

Corpus Christi Bolton
Fifth Sunday of Easter
10th May 2020

PRAYERS PLEASE

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

Bernard Holder, Christopher Scott, Jackie Harte, Moya Fau-Goodwin, Anne Hurst, Margaret Padfield,

Lately Dead: Catherine Egan, Larry Bates, David Winstanley, Denise Agrafiotis, Denise Bayley, Fr Paul Dillon (retired Salford priest in Ireland), Fr Liam Comer (Diocese of Kerry who served Salford Diocese 1974-78), Margaret Gibbons, Colin Spragg,

Mass Intentions: Denise Agrafiotis, Graham Taylor (BR 15th), Gerard Dobson (BR 20th) Jim Wheeler (BR)

Let us also pray for the victims of this pandemic, their families and loved ones. Remembering also the key workers who are on the front-line during this current pandemic. We thank them for all they are doing and ask the Lord to keep them safe.

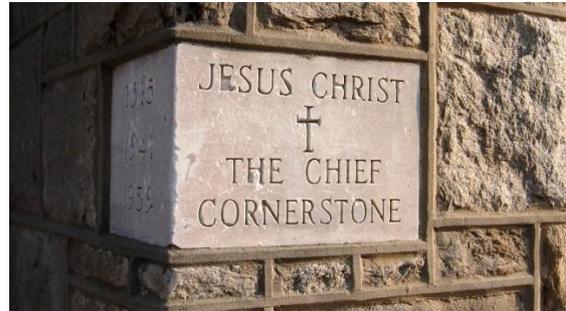
Hope in the future

We pray for the people of the parish of Our Lady and St. John, Chorlton, and for Fr. Patrick McMahon, their parish priest. We pray for their parish primary schools and St. John Vianney school

Prayer Resource - Lord's Day at Home

If you would like to say the prayers along with the livestream of Mass, the Lord's Day at Home resource can help you. You can find this week's resource on this link: -

https://mcusercontent.com/76e219dab8653b775ba8aac4c/files/29751e0f-b673-4fbf-b1e5-3e96eb4cc667/LDAH_Easter_5A.pdf



Weekly Sunday Reflection with thanks to David Frank

Living Stones

There is a phrase that stands out for me in this week's readings. Peter tells us that Christ is the cornerstone of our faith and that we must "be living stones making a spiritual house" by the way we live our lives. Stones are strong and steadfast; they stand against the storms that surround us in our lives and they create structures which prevail against the tempest. They are alive, for a heart of stone cannot show compassion to others, so we are created to be living images of our Lord by bringing his love, his compassion into the lives of all we meet.

What was so radical, so different, about the message, the good news, that Christ brought into the world through his preaching and example, was that every member of the human family was valued by Him. Instead of a world of haves and have nots, Jesus saw a world where the poor were blessed, the peacemakers were truly valued, and there was room for everyone, a place for all, in His kingdom. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that the first steps taken by the emerging community after the Resurrection was to consider how they could help those less fortunate than themselves. The widows, the orphans,

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the handicapped, those who needed the support of the church. Today we are seeing great work being done by members of our congregations, our living stones, in supporting the neglected people, those whom society has left behind in a headlong rush to the “good life”.

Peter sums up those whom he calls living stones “you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart”. There is much work to be done and only a few hands willing to do the work. Perhaps one of the good things to come out of this time is a re-emergence of a church fully committed to the principles of the early church and ready to carry on the work so needed in our world.

The passage from John is one of reassurance in the face of the epidemic which threatens so many of our vulnerable friends, those we know and love, those we have never met but who are suffering in this tide of sorrow. Jesus has a place prepared for everyone; the way to Him is not easy but He has created the light of faith to show the way. All He asks of us is to do the same works as He does himself, to care for the sheep and lambs, keep them safe. and lead them to their place in a just and free society.

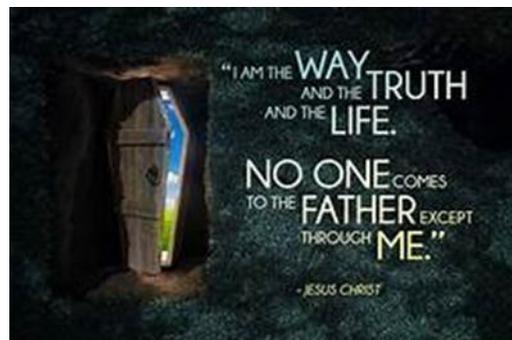
VIRTUAL MEDITATION

Following last week’s article on meditation; if you are interested in taking part in a led meditation session via the internet (Zoom), Mary Durkan is happy to lead these sessions, which may also have participants from her new parish in Horwich.

