

**We pray for all the sick and housebound in our parish, and other relatives and friends:**

Jackie Harte, Moya Fau-Goodwin, Frances Skemp, Edwin Rankin, Pat McDowell, Richard Crichton, Michael Latham, Kathryn Browning, Frank Vickers, Frederick Parkinson, Eileen Fitzgerald, Peter Reilly, Terry Scott, Tony Martin, Annie O'Brien, Margaret O'Brien, Kevin Knowles, Pat Howarth, Bernard Earp, Jane Manuel, Rita Margiotta, Pauline Dobson, Winifred Goodwin, Josie Doyle, Delia Ariff, Gwen Monk, a sick friend, a sick baby

**Lately Dead:** James Ball, Jean Philbin, Ann Derby, Fr Bob Morrow

**Anniversaries:** Joan Grogan, John Reddy, Daniel and Veronica Evans

**Mass Intentions:** Joan Grogan (A), John Reddy (A), Daniel and Veronica Evans (A), Jack and Nellie Shecter (Remembrance)

**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.

**Donations:** We can now accept cashless payments, using our contactless system.

**Cheques:** Please make all cheques payable to Corpus Christi. Thank you

**We are asked to pray for these intentions:** This week we pray for the parish of St. Dunstan and St. John Vianney, Moston, and for Fr. Job Zirra Stephen, their priest, together with their parish primary school and St. Matthew's High School. We pray for the residents of St. Mary's Care Home and for the repose of the souls of all buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

**Littleway Healing Ministries:** Our Lady of Lourdes and St Gregory's church is hosting a Parish Healing Mission from Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April until Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April. On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April there will be Mass at 9.30am followed by an Open Healing Event from 10am – 4.30pm, all welcome. If you wish to attend, please see Fr Alf after Mass for a ticket. More details are available on the poster at the back of the church.

**A note for your diaries:** A reflection on the liturgies and history of Holy Week, using signs and symbols, will be given by Maria Hall on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March. This will take place in the Patmos room (SJ) from 7.30pm until 9pm. All are welcome

**Harbour Room Book Club:** The next meeting takes place on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 1pm. The book being discussed is *Fair stood the wind for France* by H E Bates.

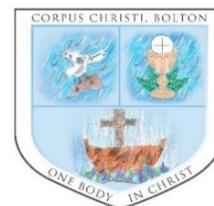


In today's first reading there is a very cryptic message from the prophet Ezekiel; he speaks of God raising his people from their graves and putting his Spirit into them. This sounds very strange, but I believe that the graves that that he speaks about are the barren empty spaces of our lives where God is not present and the Spirit he is putting in us is the Spirit of Love which will transform those spaces and make them bloom.

This idea of the grave is present in the Responsorial Psalm which speaks of a soul calling "Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord". This should be a familiar prayer; known to many as the "De Profundis"; a prayer that comes from one whose relationship with God is "dying" because of their sins and who looking for forgiveness and redemption. It is a plea to a merciful God.

Saint Paul continues this theme; he contrasts those who are dead through sin with those who find life through the Spirit of God living in them. If we believe in Christ then that Spirit lives in us then, just as Jesus was raised from the dead, we too will find new life in Him.

The Gospel story of the raising of Lazarus contains a very simple, sincere act of faith by someone who has lost a brother to death yet still believes that Jesus is the Son of God and has power over death itself. Her statement of faith "Yes Lord, I believe" is from Martha, the sister who did the housework in Luke's gospel, the one we think of as the realist in contrast to her sister Mary, the dreamer, who sits at the feet of Jesus. In the midst of the tragedy of death, Martha's faith is so strong that she can respond to the "Resurrection and the life" in such a clear voice. We have a rare insight into the character of Jesus as He weeps at the death of His friend. This is a great consolation to us as it reminds us that God shares in our grief at the loss of a loved one. Lazarus emerges from the tomb bound in his grave clothes. Jesus orders that they be removed; His message to us today is that we too can be released from the death of sin and find new life in him. We only need to believe for that life to begin.



