

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

8 September 2024

Twenty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time



Masses & Activities this Week

*Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 2
Divine Office Week 3
Roman Missal: 401; Readings: p404*

Sunday 8 September - A Special Collection for the Catholic Education Service

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

Monday 9 September

9.15am Full School Mass (SC School)
6pm Mass (SJ)
6.45pm Synod Meeting (SJ) - Summary 1

Tuesday 10 September - St Ambrose Barlow

10am Mass (SB)

Wednesday 11 September

9.30am Mass (SJ)

Thursday 12 September

9.15am Full School Mass (SB)

Friday 13 September - St John Chrysostum

12noon Mass (SB)

Saturday 14 September - The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

10.45am Adoration & Confession (SJ)
11.30am Mass (SJ)
5pm Vigil Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy

Sunday 15 September - A Special Collection for Home Missions

9.30am Mass (SJ) - With Children's Liturgy
11am Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy
1pm Baptism (SJ)
3pm Holy Hour for Adoramus (SJ)

The dignity of each human person is God given and needs to be respected. Where there is disharmony and conflict we always find a sense of inequality whether it is social, racial or gender the disrespecting of a person leads to a diminishing of society. We cannot be a real society when some sectors of that society are without basic human dignity.

The message of Isaiah in the first reading echoes this call for respect. He tells his listeners "Courage! Do not be afraid". He sees the ills of humanity through the eyes of those who cannot see, the ears of those who cannot hear, the infirmity of the lame and the silence of the dumb. Sometimes these are physical disabilities, but our society can also refuse to listen, refuse to see. Isaiah dreams of a gushing stream which will create a lake which will flood the parched lands of discrimination and bring wholeness to all of humanity. James sees this lack of respect within places of worship. He speaks of those who see only with their eyes. Those who fail to see the dignity of those they meet because they do not open the eyes of their hearts. How often do we judge others by their dress or their outward appearance? Are we corrupt judges?

Today's gospel from Mark recalls the healing of the man born deaf and dumb. It is important to note here that the man was brought to Jesus by his friends. Sometimes, in life, we find ourselves struggling with another's disability. The very act of bringing that person to God can have an effect far greater than the physical effort taken. Look around you, if you see someone who is in need then take courage and ask if you can help; the effort is almost always worthwhile. Another aspect of today's gospel is the use of the word "Ephphatha". This word represents a very important part of the Baptismal service. During the service the priest touches the ears and the mouth of the child and says "The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the dumb speak. May he soon touch your ears to receive his word and your mouth to proclaim his faith, to the praise and glory of God the Father, Amen". The healing of the man born deaf and dumb is also our healing; it is God calling to us to listen to the Gospel and profess our faith in Jesus Christ. We are the deaf who hear and the dumb who speak.

David Frank

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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: Fr Colin Wright, Fr Derek Woodhead, Eileen Partington

Anniversaries: Gerard Lamoury, Mary Mealey, Mary & Thomas Watson, Martin Feeney

Mass Intentions: Margaret & Joseph Halliwell, Stanley Roberts, Christine Hardgrave, Richard Hardgrave, Jeff Howarth (Birthday Remembrance), Gerard Lamoury, Mary Mealey, Mary & Thomas Watson, Martin Feeney, A very sick person

We are asked to pray for these intentions: Students & teachers, the spread of the Gospel, the harvest, the fruits of human work, the reverent use of creation, justice & peace in the world, all victims of war, young people, prisoners & their families.

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 Teddie Mae Purdie who was Baptised last Sunday. We pray that both she and her family continue to grow in faith.

Baptisms: If you are looking to have your child baptised, we have produced a leaflet with information for families to consider. This is available at the back of each church. Please speak to Fr Alf or contact the parish office for any other baptism queries.

Confirmation Course 2024/5: Will be starting again on 3 October 2024 for students in Year 8. If your child attends a different high school than Thornleigh and wishes to be included in this year's programme, please contact the Parish Office as soon as you can. *Thank you.*

Children's Liturgy: Would like to thank the SVP for their kind donation from the recent Coffee Morning. All groups are back up and running this weekend.

Catholic Education Service: This weekend we will have a second collection for the CES. Please continue to pray for Our Catholic primary and secondary schools.

Update on our Diocesan Synod

Following the first gathering of the diocesan journey, we are now able to share the 'Big Listen' Report. You can access the full report via the diocesan website and the QR code below. The four principal themes that emerged from the Big Listen are: *Nurturing Faith in Tomorrow's World*, *Building Connections*, *Enabling Access*, and *Fostering Christ-like Care*. Summary leaflets, and other related resources, will be made available in monthly stages. To find out more about the latest updates, what's next for our diocesan synod, or how you can get involved, please visit <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/faith/synod/>



We have arranged a series of four meetings for our parish. The dates are as follows:

Monday 9th September 6.45pm St John's - *Nurturing Faith in Tomorrow's World*

Thursday 10th October 7pm St Brendan's - *Building Connections*

Thursday 7th November 2pm St John's - *Enabling Access*

Thursday 12th December 12.30pm St Brendan's - *Fostering Christ-Like-Care*

The leaflets accompanying these themes will be available at the back of church the week before each meeting. Alternatively, they are accessible via the links above. If you would prefer a paper copy of the full report, please ask.

We would be delighted to see as many of you as we can, but if you are unable to attend any of the meetings you will still have an opportunity to take part in this important process as each theme has a response form to accompany the leaflet. These can be placed in the Synod action box which will be placed at the back of both churches and will be added to the responses from each meeting.

Thank you.

Adoramus Holy Hour: Bishops, priests and people from all dioceses will gather at St Mary's College, Oscott, on Saturday 14 September for a day to renew and deepen devotion to the Eucharist. We too are encouraged by Bishop John to hold a Holy Hour of Devotion (3pm, Sunday 15 September at St John's Church) enabling us to come together to pray before the Blessed Sacrament allowing the Lord to speak to our hearts helping embrace the Missionary Discipleship that we are called to be.

Readers for 14/15 September 2024		
5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
G Kearns	A Gracie	C Ezeogu
Eucharistic Minister's 9.30am (SJ) 15 Sept V & A Rawlinson		