

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

28 July 2024

Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time



There is a hunger within us that we strive to satisfy; a yearning that calls us to change, to move forward to a better way of living. Paul, in his inspirational letter to the Ephesians, names this hunger; it is a need for worthiness. Life is a world of experiences, it can be good and fulfilling, it can be drab and uninspiring, we can feel let down and useless, unwanted, imprisoned by our way of life or we can feel the joy that comes from God. Paul speaks of being a prisoner but within this imprisonment there is joy and hope, for Paul is a prisoner of the Lord. The call from Paul is for unity; for a people who are united and live selfless, gentle and patient lives. He prays that we do all we can to preserve this unity, to satisfy the hunger within, to become worthy.

Bread is one of the staples of life. There is nothing more dreadful than famine. In biblical times there was no relief from famine. The hunger was constant. There are a number of references to bread in the Old Testament; the manna from heaven, the meal that kept Elijah and the widow and her son alive and today the barley loaves sent to feed the hungry of Elisha's time. These miracles were given to keep the people alive; they were a sign of God's bounteous love for all humanity. The bread in John's Gospel was to satisfy a different hunger.

In John's Gospel Jesus often takes quite ordinary events and transforms them into something extraordinary, something that teaches us, that feeds the hunger of the soul, the spirit, not just the body. As usual he begins with human frailty; Philip sees the problem of the hungry crowd but is at a loss to find a solution, Andrew finds a solution which is quite inadequate, he brings a boy to Jesus and Jesus uses his small offering to teach his disciples and feed the people. Both disciples turn to Jesus in their difficulties; here is a lesson for us when we face difficult situations, no matter how grave we too must bring them to the Lord. Jesus uses the boy and his loaves and fishes, a simple human act of sharing all that is there to feed and sustain. From these small acts a miracle occurs and the crowd of five thousand men with their women and children are satisfied from five loaves and two fishes. John uses this miracle to introduce the idea of Jesus as the Bread of Life but that is for next week. Our communion prayer is "Lord I am not worthy"; the word heals our soul, makes us worthy.

David Frank

Masses & Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 2

Divine Office Week 1

Roman Missal: 3338; Readings: p341

Sunday 28 July - Mill Hill Missionaries Red Box Appeal

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

Monday 29 July - St Martha, St Mary & St Lazarus No Mass Today

Tuesday 30 July - St Peter Chrysologus

10am Mass (SB)

Wednesday 31 July - St Ignatius of Loyola

10am Mass (SB) - *This week only*

Thursday 1 August - St Alphonsus Liguori

10am Mass (SB)

1pm Craft Afternoon (SJ)

Friday 2 August

12noon Mass (SB)

Saturday 3 August

10am Baptism (SJ)

10.45am Adoration & Confession (SJ)

11.30am Mass (SJ)

12.30pm Baptism (SJ)

5pm Vigil Mass (SB)

Sunday 4 August

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

12.15pm Baptism (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, Pat McDowell, Richard Crichton, Michael Latham, Kathryn Browning, Fr Leo Heakin, Frank Vickers, Frederick Parkinson, Eileen Fitzgerald, Peter Reilly, Terry Scott, Joyce Strickleton, Margaret Doreen Kay, Tony Martin, Annie O'Brien, Dr Allan Needham, Margaret Roberts, Margaret O'Brien, Kevin Knowles, Peter McGawley, John Marshall, Pat Howarth

Anniversaries: Peg Crowley, Ellen Day

Mass Intentions: In honour of the Rosa Mystica, Ellen Day, Peg Crowley, In memory of Gladys Hall

We are asked to pray for these intentions: A deeper understanding between Christians and Jews; those who suffer persecution, oppression and denial of human rights; Europe; Seafarers; Human Life
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.

Dona: We can now accept cashless payments, using our contactless system.

Cheques: Please make all cheques payable to *Corpus Christi*. Thank you

A Note from Fr Alf: We welcome Fr Downs of the Mill Hill missionaries for all our Masses this weekend. On a personal note, I really enjoyed last Sunday afternoon, despite my initial apprehension. It was lovely to have the support of so many parishioners and to mingle on a social basis. Many thanks to everyone for the kind wishes, gifts and support and to those who helped make Sunday afternoon possible and so enjoyable. Let us also congratulate and pray for Fr Freddie as he celebrated his 37th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood on 25 July - he doesn't look old enough! With every blessing Fr Alf

Congratulations: To Jordy John Fisher who was baptized at St John's last weekend. We pray that both he and his family continue to grow in faith.

SVP

Thank you to all who came along to our coffee morning on Wednesday! We raised a total of just over £203 for the destitution project. Congratulations to Christine Molyneux who won £100 in the SVP "Pick a date" competition. The winning date was 8th December. The next event is our Craft Afternoon on Thursday 1 August in the Patmos Room - £8 per tickets. with tea and cake.

Other News from Around the Diocese

Lourdes at Home: This week, we will be celebrating the centenary of our diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes. To help people across the diocese join our Lourdes pilgrims in prayer during our centenary pilgrimage, we are delighted to share a range of Lourdes at Home resources for people to pray with at home or in parish groups. These resources can be found on our website: <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/lourdes-at-home-2024/>

A poster of the Lourdes at home week activities can be found on our notice boards.

Diocesan Pilgrimages for 2025 Year of Jubilee:

We are delighted to announce a number of pilgrimage opportunities in celebration of the 2025 Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee. From Lourdes and Lindisfarne to Walsingham and Rome - and a wealth of opportunities on our very doorstep - there is something for everybody in this upcoming Year of Jubilee. Bookings for Rome will open on Monday 5th August with bookings for our other pilgrimages opening soon. Please stay tuned for further information on how to book or find out more at <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/jubilee-2025/pilgrimages/>

Job Opportunities - Diocese of Salford Maintenance Operative

Appointment Type: Full-time, Permanent

Working Hours: 35 hours per week to be worked Monday to Friday

Location: Around the diocese

Salary: £21,840 - £24,343 per annum (depending on skills and experience)

Skilled Maintenance Operative

Appointment Type: Full-time, Permanent

Working Hours: 35 hours per week to be worked Monday to Friday

Location: Around the diocese

Salary: £29,525 - £32,735 per annum (depending on skills and experience)

Find out about both the above and apply at

<https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/vacancies>

A Thought for the week...

"Jesus is the Bread of Life for our families. Let us be invited to Jesus, nourished by daily prayer, by listening to the word of God, and by sharing in the Sacraments."

Pope Francis

Readers for 3/4 August 2024

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| 5pm Vigil (SB) | 9.30am (SJ) | 11am (SB) |
| G Drabble | N Bunting | C Bridge |
| Eucharistic Minister's 9.30am (SJ) 7 July | | |
| P McArdle & A Gracie | | |