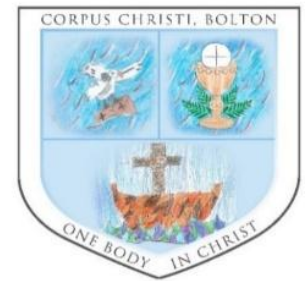


Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

16 February 2025

The Sixth Week of Ordinary Time



There are basic questions about faith in today's readings. In the passage from the prophet Jeremiah, we are asked to compare the man who puts his faith in the world and the man who puts his faith in God. The Book of Jeremiah is born in exile; it is the story of a people who have turned away from God and who have suffered great hardship exiled in Babylon. They suffer from a hardness of heart and the prophet is trying to change those hearts, to turn the people back to faith in God. There are some who rely on the promises of men; they are like dry scrub in the wasteland, for they do not have faith in God. There are some, the remnant of Israel, who have kept the faith, it blooms in them, like a tree by the waterside, and they are blessed in the eyes of their God.

Paul speaks to us of a faith that is based in Jesus Christ and His promise of eternal life. He reminds us of the power of faith in the resurrection. This is a measure of how faith brings us hope; we believe in the resurrection, the empty tomb, and through that faith we can be confident in God's promise of eternal life.

Today's passage from Luke follows the choosing of the twelve from among His disciples. There are three groups of people on this level piece of ground. The Apostles and disciples, the people who have come to listen to His teaching and a group who are looking for the miracle of healing. There is a real sense of the world being present in the various groups assembled. Jesus begins with a carefully balanced series of blessings and woes. He speaks of a world where the poor, the hungry and the mourner find a place of peace and joy but where there is no place for those who enjoy the richness of life. He echoes the poem of Jeremiah and reminds us that our God is not of this world with its ambitions and callous attitudes but of a world filled with God's love.

So, today, we are called to have faith in the love of God and to rely upon His goodness in the midst of a sometimes, uncaring world; we must choose between dry scrub and green trees, whether to follow the path of faith or to put our trust in the world. It is our choice - choose carefully.

David Frank

Masses & Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle C

Sunday 16 February - Racial Justice Sunday

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

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

Fr Alf will be away on a mandatory retreat this week. He will keep us in his prayers

Monday 17 February

No Mass Today

Tuesday 18 February

No Mass Today

7.30pm Christian Meditation (SJ)

Wednesday 19 February

No Mass Today

Thursday 20 February

No Mass Today

Friday 21 February

No Mass Today

Saturday 22 February - The Chair of St Peter

10.45 Confession & Adoration (SJ)

11.30am Mass (SJ)

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

Sunday 23 February -

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

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

12.15pm Baptism (SB)

Parish Contact Details

Parish Priest: Fr Alfred Rebello

Parish Office: St John's Presbytery,

The Crescent, Bromley Cross, Bolton BL7 9JP.

Tel: 01204 301927. E-mail: office@sbsj.org.uk

Website: www.sbsj.org.uk

Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees

Registered Charity - 250037

Diocesan website: www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk

This Newsletter is sponsored by

HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

Peel House

638 Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton.

BL1 7AL

01204 309609





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,
Anniversaries: Roger Kershaw, William Finlay (50th Anniversary)

Mass Intentions: John & Gladys Hall

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

Racial Justice Sunday: This weekend, we mark Racial Justice Sunday with the theme *Pilgrims of Hope: Our Journey Together Towards Racial Justice*. The theme celebrates both the Jubilee Year and the 30th anniversary of Racial Justice Sunday, inviting the Catholic community to reflect on the journey towards racial justice - past, present, and future. For prayers and resources, head to

<https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/racial-justice-sunday/>

Marmalade: Will be on sale this Sunday after the 9.30am Mass. All proceeds will be divided equally between CAFOD and the DEC (Disasters & Emergencies Committee).

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*

Harbour Room Book Club:

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.

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

Jubilee Book Signing Event: A special book signing and reading event is due to take place to celebrate the launch of two new books about our diocese by Mgr John Allen - *A popular history of the Diocese of Salford* and *Pilgrims of Hope: Out and About in Salford Diocese*. It will be held on Monday 3 March at 5pm at St Patrick's Church, in Collyhurst. You can book your free place now at

www.caritassalford.org.uk/booksigning.

All proceeds from book sales go to Caritas Salford.

Silent Retreat: Join the Diocese of Salford's Laudato Si' Centre team for a peaceful day of prayer this February. This one-day retreat invites you to spend time with the Lord in silent prayer and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, attend outdoor Mass, and explore the beautiful grounds of the Centre. Find out more and register your attendance at

<https://laudatosicentre.org.uk/events/silent-retreat>

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham 2025: Our diocesan pilgrimage office is now taking bookings for its next annual pilgrimage to Walsingham. Our pilgrimage in this Holy Year of Jubilee will take place on Saturday 3 May 2025, with an option to extend your visit by staying overnight on Friday 2 May. For more information, prices, and details on how to book, please visit

<https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/walsingham-pilgrimage-2025> or call 0161 817 2209

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. The weekly talks begin on Tuesday 4 March at 11am at Wardley Hall. Contact Sr Joan Kerley on joankfmsj@gmail.com or call 0161 971 7842 to find out more.

Feast of the Chair of St Peter: Is celebrated on Saturday 22 February. It calls to mind the mission of teacher and priest conferred by Christ on Peter and continued in an unbroken line down to the present Pope. We celebrate the unity of the Church, founded upon the Apostle, and renew our assent to the Magisterium of the Roman Pontiff.

Readers for 22/23 February 2025		
5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
G Drabble	A Gracie	L Lamoury
Eucharistic Ministers 9.30am (SJ) 23 February P McArdle & J Summerton		