

# Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

**17 March 2024**

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**



There is much to be discovered by the careful reading of today's passages from scripture. It is often the case that when the readings seem disjointed and difficult to read, they also become a source of great joy. Today we have a passage from Jeremiah which speaks of a new way to serve God and our neighbour, a psalm which reminds us of the cleansing power of God's forgiveness, then a passage from Hebrews about obedience and finally the Gospel of John which contains the parable of the Grain of Wheat.

We frequently hear the word "covenant" in the scriptures. It can be understood as a solemn agreement between God and humankind which imposes duties on both sides. Recently we heard the passage from Genesis when God established a covenant with Noah after the flood; that covenant was broken many times by the people of God and so in Jeremiah's time God speaks of a new covenant which will bring the people back to Him. On Holy Thursday we will hear Jesus, at the last supper, introduce this covenant to the world through the gift of the Eucharist.

Jeremiah also speaks of a God who will never call to mind the sins of those who listen to Him; the psalm echoes this gift of forgiveness which will create within us a pure heart through the joy of His help. As we approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Lent take heart from this psalm which is so full of hope and consolation.

The letter to the Hebrews and the Gospel speak, in different ways, about the same subject; in Hebrews the sacrifice of Our Lord is described as a prayer of obedience to His heavenly Father; in John's gospel Jesus uses the parable of the grain of wheat to show that through his sacrifice many will be saved. He speaks of a rich harvest coming from a single grain of wheat which dies so that new life can begin. John reminds us that when we follow Jesus, we are never alone, for wherever we go, Jesus will be there with us. *David Frank*

## Masses & Activities this Week

*Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 2*

*Divine Office Week 1; Roman Missal: p 582*

*Readings: p586. Preface: At priests choice*

### Sunday 17 March

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

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

12.30pm Baptism (SJ)

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

### Monday 18 March

6pm Mass (SJ)

**Tuesday 19 March - St Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

10am Mass (SB)

7.30pm Christian Meditation (SJ)

7.30pm Churches in Harwood Lenten Course (Harwood Methodist Church)

### Wednesday 20 March

11am Requiem Mass for John O'Connor (SB)

### Thursday 21 March

10am Mass (SB)

### Friday 22 March

12noon Mass (SB)

### Saturday 23 March

10.45am Reconciliation, Exposition & Adoration (SJ)

11.30am Mass (SJ)

5pm Vigil Mass (SB) - *With Children's Liturgy*

**Sunday 24 March - Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**

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

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

2pm Walk of Witness starting at Christ's Church Harwood onto St Brendan's & ending at Harwood Methodist for Hot Cross Buns

## 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, Pat McDowell, Richard Crichton, Michael Latham, Irene Sheridan, Kathryn Browning, Fr Leo Heakin, Frank Vickers, Frederick Parkinson, Eileen Fitzgerald, Peter Reilly, Terry Scott, Joyce Strickleton, Christine Gardner, Margaret Doreen Kay, Tony Martin, Annie O'Brien, Dr Allan Needham, Margaret Roberts, Margaret O'Brien, Kevin Knowles

**Lately Dead:** Dorothy Killoran, John O'Connor, Margaret Jones, Ann Mitchell, Helen Frazer, Susan Ainscough

**Anniversaries:** Jack & Mary Carroll, Mark Strickleton, Frances Lansdale, Rita Brooks, John Carolan and his Grandson David Greenhalgh

**Mass Intentions:** John O'Connor, Jack & Mary Carroll, Ann Mitchell, Thanksgiving for a successful heart operation, In thanksgiving for prayers answered, Dorothy Killoran, Mark Strickleton, Julie Green, Margaret Jones, Frances Lansdale (2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary), Mary Hodgins (Birthday Remembrance), Rita Brooks, John Carolan & his grandson David Greenhalgh, Helen Frazer

**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

**CAFOD Lenten Fast Day:** Thank you to everyone who gave to the Family Fast Day appeal this Lent. The total came to £853.33. This generous donation will support families around the world and help them with resources to feed their families for good.

**Destitution Project Lenten Gathering:** Thank you for all donations so far. We are pleased to say we have reached our target on some items, and we are continuing to collect: tinned fruit, long-life whole milk, long-life orange/apple juice, dried pasta, vegetable oil, bags of sugar, sardines in oil & toilet rolls.

**Contactless Donations:** We will soon have a contactless payment system installed in each church. These have worked very well in other parishes around the Diocese. They are very simple to use, but someone will be available to assist in the initial stages of use. Both card machines should be up and running by the Easter Masses. Thank you for all you contribute to our upkeep.

## The Easter Triduum

**28 March Maundy Thursday**

7.30pm (St John's)

**29 March Good Friday**

9.30am Confessions (St Brendan's)  
10.30am Stations of the Cross (St Brendan's)  
3pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion (St John's)

**30 March Holy Saturday**

7pm Easter Vigil (St Brendan's)

**Needlework Group:** Will start on Monday 8 April 6.30pm-8.30pm (in the Harbour Room at St Brendan's) for needle work crafts such as knitting, cross stitch and embroidery. This is a friendly social group, with some members having experience to give assistance with projects that have been started at home. Each session costs £2 including refreshments and proceeds are to be given to the parish. Anyone interested would be very welcome.

**Offertory Envelopes:** The new envelopes for 2024, are now available in each church. These will start on **Sunday 7 April**

**Our Father Prayer Resources:** During this season of Lent, the Diocese of Salford has been sharing a series of short video reflections to help us further explore the words of the Our Father, in response to Pope Francis' invitation to go back to the basics of prayer in preparation for the 2025 Jubilee. To find out more please go to

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

**John Stainer's *The Crucifixion*:** A special performance of John Stainer's *The Crucifixion* is heading to St Patrick's Church in Collyhurst this Lent. Taking place on Saturday 23 March at 4pm, this poignant piece will be performed by Salford Cathedral Choir, Salford Cathedral Girls' Choir and the Cambiata Boys' Choir. All are welcome to attend.

**Manchester and Salford Ecumenical Whit Walk:** The annual Manchester and Salford Ecumenical Whit Walk is set to return for another year of prayerful celebration. Taking place on Monday 27 May, the walk will begin at 10am from Manchester Cathedral Gardens, and the group will process to St Peter's Square for an Act of Worship. Individuals, families, and groups are all welcome to attend!

### Readers For 23/24 March 2024

<b>5pm Vigil (SB)</b>	<b>9.30am (SJ)</b>	<b>11am (SB)</b>
L Lamoury	S Copley	K Denton
<b>Eucharistic Minister's 9.30am (SJ) 24 March</b>		
P McArdle & M Cropper		