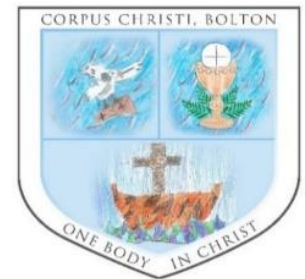


# Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

**9 February 2025**

**The Fifth Week of Ordinary Time**



I became a Minister of the Word almost 35 years ago when I attended a course over three evenings and we learned about the history of the Mass and the Lectionary and the importance of the readings. Looking back, one simple instruction comes to mind "Speak clearly, for if you do not, then you silence Christ". Perhaps this was the most important lesson of all. All our readers try their best to speak clearly so that you may hear the word and hold it in your hearts. Listen closely, because the words they speak are holy and they come from our heavenly Father.

Today's readings are all about proclaiming the Word. In the passage from Isaiah, he describes a vision of heaven, he writes of the Temple filled with the presence of God and His angels. He speaks of his unworthiness to speak in God's presence "I am a man of unclean lips". Then a Seraphim flies to him carrying a burning hot coal and touches his lips and the voice of the Lord rings out, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us" and Isaiah cries out "Here I am, send me". This call to Isaiah is God calling to each of us to proclaim God's word among the people.

When Paul writes to the Corinthians, he does so to remind them that the word he speaks to them is the Good News of salvation and forgiveness based on the death and resurrection of Christ. He follows in the footsteps of the Apostles, speaking out, so that all may believe in Jesus Christ. Paul was once a persecutor of the church but now he, through the grace of God, has overcome his unworthiness so that he may preach, so that you may believe.

The Gospel passage speaks of the power of the Word. Wherever Jesus goes he is surrounded by a great crowd of people drawn to him so they may be healed and receive His word. Now, on the lake, the press of the crowd forces Jesus into a boat so that he may be seen and heard by the people. His words have the power to open hearts, today his word calls to the fishermen, Peter, Andrew, James and John, although they do not know it. Perhaps today's readings have a message for you, is this the day when you hear, believe and begin to follow Christ more fully. *David Frank*

## Masses & Activities this Week

*Sunday Cycle C*

### Sunday 9 February

9.30am Mass (SJ) - With Children's Liturgy  
11am Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy

### Monday 10 February - *St Scholastica*

9am Mass (St Columba's School)

### Tuesday 11 February

10am Mass (SB)  
7.30pm Christian Meditation (SB)

### Wednesday 12 February

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

### Thursday 13 February

10am Mass (SB)  
6pm Confirmation Course (St John's Church)

### Friday 14 February - *St Cyril & Methodius*

*No Mass Today*

### Saturday 15 February

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

### Sunday 16 February - **Racial Justice Sunday**

9.30am Mass (SJ) - With Children's Liturgy  
11am Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy

## 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, Pat McDowell, Richard Crichton, Michael Latham, Kathryn Browning, Frank Vickers, Frederick Parkinson, Eileen Fitzgerald, Peter Reilly, Terry Scott, Joyce Strickleton, Margaret Kay, Tony Martin, Annie O'Brien, Dr Allan Needham, Margaret Roberts, Margaret O'Brien, Kevin Knowles, Peter McGawley, Pat Howarth, Bernard Earp, Arnold Banks, Terry Smith, Michael Kitching,  
**Lately Dead:** Adam Draper, Robert Hindle  
**Mass Intentions:** Marie Lamoury (Birthday Remembrance), Robert Hindle, Win French & Teresa Hall, A special intention

**We are asked to pray for these intentions:** Peace on Earth; Openness to the Word of God; Christian Unity; The sick & those who care for them; Victims of trafficking and those who work to combat it; the Unemployed  
*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; if you are UK taxpayer, please consider gift aiding your kind donation, the parish will benefit at no extra cost to yourselves.  
**Dona:** We can now accept cashless payments, using our contactless system.  
**Cheques:** Please make all cheques payable to **Corpus Christi**. Thank you

**Congratulations To:** William David Mizon and Noah Nicholas Gill who were baptised last weekend. We pray that they and their families may continue to grow in faith.

**Can You Help?** We are desperate for help for a sacristan/volunteer at our 11am Sunday Mass at St Brendan's. The volunteer will need to open the Church in readiness for Mass. With thanks, *Fr Alf*

**SVP Coffee Morning:** Thank you to all who came along on Wednesday morning. The amount raised was £237 for the Prisoners Project.

**Harbour Room Book Club Early Notices:**  
 Wednesday 26 February: *The Black Dress* by Deborah Maggoch.  
 Wednesday 26 March: *A Terrible Kindness* by Jo Browning Wroe.  
 Wednesday 30 April. The novel after Easter is *Cold Comfort Farm* by Stella Gibbons. All are welcome.

**Marmalade for Sale:** The marmalade harvest having been safely gathered in, will be available for sale on Sunday 16 February in the Patmos Room after the 9.30am Mass. Please be generous as all proceeds will, as in previous years, be divided equally between two charities, CAFOD and the DEC (The Disasters Emergencies Committee). *Thank you.*

**Flower Group:** Did you know that every Thursday afternoon (1.30-3.30pm) there is a flower group at St John's Church? If you are interested in flower arranging, why don't you come along? We are a friendly group of mixed ability, and there's always a cup of tea and a biscuit too! If you would like to know more, please ring Margaret Fazackerley 07806 777269

**St Osmund's Music Night:** The Flatcappers, Irish dance and music band, are playing at St Osmund's Church Hall, Brightmet, Bolton BL2 6EB on Saturday 22 March (7pm-11pm). Tickets £10 including pastie supper. Irish dancers display first before band. Entrance is by ticket only. Phone 01204 522770.

**Pilgrims of Hope: Lenten Talks:** The Diocese of Salford is holding a series of talks this Lent that explores themes of journeying and pilgrimage through the lens of the Jubilee. Each week, the talks will focus on a different person from the Bible to help us better understand how the journey we are called to make this Holy Week year is rooted in scripture. The weekly talks begin on Tuesday 4 March at 11am at Wardley Hall. Contact Sr Joan Kerley on [joankfmsj@gmail.com](mailto:joankfmsj@gmail.com) or call 0161 971 7842 to find out more.

**Are you aged between 18 and 35 or know someone who is?** Our diocesan charity Caritas Diocese of Salford is looking for young adult volunteers to join their governance committee as co-opted members to help shape the charity in the coming months and years. Find out more about how you can help tackle poverty, homelessness, disadvantage, and displacement in our parish communities at [www.caritassalford.org.uk/youngadultboard](http://www.caritassalford.org.uk/youngadultboard)

**Racial Justice Sunday 16 February 2025:** The theme is: "*Pilgrims of Hope: Our Journey Together Towards Racial Justice*" which invites Catholics across England and Wales to reflect on the collective journey towards racial justice in our schools, parishes and wider society. Bishop Paul McAleenan said: "2025 is a very special year. It marks both a Year of Jubilee and the 30th anniversary of Racial Justice Sunday. "This year, we invite the Catholic community to reflect on the journey towards racial justice - past, present and future - by asking: 'How far have we come, where are we now and what remains to be achieved?' for more information visit: [Racial Justice Sunday - Roman Catholic Diocese of Salford](http://www.caritassalford.org.uk/youngadultboard)

Readers for 15/16 February 2025		
5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
C Molyneux	A Grundy	C Ezeogu
Eucharistic Minister's 9.30am (SJ) 16 February M Cropper & A Gracie		