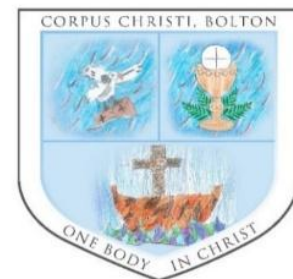


Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

9 March 2025

The First Week of Lent



We are on a journey of discovery. It is the time in the Year of the Church when we experience an annual Lenten pilgrimage. A pilgrimage is a period when we have an opportunity to look more closely at ourselves and at our faith, if we want to know Our Lord more then this is a perfect time. We begin with a desert experience, deserts are not always places of sand, scrub and sun, they exist everywhere, even in the green places of our world, for the desert we will explore is one that exists within ourselves.

The people of the Exodus entered the desert walking hand in hand with God. Their journey through the wilderness lasted forty years, during this time they lived through the full range of human experience. They found and lost faith in God many times, but God never lost sight of them and journeyed with them throughout the long years of travel. In the Book of Deuteronomy Moses speaks to the people of a harvest, "the first of the fruit of the ground" which came forth from the land they had settled in after their exodus from Egypt. This harvest was a faith in God which would carry them through the long years ahead.

Seeking the Lord is not difficult, Paul tells us that "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" because it is through speaking of Jesus as Lord and believing in His resurrection in your heart that you will be saved. There are no barriers to belief, no distinction of race or colour, we reach towards faith by coming to know Our Lord through our experiences and actions. Listen carefully to the words of scripture and follow your heart for that is the way to Christ.

We are all subject to temptation, it comes in many forms and is subtle and appealing. It has an innocent look, and we often do not realise we are being deceived until it is too late. Through the wilderness experiences of Our Lord, we can begin to discern how easy it is to fall into temptation's trap. Jesus was taught scripture from his childhood and understood the temptations of humanity for status and power. As we listen today to the Gospel of Luke, we can take heart from the reaction of Jesus to His temptation and learn how to overcome those human temptations that we face in our daily life. *David Frank*

Masses & Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle C

Sunday 9 March *Special Collection for Retired Clergy*

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

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

Monday 10 March

9.15am Whole School Mass (St Columba's School)

6pm Mass (SJ) followed by Stations of the Cross

Tuesday 11 March

10am Mass (SB)

7.30pm Christian Meditation (SB)

Wednesday 12 March

9am Adoration (SJ)

9.30am Mass (SJ)

6pm Reconciliation for St Columba's and St John's (SJ Church)

Thursday 13 March

9.15am Whole School Mass (SB)

Friday 14 March - CAFOD Lenten Fast Day

11am Funeral Service for Janice Brindle (SJ)

Saturday 15 March

10.45am Adoration & Confession (SJ)

11.30am Mass (SJ)

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

Sunday 16 March

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

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

1pm Baptism (SB)

3pm Stations of the Cross (SJ)

Parish Contact Details

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This Newsletter is sponsored by

HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

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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, Jane Manuel

Lately Dead: Michael Whyte, Karen Lawton-Hall, Janice Brindle, Joseph Talbot, Peter Hovington, Nieves Cerillo Audal

Anniversaries: John O'Connor, Teresa Wilson, Vincent Heron, Alfeo & Bonifacia Doloroso, Jesus Espiritu, Dorothy Tudhope, Betty Carolan, John Carolan, David Greenhalgh

Mass Intentions: John O'Connor, Teresa Wilson, Barbara Grimes (Birthday Remembrance), Vincent Heron, Special Prayers, Michael Whyte, Harry Dawson (Birthday Remembrance), Alfeo & Bonifacia Doloroso, Jesus Espiritu, In thanksgiving to St Anthony & St Jude, Dorothy Tudhope, Betty Carolan, John Carolan, David Greenhalgh, Karen Lawton-Hall

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.

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

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 Erin Lauren Eccleshare who was baptized last weekend. We pray that both she and her family continue to grow in faith.

Sick and Retired Clergy Fund: Our Sick and Retired Clergy Fund is a vital resource that provides key provision for our priests after years of dedicated service to our diocesan community. As the number of priests reaching retirement age has grown, this fund has never been more needed to ensure our clergy can enjoy the happy and dignified retirement they so deserve. We invite you to find out more and read our newsletter by visiting: <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/sick-and-retired-clergy-fund/>

Parish Visit to Rome: We have a rare opportunity to stay at Palazzola Villa of the Venerable English College, close to the Castel Gandolfo (Papal Palace) to celebrate the Jubilee year. Proposed dates will be within Monday 15 September - Wednesday 24 September. A meeting will be arranged for Tuesday 18 March (7pm) in the Patmos Room at St John's to discuss options, itinerary dates and costs. Please contact the parish office to indicate your attendance at this meeting. *Thank you.*

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.*

CAFOD Lent Appeal - Family Fast Day collection: Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection. You'll be supporting communities experiencing the impacts of war, poverty and climate change. You can donate using the CAFOD envelope (attached to this newsletter), online at cafod.org.uk/envelope, or by using your phone camera to scan the QR Code.



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.*

Installation of New Bus Stop (SJ): Currently the bus stop outside St John's Church is unmarked. Transport for Greater Manchester will carry out work (in the very near future) to improve the facilities for local bus users on the Crescent, Bromley Cross. When the work is complete, we would encourage parishioners to use the church car park as much as possible.

Readers for 15/16 March 2025		
5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
L Lamoury	M Morrison	K Wilkinson
Eucharistic Ministers 9.30am (SJ) 16 March		
M Speed & P Partington		