God have always been part of our sense of justice, a moral compass to the signs that we follow on our journey to God.

The passage from Paul however is more difficult to follow. We are told that a sign of God's wisdom is his foolishness! The world always sides with those who have power. This power is often shown by a contempt for weakness, a lack of compassion for those who are different. Jesus came into the world to show the world that there was another way. A way of love that took the power of the high and mighty and replaced it with love for each other and for the whole of creation. To those who love only the world and their power this may seem to be foolishness but to those who look for the wisdom of God such foolishness is far greater than human strength,

Today's Gospel is a signpost to the events of Holy Week. In the action of driving the shopkeepers from the temple Jesus is placing himself directly in the path of the powerful religious authorities of His time. They had a vested interest in the profits they made from the Temple of God; this gave them power and influence. No itinerant preacher from Nazareth was going to upset this. Jesus speaks of a temple being destroyed and raised again in three days; a clear sign to his death and resurrection to those who believe in Him but a sign that is ridiculed by those in authority. When your faith is ridiculed by those who do not want to understand remember your understanding comes from the light of Jesus and it is His power that is within you.

David Frank

Masses & Activities this Week

*Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 2
Divine Office Week 3; Roman Missal: p 554
Readings: p559. Preface: At priests choice*

Sunday 3 March

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)
3.30pm Mass for the Sri Lankan Community (SB)

Monday 4 March

12noon Mass (SJ)
6pm Reconciliation Service for St Columba's (SB)

Tuesday 5 March

10am Requiem Mass for Helen Dawson (SB)
6pm Reconciliation Service for St John's (SJ)
7.30pm Christian Meditation (SB)
7.30pm Churches in Harwood Lenten Course (Harwood Methodist Church)

Wednesday 6 March

9am Exposition & Adoration (SJ)
9.30am Mass (SJ)

Thursday 7 March

10am Mass (SB)

Friday 8 March

12noon Mass (SB)

Saturday 9 March

10.45am Reconciliation, Exposition & Adoration (SJ)
11.30am Mass (SJ)
5pm Vigil Mass (SB) - *With Children's Liturgy*

Sunday 10 March - Fourth Sunday in Lent - Laetare/Mothering Sunday

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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This Newsletter is sponsored by

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, 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, 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: Susan Ainscough, Chris Lomas, Vincent Hopkinson, Philip Birtwistle, Helen Dawson

Anniversaries: David & Margaret Attwood, James Mathen, Kathleen Conlon, Tony Coop, Margaret Russell, Vincent Heron

Mass Intentions: David & Margaret Attwood, Denis O'Toole (Birthday Remembrance), James Mathen, A Special Intention, Kathleen Conlon, Chris Lomas, Tony Coop, Margaret Russell, Vincent Heron

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

Caritas Diocese of Salford Fundraiser: Clergy band *The Mercy Brothers* will be heading to Bolton for a special St Patrick's Day fundraiser. The band will join forces with St Cuthbert's parish folk group for a fun-filled evening to raise money for Caritas Diocese of Salford. The concert takes place on Friday 15 March, 7pm, at Thornleigh Salesian College. Tickets are £12 each (food included) are available by emailing: office@stcuthberts.org.uk

Destitution Project Lenten Gathering: Thank you for all your donations so far. We are continuing to collect: Tins of Chickpeas, tinned tomatoes, tinned fruit, long-life whole milk, long-life orange/apple juice, dried pasta (incl spaghetti), vegetable oil, sardines in oil, bags of sugar, carrier bags, & toilet rolls.

200 Club Subscriptions: (£15 per number). Thank you for those received. Here are options for handing them in: 1. Post or deliver to the Parish Office; 2. Leave in the basket provided at each church; 3. Contact me on 07528027295. Please place your subscription and contact details in an envelope FAO Ann Gracie. Please make cheques payable to *Corpus Christi*. Thank you, Ann.

Lenten Activities

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-rediscovering-prayer/>

Walk of Witness: Will be held, as usual, on Palm Sunday 24 March. The walk begins with a short service at Christ's Church, Harwood followed by a short period of reflection at St Brendan's, finishing at Harwood Methodist Church for a hot drink and hot cross bun.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: The next services, for children receiving this Sacrament, take place at 6pm on Monday 4 March and Tuesday 5 March [see venues overleaf]. Parishioners are welcome to join for Reconciliation as part of our Lenten preparation for the feast of Easter.

Stations of the Cross at the Laudato Si' Centre
Join the Diocese of Salford's Laudato Si' Centre team on Saturday 16 March for a special Stations of the Cross in the midst of nature. All are welcome to join us. For more information and to book, please visit

<https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/lsc-stations-2024/>

Care for Creation: Commitments, Actions, and Participation: Bishop John has been invited to speak at an environment conference hosted by the Archdiocese of Liverpool and the Justice and Peace Commission this spring. The event takes place 10am-3.30pm on Saturday 9 March at St Patrick's Catholic Primary School in Wigan. Find out more at <https://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/departments/pastoral-development/environment>

Fair Trade Stall: Will be at St John's before and after the 9.30am Mass on Sunday 3 March. It is increasingly difficult to source goods from Palestine and we pray that we will be able to support Palestinian producers through fair trade.

200 Club - February Winners:

1st Prize £50 M Roe

2nd Prize £25 M O'Kane

3rd Prize £15 A Ginty

Readers For 9/10 March 2024		
5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
A Grundy	N Bunting	C Bridge
Eucharistic Minister's 9.30am (SJ) 10 March		
V & A Rawlinson		