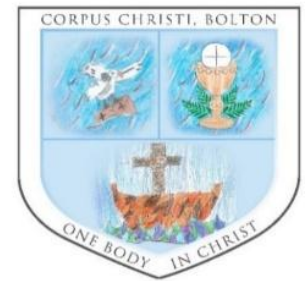


Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

2 March 2025

The Eighth Week of Ordinary Time/Lent



We cannot know the nature of a person unless we hear them speak. What we say and how we say it reveals much of our individual character. When we listen to someone, we catch a glimpse of the real person behind the words. In the passage from Ecclesiasticus the author teaches us to discern a person's goodness from the way he reasons. "The test of a person is in his reasoning", by the way we speak and what we say, we will be judged.

The words of Paul prepare us for the coming season of Lent. Lent leads us to Our Lord's victory over death and we believe that we share that victory for it wins for us that cloak of imperishability, eternal life. Death has no power over us if we live in faithful service to Our Lord and King, Jesus Christ. Jesus must have been a brilliant speaker. In today's passage from Luke, we hear many examples of his style. He speaks in familiar language, the language of the people, and you can sense the humour behind the words. If the blind lead the blind then both will fall into a ditch, if a student follows his teacher, then both will repeat the errors they make. Jesus speaks of the splinter and the plank. How often do we criticise someone but fail to see that we too are guilty of a similar or greater fault? The parable of the good fruit and the rotten fruit speaks to what is in our hearts. If we have goodness at the heart of what we do then we will produce good fruit, however, if our actions and words come from a spiteful or wicked thoughts, then we will produce rotten fruit. We cannot think one way and then act in another. We are either grapes or brambles, our nature depends on what is in our hearts. We may find that we are in a struggle within ourselves when we react to a situation but if our reaction comes from the goodness in our hearts then we follow in the footsteps of Christ.

David Frank

Masses & Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle C

Sunday 2 March

9.30am Mass (SJ) - With Children's Liturgy
11am Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy
1pm Baptism (SJ)

Monday 3 March

9am Yr4 Class Mass (St Columba's School)
6pm Mass (SJ)

Tuesday 4 March

10am Mass (SB) with Yr6
7.30pm Christian Meditation (SJ)

Wednesday 5 March - Ash Wednesday - A Day of fasting & Abstinence

9.30am Mass (SJ)
6.30pm Mass (SB)

Thursday 6 March

10am Requiem Mass for Joseph Talbot (SJ)

Friday 7 March - World Day of Prayer

No Mass Today
12noon World Day of Prayer lunch & Service (Harwood Methodist Church)

Saturday 8 March

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

Sunday 9 March

Retired Clergy

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

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

Lately Dead: Janice Brindle, Joseph Talbot, Peter Hovington

Anniversaries: John O'Connor, Robert Sexon, James Mathen

Mass Intentions: John O'Connor, James Mathen, Denis O'Toole (Birthday Remembrance), Robert Sexon (Birthday Remembrance), A special Intention, In thanksgiving

We are asked to pray for these intentions:

Candidates for the Sacraments; women; the needy & hungry of the world; penitents & wanderers

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 Maggie May Guffogg who was baptized last weekend. We pray that both she and her family continue to grow in faith.

We continue to pray for Pope Francis:

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the loving service of Pope Francis and the hope he has inspired in so many. We ask you to have mercy on him in his illness, guide the medical staff in his care, and grant him peace and healing. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

Fair Trade Stall: As Justicia celebrates 40 years of campaigning for fairer trade, the stall will be before and after 9.30am Mass this Sunday. You are also welcome to drop into the Bolton town centre shop on Saturday 8 March (1.30pm-3.30pm) for a birthday celebration. Children can make their own fair-trade smoothies on a smoothie bike!

Marmalade: Has all been sold and the proceeds divided equally between the two charities, CAFOD and UNICEF (Ukraine). The total amount raised was £130, which is more than what was obtained last year, and I am most grateful for your generosity, especially for those who paid more than just the face value. I hope your breakfasts have now been enhanced! *Peter*.

Lenten Activities

Walk With Me: Booklets and Calendars are available for you to take away (free of charge) for use over the Lenten period.

Ash Wednesday: Is this week, Wednesday 5 March, it is not a Holy Day of Obligation, but a day of fast and abstinence marking the start of our Lenten journey towards the Triduum. There will be two masses at 9.30am and 6.30pm.

Stations of the Cross followed by Adoration: Will take place in Lent on Sunday afternoons as per usual, but next Sunday we have the Rite of Election service in Manchester, so the first Stations of the Cross will be after Monday evening Mass (6pm) at St John's on the 10th March.

Destitution Project Lenten Gathering: This Lent, with your support, the SVP have again set a target to collect 40 items of each the following for the Destitution Project: Tins of Chickpeas, tinned tomatoes, tinned fruit, long-life whole milk, long-life orange/apple juice, dried pasta (incl spaghetti), vegetable oil, sardines/tuna in oil, bags of sugar, carrier bags, & toilet rolls. The Destitution project is always so grateful for the support we give them. *Thank you.*

Dates for your Diary: St Mary's Chorley will be hosting two talks by a guest speaker from America for the first part of the Jubilee Year. Mike Pietrzyk will speak about Eucharistic Miracles on Monday 28 April (time tbc) and Saturday 3 May at 3pm on the Shroud of Turin.

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*.

200 Club Winners February:

1st Prize - M Aspinall (£50)

2nd Prize - Mrs Lynch (£25)

3rd Prize - D Whyte (£15)

Readers for 8/9 March 2025		
5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
C Grundy	S May	C Owen
Eucharistic Ministers 9.30am (SJ) 9 March V & A Rawlinson		