

# Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

**25 August 2024**



## Twenty-First Sunday of Ordinary Time

I am not an artist but, to help with our parish RCIA programme, I once made a sketch to illustrate the journey of the Israelites from Egypt to the promised land. On the sketch I marked the places where significant events had occurred in the journey of the people of God. I marked the Red Sea and the mountains, the deserts, the place where they worshipped the Golden Calf and the mountain of the Ten Commandments. Finally, I marked the Jordan, the last river to cross and the promised land. I then explained that this journey, made so long ago, was also our journey and how we too must walk in the footsteps of the Israelites if we are to find our way to everlasting life.

The pivotable moment on our journey is that final river when Joshua calls on the people to choose between serving the Lord or the false gods of daily life. In our lives we need to leave behind the slavery of Egypt, to live by the commandments of God, and to choose to cross the river and find our home in the arms of our loving saviour.

Paul sees our future in the church that is founded by Christ. He uses the analogy of the love between husband and wife as an illustration of God's love for the church. In the culture of Paul's day there was a great difference between the status of men and women. Men were seen as the head of the household and their wives depended on them to provide food and shelter for them and their children. He calls the church "the body of Christ" and this assures us that the love of Christ will sustain the church because we are his body on earth.

Just as the Israelites made their choice at the river so too the followers of Jesus, after hearing Him speak about the Bread of Life, must choose whether to believe in Him or walk away. Jesus understands that many follow Him because of the miracles and the healing, they do not believe in Him but in what He does. If we are to follow Christ, we must do so through the Spirit that call us to faith. Faith is a gift from God and the Father chooses those he has called to be his children. The Apostles, through Peter, recognise Jesus as the Holy One of God and choose to follow Him. The events of our lives teach us that our faith in God will lead us to Him, He is our choice, we stand with Peter. **David Frank**

### Masses & Activities this Week

*Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 2  
Divine Office Week 1  
Roman Missal: 381; Readings: p384*

#### Sunday 25 August

9.30am Mass (SJ)  
11am Mass (SB)

#### Monday 26 August - *Bl Dominic of the Mother of God*

10am Mass (SJ)

#### Tuesday 27 August - *St Monica*

10am Mass (SB)

#### Wednesday 28 August - *St Augustine*

9am Adoration (SJ)  
9.30am Mass (SJ)  
10am SVP Coffee Morning (SJ)

#### Thursday 29 August - *The Passion of St John the Baptist*

10am Requiem Mass for Rinaldi Villa (SB)

#### Friday 30 August

12noon Mass (SB)

#### Saturday 31 August

10.45am Adoration & Confession (SJ)  
11.30am Mass (SJ)  
5pm Vigil Mass (SB)

#### Sunday 1 September

9.30am Mass (SJ)  
11am Mass (SB)  
12.30pm Baptism (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, 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,

**Lately Dead:** Rinaldi Villa, Nula Bent, Alan Morely Julian Rishton

**Anniversaries:** Hayley Warriner

**Mass Intentions:** Fred Davies (Birthday Remembrance), Nula Bent, Rinaldi Villa, Alan Morely, Hayley Warriner

**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

**Congratulations:** to Thomas George William Jordan who was Baptised last Sunday. We pray that both he and his family continue to grow in faith.

**Congratulations:** To all our young people who have received their A-Level or GCSE results these past two weeks. We hope you all achieved what you wanted and wish you well for the next stage of your education or as you move on to pastures new.

**SVP Coffee Morning:** The next coffee morning will be held after the 9.30am Mass on Wednesday 28 August. Proceeds will be donated to the Children's Liturgy groups for resources. All most welcome!

**Confessional (SJ):** This coming week, we are having some modifications to our confessional at St John's. The statue of St John will be moved slightly, but the work will not cause any disruption to Masses.

**A Thought for the week...**

"We understand that loyalty to God is a matter of loyalty to whom we are bound to walk together on the same road. And this person is Jesus."

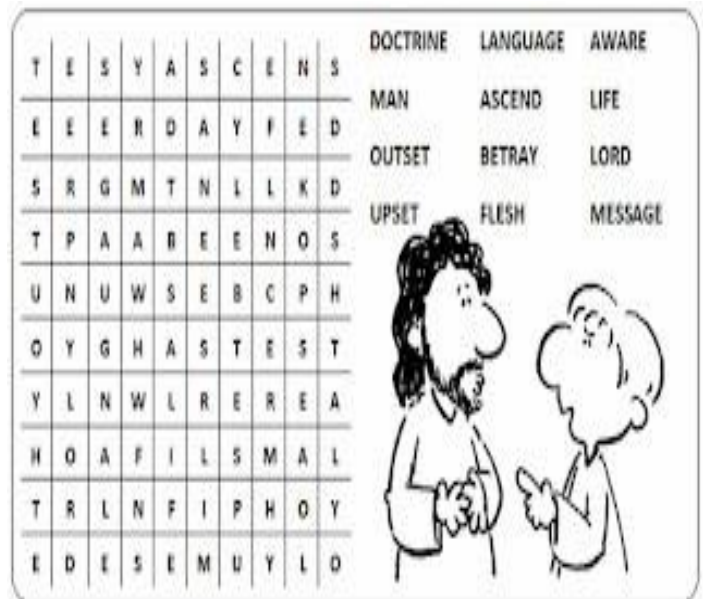
*Pope Francis*

**Other News from Around the Diocese**

**Votive Mass of St Monica:** Join in for a Votive Mass of St Monica followed by the opportunity to venerate her relic and invoke her intercession on the Feast Day of St Monica, (27th August) at St Mary's Church in Oswaldtwistle at 7pm. The statue of St Monica will be placed on the sanctuary, with a prayer box before her. Everyone is welcome and invited to write the names of family and friends and place them in the box asking for St Monica's prayers.

**Family Beekeeping Sessions:** The Bee Together Community Centre and Garden, of the Parish of the Nativity in Failsworth and Limeside, is organising Family Beekeeping sessions. The next session will take place on 8 September 2024 at Church of the Holy Family, Roman Rd, Hollinwood, Oldham, OL8 3PY. Interested participants are requested to email [beetogetherhollinwood@gmail.com](mailto:beetogetherhollinwood@gmail.com) to book their place. Everyone is welcome.

**Looking For A Late Catholic Gap Year?** Do you know anybody who is Catholic, aged around 18 to 22 and still not got anything lined up for the year ahead? Castlerigg Manor (the Diocese of Lancaster retreat centre, located in the Lake District) are still looking for young people to join their youth ministry in internship scheme. The scheme provides comprehensive training and experience as well as accommodation and food for the year, and a stipend each week. Anyone who is interested can check out [www.castleriggmanor.com](http://www.castleriggmanor.com) join the team or Email Jack Regan [director@castleriggmanor.co.uk](mailto:director@castleriggmanor.co.uk)



Readers for 31 August/1 Sept 2024		
<b>5pm Vigil (SB)</b>	<b>9.30am (SJ)</b>	<b>11am (SB)</b>
S Mikolajewski	G Drabble	F Doloroso
Eucharistic Minister's 9.30am (SJ) 1 Sept		
P McArdle & J Summerton		