

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

7 September 2025

Twenty-Third Week of Ordinary Time



We all live busy lives, often finding that we have to sacrifice one thing for another or one person needs to be put off while we give our time to someone else. We are faced, daily, with choices in the knowledge that, whatever choice we make someone will have to go without. Was life always like this or have we, in our 21st century lives, finally ran out of time?

There is a cost to the choices we make, and this is evident from the readings this Sunday. The choice today is how do we serve God and each other? The first reading sets out the problem. We have a limited capacity to think, to understand, to know and to love. God, on the other hand, has an unlimited capacity for all those things. So how can we, as mortal human beings, serve a God who is all knowing, all powerful and all love. The answer comes at the end of the reading; we must seek the wisdom of God whose spirit will guide us in our choices. So, pray for God's wisdom and seek his guidance and, though it may come slowly, the wisdom of God will show you the way.

Paul was touched by the wisdom of God. He suffered for his faith; he was scourged, left for dead and imprisoned because he laboured for God. Today he writes from prison to Philemon on behalf of a runaway slave called Onesimus. Though Onesimus is a great help to Paul, he sees it as his duty to Philemon to return him his slave. We are all slaves in our world today; we may not be in chains, but the demands of life leave us with very little spare time. Paul lets Onesimus go although he knows he will be sorely missed, what can you let go to give more time to serving Christ?

In the Gospel passage Jesus spells out very clearly the cost that may be demanded if we are to follow him. The loss of family was a very real threat to those who followed Christ. They risked everything for him because they believed in the kingdom he was preparing. The Gospel urges us to think carefully before we make any commitments, then, go ahead, with the wisdom you have gathered. Never underestimate the sacrifices you may have to take for Christ but always remember that the reward for your service is eternal life. **David Frank**

Masses & Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle C

Sunday 7 September

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

Monday 8 September - *Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

10.30am Requiem Mass for Pat Margiotta (SJ)

Tuesday 9 September

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

Wednesday 10 September - *St Ambrose Barlow*

9.30am Adoration (SJ)
 10am Mass (SJ)

Thursday 11 September

9.15am Full School Mass (SB)

Friday 12 September

9am School Mass (St Columba's School)
 12noon Mass (SB)

Saturday 13 September

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

Sunday 14 September *Education Service*

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

Salford Cathedral Family Day: Saturday 4 October from 10am. Please see posters at the back of each church for more details. All welcome!

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, Arnold Banks, Michael Kitching, Jane Manuel, Alice Leggett, Rita Margiotta, Phyllis Rocke, Ethel Connelly
Lately Dead: Pat Margiotta, Joyce Strickleton, Agnes Winstanley

Anniversaries: Betty White (30th Anniversary), Gerard Lamoury. Barbara Polak, Mark Coughlin

Mass Intentions: Barbara Polak, Margaret Gibson (Birthday Remembrance), In thanksgiving for prayers answered, Agnes Winstanley, Pat Margiotta, Jeff Howarth (Birthday Remembrance), Liston & Rothwell Families, Mark Coughlin, Gerard Kamoury

We are asked to pray for these intentions: Students & teachers; the spread of the Gospel; the harvest; the fruits of human work; the reverent use of creation; justice & peace in the world, all victims of war; young people; prisoners & their families

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

Congratulations: To Eddison Woods who was baptised last Sunday. We pray that both he and his family continue to grow in faith.

Harbour Room Book Club: Welcome back to all our members for the 15th season of Book Club! Here are the details for the next two months:

24 September *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Duerr.

29 October *Our Woman in Moscow* by Beatriz Williams.

Always the last Wednesday of the month and at 1pm. New members are most welcome. Just turn up! Looking forward to a new season of interesting reads!

Education Sunday: This year's theme is drawn from its Gospel reading of John 3:13-17: The Son of Man must be lifted up. Catholic education in Church schools and universities endeavours to acknowledge Jesus' loving presence in the lives of young people as they work, learn, pray, grow in character and virtue, and discover their vocation. Education Sunday can be the reminder to all members of the Catholic community of the importance of education to the Catholic mission. Please continue to pray for all our schools. Dioceses rely on the generosity of the Catholic community to support education.

14 September 2025

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross Twenty-Fourth Week of Ordinary Time

Masses & Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle C

Sunday 14 September - Education Sunday

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

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

1pm Baptism (SJ)

Monday 15 September - Our Lady of Sorrows

6pm Mass (SJ)

Tuesday 16 September - St Cornelius

10am Requiem Mass for Agnes Winstanley (SJ)

10am Mass (SB) - With Yr 6 Children

Wednesday 17 September

9.30am Adoration (SJ)

10am Mass (SJ)

Thursday 18 September

10am Mass (SB)

Friday 19 September

12noon Mass (SB)

Saturday 20 September

10.45am Adoration & Confession (SJ)

11.30am Mass (SJ)

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

A Special Collection for Evangelii

Sunday 21 September Gaudium (Home Missions)

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

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

SVP: Benediction and afternoon tea will be held on Sunday 19 October for all our elderly & housebound parishioners. There will be more details to follow.

Evangelii Gaudium Sunday: Will be celebrated on 21 September. This year, the Church has been celebrating a significant anniversary; it is 1,700 years since the Council of Nicaea. This great gathering of Bishops from around the Church began the work to formulate the creed we proclaim every Sunday. It is the content of this creed that is our mission, so that we may know and love God in this life, in order to be happy with him forever in the next. The creed begins with a profound proclamation, "I believe..." and is the theme this year. A second collection will also be taken to support the work of the Bishops' Conference Mission Directorate. Please hold this important work in your prayers. Thank you.

Readers for 13/14 September 2025

5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
S Mikolajewski	A Gracie	F Evans
Eucharistic Ministers 9.30am (SJ) 14 September		
M Cropper & P Partington		

Readers for 20/21 August 2025

5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
C Molyneux	A Grundy	P Brennan
Eucharistic Ministers 9.30am (SJ) 21 September		
P McArdle & J Summerton		