

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

21 September 2025

Twenty-Fifth Week of Ordinary Time



Our world is obsessed with money; it seems to be at the root of everything we do. It can make demands on our behaviour and prevents us from being the person that God created. When we have too much, we are bored and indulge in all sorts of foolish behaviour. When we do not have enough, we fight for more and, if we cannot earn more, we resort to borrowing what we cannot repay. Today's readings are a warning to us of the dangers and unfairness of our obsession with money and are a call to us to change our ways if we are to serve God through the way we live.

We create a world of inequality, of rich and poor. This was certainly true in the time of Amos, the prophet of social justice. Amos speaks for those who have no voice; he reveals to us the God who defends the rights of the poor. Those who "*buy the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals*" are living among us today. We need to revisit our option for the poor of this world and try again to change this world of haves and have nots. God calls to us in today's psalm not to forget the poor and makes this promise "*He raises the poor to set them in the company of princes*".

The passage from Paul's letter to Timothy reminds me of the bidding prayers at Sunday Mass. Paul advises that prayers be offered for everyone; he calls them "*supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings*", "The Bidding Prayers were introduced to give the lay people a voice in the Mass yet how many of us listen, carefully and prayerfully, when they are spoken. We need to understand that the intercessions are a gift to us, and we need to use them wisely.

One of the problems with money is that it changes the way we are and effects the lives of those around us. The steward in today's gospel is called astute because he uses his power over his master's money to ensure that he does not become poor. He draws others into his actions by preying on their need for money. We can condemn his actions but also have a grudging respect for him for he has made his power over money serve him in this life. What is the effect of his actions on his eternal life? That is in God's hands. **David Frank**

Masses & Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle C

Sunday 21 September- *Evangelii Gaudium* Sunday

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

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

Monday 22 September

6pm Mass (SJ)

Tuesday 23 September

10am Mass (SB)

11.15am Funeral Service for Frances Hale (Overdale)

7.30pm Christian Meditation (SB)

Wednesday 24 September - *Our Lady of Walsingham*

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

1pm Harbour Room Book Club (SB)

Thursday 25 September

10am Mass (SB)

Friday 26 September

12noon Mass (SB)

Saturday 27 September - *St Vincent de Paul*

No Morning Mass, due to Ordination of Theo Sharrock and Paul Chisnall. Let us pray for them both and for vocations to the priesthood.

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

Sunday 28 September

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

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

1pm Baptism (SJ)

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, Ethel Connelly
Lately Dead: Agnes Winstanley, Phyllis Rocke, Frances Hale,

Anniversaries: Margaret Settle, Margaret Almond, Mary & Thomas Watson, Martin Feeney, Mary Mealey, Barbara Grimes, Bridget Fitzpatrick

Mass Intentions: Margaret Settle, Margaret Almond, Mary & Thomas Watson, Martin Feeney, someone who is sick, Mary Mealey, Barbara Grimes, Colin Spragg (Birthday Remembrance), Rita O'Toole, Dorothy Tudhope, David Greenhalgh and Betty Carolan (Birthday Remembrances), A Special Intention, Bridget Fitzpatrick

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 Charlotte Mary Orford-Desmond who was baptised on 14 September. We pray that both she and her family continue to grow in faith.

SVP: Benediction and afternoon tea will be held on Sunday 19 October for all our elderly & housebound parishioners. Lists are now available in each church.

Evangelii Gaudium Sunday: Calls us to be joyous in proclaiming our faith. It is a Sunday more commonly known as Home Mission Sunday, a day for us to celebrate the beauty of our faith, and our shared commitment to witness to the fullness of life in Christ. Celebrating 1,700 years since the Council of Nicaea, the theme for this year is "I believe..." as the heart of mission. 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. More details about this can be found at

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/evangelii-gaudium-sunday>.

Newsletter: Next Week, the newsletter will be a 2-week edition. Please could all items of news and Mass Intentions (that fall over this period) be handed in by 12noon on Wednesday 24 September. *Thank you*

Midweek Mass Change: We have recently moved Wednesday Mass to 10am, to accommodate those struggling to get from Harwood due to the heavy morning traffic. Please note, however, that Wednesday Mass (this week) will revert to 9.30am as we have the SVP coffee morning and Fr Alfred has a meeting in Salford at 10.30am

200 club winners for August:

1st prize £50 Fr A Rebello

2nd prize £25 V Holt

3rd prize £15 C Yates

Other News From Around The Diocese

Family And Group Stays At Castlerigg Manor This October Half Term: Castlerigg Manor is a Retreat Centre in the Lake District, owned by the Diocese of Lancaster, and they are opening their doors to family groups, individuals and other small groups once again during October Half Term (Oct 27-31). A good option for anyone looking for a budget getaway in a beautiful part of the country. Book at <https://castleriggmanor.com/stay-with-us/> or contact director@castleriggmanor.co.uk

A Decade of Laudato Si': The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales is hosting an ecumenical event to celebrate 10 years of Laudato Si'. Join Christian leaders across Greater Manchester, including our own Bishop John, as they meet with Greater Manchester Mayor, Andy Burnham, to discuss the environmental progress of the past decade and the road ahead. This free event takes place at 6pm on Tuesday 14th October at Methodist Central Hall in Manchester. Find out more and register at

<https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/a-decade-of-laudato-si/>

Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham: Join us in celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham with a special Mass at St Luke's Church (M6 7WR), in Salford, on Wednesday 24 September. Mass, which will be celebrated by Bishop John, will begin at 7pm. There will also be an opportunity to find out more about next year's diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham.

Thought for the Week...

"Those who trust in God can do all things."

St Alphonsus Liguori

Readers for 27/28 September 2025

5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
N Bunting	A Hayes	A Moore
Eucharistic Ministers 9.30am (SJ) 28 September		
J Carroll & S May		