

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

24 August 2025

Twenty-First Week of Ordinary Time



There is a big question behind today's readings, one that we all want to ask but are afraid we will not like the answer. It is posed, in a way, in the Gospel reading when a man asks Jesus "Lord, will those who are saved be few?". It is the sort of question, I suspect, that we would all like to ask and that we would all want to be included in the answer but there is no answer that we could receive in this world. We will only know the answer in the next.

So, as usual, we follow the clues and try to build our faith in everlasting life by clinging to whatever we discover. Isaiah is very reassuring; "Thus says the Lord for I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues". The Jews believed that their God was only for them and for no others. Time and again the prophets spoke of other people who would come to know the one true God but still the Jews insisted that salvation was for them alone. In today's first reading Isaiah again warns them, and reassures us, that others will come to share in the Kingdom.

Then there is a message from the writer of Hebrews. He reminds us that we are sons and daughters of God; however, with this gift comes responsibilities. It is not enough to be sons and daughters; we must act as such and be faithful to the Father. Each family is taught how to behave by their parents; if we want to be sons and daughters of God then we must listen to the Father and turn away from sin. If we do not, then how can we enter the Kingdom of Heaven?

We can only come to God if we know Him and He knows us. How do we do this? By keeping His commandments and following His ways. Through prayer and worship, we come close to God; if we do not pray to Him and receive the sacraments then how can we come to know Him. So, stay true to the Gospel and do not allow yourself to be in the position where Jesus may say to you "I do not know where you come from" **David Frank**

Masses & Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle C

Sunday 24 August

9.30am Mass (SJ)
 11am Mass (SB)
 12.30pm Baptism (SB)

Monday 25 August - *Bank Holiday*

10am Mass (SJ)

Tuesday 26 August

10am Mass (SB)

Wednesday 27 August - *St Monica*

9am Adoration (SJ)
 9.30am Mass (SJ) - Followed by SVP Coffee Morning

Thursday 28 August - *St Augustine*

10am Mass (SB)

Friday 29 August - *The Passion of St John the Baptist*

12noon Mass (SB)

Saturday 30 August

10.45am Adoration & Confession (SJ)
 11.30am Mass (SJ)
 5pm Mass (SB)

Sunday 31 August

9.30am Mass (SJ)
 11am Mass (SB)
 12.15am Baptism (SB)

Parish Contact Details

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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, Frances Skemp, Edwin Rankin, Pat McDowell, Richard Crichton, Michael Latham, Kathryn Browning, Frank Vickers, Frederick Parkinson, Eileen Fitzgerald, Peter Reilly, Terry Scott, Margaret Kay, Tony Martin, Annie O'Brien, Margaret O'Brien, Kevin Knowles, Pat Howarth, Bernard Earp, Arnold Banks, Michael Kitching, Jane Manuel, Alice Leggett, Rita Margiotta, Phyllis Rocke, Ethel Connelly
Lately Dead: Pat Margiotta, Joyce Strickleton Tony Kosecki, Terry Higginson

Anniversaries: Hayley Warriner, Hugh O'Gara, Mary Carter

Mass Intentions: Tony Kosecki, In Honour of the Rosa Mystica, Hayley Warriner, Fred Davies (Birthday Remembrance), Terry Higginson, Hugh O'Gara, In Thanksgiving, Mary Carter, Sr Helen O'Brien SCJM for 60 yrs of Profession, Joyce Strickleton

We are asked to pray for these intentions: A deeper understanding between Christians and Jews; those who suffer persecution, oppression and denial of human rights; Europe; seafarers; human life.

We pray for healing, a peaceful solution and restoration in the Middle East and 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

SVP Activities

Coffee Morning: Will be held after 9.30am Mass on Wednesday 27 August (St John's). All welcome!

Annual Sponsored Walk: Sunday 28 September. around our three local reservoirs (Jumbles, Wayoh and Entwistle). If you would like to be involved, or be a sponsor, please see the posters on our church noticeboards.

CAFOD: Response in Gaza: Your donations to Gaza since the start of the conflict have been a vital lifeline. Right now, CAFOD's partner, Caritas Jerusalem, is delivering essential medical treatment to displaced people and providing medicines to treat chronic illnesses. We have helped 1,400 households with cash to buy supplies in the last month and we are currently feeding 2,000 people with new stocks of flour and rice. Despite the restrictions on aid coming into Gaza, CAFOD's local partners are working tirelessly to help people. And with your ongoing support, they will do all in their power to keep doing so. You can find out more about how you can make a difference in Gaza at cafod.org.uk. Thank you for backing our work through collections for our Family Fast Day appeals and for continuing to [pray for peace](#) in the Middle East.

Other News from Around the Diocese

St Osmund's Music Night: The Flatcappers, Irish dance and music band, are returning to St Osmund's Church Hall, Brightmet, Bolton BL2 6EB on Saturday 11 October (7pm-11pm). Tickets £10 including pastie supper. Entrance is by ticket only (on sale in September). Phone 01204 522770

Celebrating Our Young People: Our Youth Ministry team has just returned from its pilgrimage to Rome to celebrate the Jubilee of Youth. We were delighted to welcome a member of the BBC Radio 4 Sunday Worship Programme team, who spoke with our young pilgrims, to record a special 40-minute Sunday Worship Programme. This was broadcast at 8.10am on Sunday 17 August. You can listen back by visiting

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m002h9mr>

Votive Mass for Feast of St Monica: The parish of St Mary's in Oswaldtwistle invites you to a special Votive Mass for the feast of St Monica on Wednesday 27 August at 7pm. The Mass will be followed with an opportunity to venerate a relic of St Monica and invoke her intercession for our families and loved ones. All are invited to join.

A Message From Bishop John:

This comes with very short notice, but it may be possible for some of us. Pope Leo concluded his Wednesday audience with the following appeal:

"Friday, 22 August, we will celebrate the memorial of Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mary is the Mother of believers here on earth, and is also invoked as Queen of Peace, while our earth continues to be wounded by wars in the Holy Land, in Ukraine, and in many other regions of the world.

I invite all the faithful to devote the day of 22 August to fasting and prayer, imploring the Lord to grant us peace and justice, and to dry the tears of those who suffer as a result of the ongoing armed conflicts. Mary, Queen of Peace, intercede so that peoples may find the path to peace."

Bishop John Invites us to join him if we can in fasting and praying for peace on (22 August). Alternatively, we can fast and pray in the coming week, specifically for peace, in answer to Pope Leo's request.

"Stay with us, Lord, on our Journey"

+John

Readers for 30/31 August 2025

5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
G Kearns	G Drabble	K Denton
Eucharistic Ministers 9.30am (SJ) 31 August V & A Rawlinson		