

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

16 March 2025

The Second Week of Lent



Lent is a time of hope; in our modern world there are many who live without hope. The world is in crisis, there are countries where war and disease are endemic. How can we find hope in a world where many are hope less?

Today's readings are a reminder to us of where hope can be found. In the first reading we hear the story of Abram, a wandering refugee, far from his native land, scratching out an existence in the deserts of the Middle East. Abram finds a God who he can believe in, a God who gives him hope, who promises him that he will be the father of many nations and that his descendants will be as many as the stars in heaven. Abram's faith brings a covenant of hope between God and his people and from these beginnings a nation is born.

The psalms are the prayers of a people of hope. Today we are reminded that God is our light and our help that if we believe in him then we live without fear of the future for He listens when we call, and we can hold firm and take heart for He is at our side.

Paul's letter to the Philippians was written from prison; not a place where hope is in abundance. Paul's message however is about freedom. He reminds us that true freedom comes from serving the Lord and keeping to His way. Home to Paul is heaven; that is the blessed place where we shall be transfigured into copies of Christ's glorious body. He urges us to not give way to the temptations of the world but stay strong, keep hoping and be faithful to the Lord.

Peter, James and John are symbols of hope to us; they were fishermen plucked from obscurity and given a place, a role in the ministry of Our Lord. They must have wondered at times "What is this life all about?" "Why have we left home and good jobs to wander the land following this man?" The day they spent on Mount Tabor must have sent their hopes soaring in the sky. They witnessed something that no other human person has ever seen. When Jesus was transfigured, before their eyes, they must have hoped that one day they too would be transfigured with Christ and that this would be the hope and destiny of all who followed Him.

David Frank

Masses & Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle C

Sunday 16 March *CAFOD Collection*

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

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

1pm Baptism (SB)

3pm Stations of the Cross (SJ) - followed by short Adoration

Monday 17 March - *St Patrick*

6pm Mass (SJ)

Tuesday 18 March

10am Mass (SB)

1.15pm Funeral Service for Michael Whyte (SJ)

7.30pm Christian Meditation (SJ)

Wednesday 19 March - *St Joseph*

9am Adoration (SJ)

9.30am Mass (SJ)

Thursday 20 March

10am Mass (SB)

Friday 21 March

12noon Mass (SB)

Saturday 22 March

10.45am Adoration & Confession (SJ)

11.30am Mass (SJ)

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

Sunday 23 March - *Retiring collection for The National Shrine at Walsingham*

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

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

3pm Stations of the Cross (SB) - followed by short Adoration

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, Pat Howarth, Bernard Earp, Arnold Banks, Terry Smith, Michael Kitching, Jane Manuel, Pope Francis

Lately Dead: Peter McGawley, Michael Whyte, Veronica Shaw, Karen Lawton-Hall, Valerie Harvey, Joseph Cain

Anniversaries: David & Margaret Attwood, Lillian Dawson, Bernadette Gargan

Mass Intentions: Michael Whyte, John Marshall, Mary Mariner, A Special intention for a baby's baptism, Peter McGawley, Lillian Dawson, Bernadette Gargan, Valerie Harvey, David & Margaret Attwood

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

The Jubilee Prayer: *Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. 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

CAFOD Lent Appeal - Family Fast Day collection: Please donate to our parish collection. You'll be supporting communities experiencing the impacts of war, poverty and climate change. You can donate using the CAFOD envelope or online at cafod.org.uk/envelope.

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. However, if you can't make the meeting and would like more information about the trip, please contact the parish office (with your email address) and we can send the details out to you.

200 Club Subscriptions: Are now due (£15 per number). Subscriptions can be handed in by the following options: 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*.



Monday is St Patrick's day, happy feast day if you are going celebrating! - Sláinte!

Other News from around the Diocese

Retiring Collection for Walsingham: We have been asked, by the Rector of the Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham, to hold a one-off, second collection for the National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham. This is to raise additional funds for the Shrine in the Jubilee Year. We will hold this collection at our Masses next weekend. *Thank you.*

Mass for People who are Sick and People with Caring Responsibilities: A special Mass to mark the Jubilee for people who are sick and people with caring responsibilities will be taking place on Saturday 5 April. The Mass, celebrated by Bishop John, will also include an opportunity for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Mass begins at 2pm at Salford Cathedral's Temporary Church. All are welcome to attend.

Lenten Day Retreat: The Parish of Our Lady of Hope in Salford is hosting a Day Retreat to help us prepare and reflect during this season of Lent. Taking place at Ss Peter and Paul RC Church, the retreat will include time for Adoration, praise and worship, with talks from guest speakers John Hesketh and Daniella Stephens. The retreat takes place on Saturday 29 March, 10am - 4pm. Lunch will be provided.

Readers for 22/23 March 2025		
5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
S Mikolajewski	H O'Donnell	P Brennan
Eucharistic Ministers 9.30am (SJ) 23 March A Gracie & M Cropper		