

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

23 February 2025

The Seventh Week of Ordinary Time



It is very difficult not to react when someone does something to hurt you. Whether the hurt is physical or verbal, it tears at your heart, and you want to respond in some way; to get even or perhaps to return a blow with something greater than you have received. However, we know that retaliation is not the way of Christ, that He taught us to forgive and, although in some circumstances, forgiveness is far from our hearts, this is the road we must follow if we want to follow Him.

The story of Saul and David is one of a great friendship, a loving relationship, broken by jealousy and fear. As he grew to manhood, David became a threat to Saul and a great rift was torn between them. In today's passage, David has the sleeping Saul at his feet, he has the opportunity to kill his rival, but he shows his compassion and his love by sparing his enemy; perhaps he is hoping for a reconciliation with his former friend, his hopes will prove to be in vain.

Paul uses the example of Adam, the first man, and Jesus, the new man, to teach us about how the world is changed because Christ has lived among us. We are creatures of this world, and our earthly nature makes us prone to conflicting moods. of love, and of hate, of earthly desires, and of heavenly aspirations. Jesus is from heaven, He teaches us how the spirit of God, living in us, has the power to overcome our earthly nature and turn us away from hate to love. We, therefore, have the choice, do we follow our earthly nature, or do we follow Christ?

Healing is greatly needed in today's world; many people are suffering from the wars and disputes, great and small, that touch our lives. In this, the second part of the Sermon on the Plain, in Luke's Gospel, Jesus is teaching us about forgiveness. Returning a blow for a blow is not the answer to our problems. Every dispute must be settled by reconciliation and healing. We need to find respect for others, even those who hurt us, for it is in this respect that we find healing and love. *"Be merciful even as your Father is merciful"* can be a very hard road to follow but, unless we make a start, we may never find a way to build a peaceful world.
David Frank

Masses & Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle C

Sunday 23 February

9.30am Mass (SJ) - With Children's Liturgy
11am Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy
12.15pm Baptism (SB)

Monday 24 February

6pm Mass (SJ)

Tuesday 25 February

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

Wednesday 26 February

9.30am Mass (SJ)
10am SVP Coffee Morning (SJ)
1pm Harbour Room Book Club (SB)

Thursday 27 February

10am Mass (SB)

Friday 28 February

No Mass Today

Saturday 1 March - *St David*

No Morning Mass due to Diocesan Synod Conference [*see overleaf*]
5pm Vigil Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy

Sunday 2 March

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: Joseph Talbot, Peter Hovington

Anniversaries: James Connolly (27 January), William Hodget, Christopher Hailwood

Mass Intentions: James Connolly, William Hodget, Peter Hovington, Christopher Hailwood, For deceased members of the O'Kane & Boardman families

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

200 Club Subscriptions: Are now due (£15 per number) The 200 Club is a great way to support the parish. Sadly, we have lost members over the last 12 months, so any new members are greatly appreciated and made very welcome. It may be difficult for some parishioners to get their subscriptions to me, so here are some options to help: 1. Post or deliver to the Parish Office; 2. Leave in the basket provided at each church; 3. Contact me on 07528027295. For option 1 & 2 please place your subscription and contact details on an envelope FAO Ann Gracie. Please make Cheques payable to **Corpus Christi**. If anyone requires additional numbers, please contact me on the above number. Thank you, *Ann*.

World Day of Prayer: Is Friday 7 March. Please come and join us at 12 noon at Harwood Methodist Church, Longsight Lane, BL2 3HX for free lunch, followed by a Service for everyone.

Harbour Room Book Club:

Wednesday 26 February: *The Black Dress* by Deborah Maggoch.

Join CAFOD's Big Lent Walk in the Jubilee Year: You are invited to join CAFOD's Big Lent Walk and journey together with Catholics in England, Wales and Scotland as Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year - walking 200km over 40 days during Lent. Perhaps journey to one of the churches or shrines designated as places of pilgrimage in our diocese as part of your Big Lent Walk. Every £1 you raise will support communities like Lokho's in Kenya, experiencing the worst impact of the climate crisis. Sign up here: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/> and help to change people's lives. Or call Simon Holleron on 077 100 944 54 for more information.

Diocesan Synod: We are now approaching the last phase and important culmination of our Diocesan Synod, which we began in 2023. Next weekend we will be holding our Diocesan Voting Day, where clergy and lay synod members will come together to vote on recommendations that will form the Diocesan Pastoral Plan. Please pray for all those involved in the Synod Process that the Holy Spirit may guide and inspire us as we work together to discern God's call for the Church in our diocese. The following day there is an opportunity to give thanks for the Synod and pray for guidance as we move into the planning and implementation phases. This Thanksgiving Service will officially close the Diocesan Synod and is open to all to attend.

When: Sunday 2nd March 2025

Venue: St Patricks RC Church, Livesey Street, Collyhurst, Manchester. M4 5HF

Time: 3pm-5pm

Parking: Available in Caritas House car park at the end of Nobby Stiles Drive and various car parks within easy walking around the Church.

Primary ECT Pool 2025: Are you looking for a career in teaching? Do you know someone who is training for a career in primary education? ECT (Early Career Teachers) due to gain Qualified Teacher Status in Summer 2025 are being invited to apply for recommendation for interview to Catholic schools with vacancies for September 2025. Email

millie.burton@dioceseofsalford.org.uk to find out more and apply or call 0161 817 220.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham 2025: 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

Readers for 1 / 2 March 2025		
5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
A Grundy	A Hayes	A Moore
Eucharistic Ministers 9.30am (SJ) 2 March J Carroll & S May		