**SVP News:** The SVP will again be selling hanging baskets in late April/early May. At the moment, we do not have firm dates or cost, however, last year the baskets sold for £15. To enable us to quantify the number required there will be lists placed at the back of each church. Please add your name, contact number and number of baskets required, if you wish to order. Further details will follow

**200 Club Subscriptions:** There are still some outstanding subscriptions. Please mark envelopes FAO Ann Gracie. Parishioners at St Brendan's can hand theirs to Peter Carolan. If anyone requires additional numbers, please contact Ann on 07528027295. Thank you, *Ann*.

**Turin Shroud:** A unique opportunity to discover more about The Turin Shroud and see a replica copy as part of an exhibition at Blackburn Cathedral. This will take place on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> April. See the link below or the posters at the back of church.  
<https://www.bstsnewsletter.com/golden-jubilee.html>

**Christian meditation:** The next session takes places on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm at St John's.

**Youth Pilgrimage to Lindisfarne**  
Following on from the success of last year's pilgrimage to Lindisfarne, we are offering young people in Years 7, 8 and 9 another opportunity to go to Lindisfarne from Friday 22 May – Sunday 24 May 2026. The cost is £120, which includes travel by coach and full board accommodation. We will be staying on the island at the SVP Camp. For more information or if you have any questions, please contact [youth@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:youth@dioceseofsalford.org.uk)

**Red Box Collections:** Please, if you have a red box could you bring them to Church next weekend for collection and counting. Please make sure your contact details are on the box so they can be returned also if you aren't using the box any longer, please could you return it.

**Readers: 28/29 March 2026**

<b>5pm Vigil (SB)</b>	<b>9.30am (SJ)</b>	<b>11am (SB)</b>
Guy Drabble	Mike Morrison	Maria Day

**Eucharistic Ministers 9.30am (SJ) 29<sup>th</sup> March**  
**Veronica Rawlinson/ Arthur Rawlinson**

**Parish Contact Details**  
**Parish Priest:** Fr Alfred Rebello  
**Parish Office:** St John's Presbytery,  
**The Crescent, Bromley Cross, Bolton BL7 9JP.**  
**Tel:** 01204 301927. **E-mail:** [office@sbsj.org.uk](mailto:office@sbsj.org.uk)  
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**Diocesan website:** [www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk](http://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk)

**22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026**  
**Fifth Sunday of Lent**  
**Masses & Activities this week**  
*Sunday Cycle A*  
*Readings: Page 170 of Mass Book*

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**  
9.30am Mass (SJ) with children's liturgy  
11am Mass (SB) with children's liturgy  
Stations of the Cross followed by Adoration 3pm (SJ)

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**  
10am Mass (SB)

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March**  
10am Mass with Reception children attending (SB)

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March** *The Annunciation of the Lord*  
9.30am Mass (SJ) followed by SVP coffee morning

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March**  
10am Mass (SB)

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March**  
12.00pm Mass (SB)

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March**  
10.45am Adoration and confession (SJ) 11.30am Mass (SJ)  
5pm Mass (SB) with children's liturgy

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March**  
9.30am Mass (SJ) with children's liturgy  
11am Mass (SB) with children's liturgy  
Stations of the cross followed by Adoration 3pm (SB)

**The Easter Triduum**

**2<sup>nd</sup> April Maundy Thursday** – *A special collection for the SVP*  
7.30pm (St John's)

**3<sup>rd</sup> April Good Friday** – *A special collection for the Holy Places, which supports the work of the Church in the Holy Land*  
9.30am Confessions (St Brendan's)  
10.30am Stations of the Cross (St Brendan's)  
3pm Celebration of The Lord's Passion (St John's)

**4<sup>th</sup> April - Holy Saturday**  
7pm Easter Vigil (St Brendan's)

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