If interested please email Mary:
maryannedurkan@gmail.com

Remembrance

This weekend we are celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the end of the war in Europe. I composed a poem some years ago and it came to mind when I thought about this weekend’s celebration. Unfortunately, I had lost it. I searched everywhere, you cannot imagine how many pieces of paper I have created and collected in almost forty years of working as a catechist, as a minister, and in writing my poetry and reflections. Somewhere, in all that paper, was one sheet with the precious words, hiding away in my files. Finally, I gave up, our study is a mess, the garage is turned upside down, files and papers are scattered everywhere. Then, as I was sitting down to write this week’s reflection, I gave it one more try, I looked in the likeliest place, where most of my old poetry is kept. Some of it is stored in file pockets, sometimes five or six pieces together, and there, at the bottom of a file I found the poem. Many things are lost in war, the least valuable and the greatest treasure, sometimes they re-appear in the strangest places. Sometimes they are meant to be found, I hope you find my search, my finding, was worthwhile. **David Frank**



This Newsletter is sponsored by
HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE
Peel House
638 Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton.
BL1 7AL
01204 309609



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Denise Agrafiotis RIP

Of your charity please pray for the happy repose of the soul of Denise - a memorial mass will take place at St John's in due course.

Denise Bayley RIP

Of your charity please pray for the happy repose of the soul of Denise

Colin Spragg RIP

Of your charity please pray for the happy repose of the soul of Colin - a memorial mass will take place at St Brendan's in due course.

'Finding your Hidden Treasure' Book

Publisher Darton, Longman and Todd is encouraging connection and reading of Christian literature during the isolation of lockdown. They are offering a significant discount to clergy and parishioners in our diocese for the book **'Finding your Hidden Treasure: The Way of Silent Prayer'** by **Benigus O'Rourke OSA**.

To order a copy of the book, go to: -
www.dltbooks.com

Add the book to your basket and, when you reach the checkout stage, type **DLT50** in the box marked 'Discount code' for a 50% discount. This code can also be used for other purchases from the DLT website between now and the end of July.

Thank you from Caritas

Caritas Salford would like to thank you for continuing to pray for and donate to our services during this increased time of need. All our key services for the most vulnerable across the diocese are operating as fully as possible within government guidelines for social distancing and your support is needed

please now more than ever. Information on our services along with other useful resources for parishes are available from the Caritas Salford website. To donate please visit <https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/donate/>

CAFOD Emergency Coronavirus Appeal

CAFOD is calling on people in our diocese to help communities around the world by donating to its coronavirus emergency appeal.

Families without enough to eat and without access to clean water, possibly living with HIV or other underlying health conditions, will be particularly vulnerable to coronavirus.

If it hits refugee camps, like the Rohingya camps in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar or camps for Syrian refugees inside and outside of the country, it could be catastrophic for the millions of people already struggling to access healthcare.

CAFOD works with valuable experts on the ground understand the challenges and needs in their respective communities. They are able to respond quickly and are already involved in activities that include: delivering food to where it is needed most, improving hygiene, handwashing and sanitation at the community and household level and producing radio messages, posters and leaflets on risks and prevention.

To donate, visit: Cafod.org.uk/coronavirus

Finance and Donations

The diocese has set up a system to make it easier for people to donate to their parish by standing order or by a one-off payment. It is quick, safe and private. If you go to the diocesan link: - If you go to the diocesan web page **www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk** at the top right-hand corner you will see a red box that

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says 'DONATE'. By clicking on this you can donate money to Corpus Christi, through the main diocesan system and your donation will come straight to the parish.

Alternatively, you can always set up a Standing Order through your Bank. If you have any queries regarding this please contact Chris Molyneux from the Parish Finance Committee, who has kindly agreed to assist with enquiries 01204 400472 or 07789816002

MASS OFFERINGS

These can still be made ideally by post or dropping off your intention at either Presbytery, or if you have any queries please call the Parish Office.

Mary's Prayers in May

(The Memorare)

Remember, O most loving Virgin Mary, that it is a thing unheard of, that anyone ever had recourse to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession, and was left forsaken. Filled therefore with confidence in your goodness I fly to you, O Mother, Virgin of virgins.

To you I come, before you I stand, a sorrowful sinner. Despise not my poor words, O Mother of the Word of God, but graciously hear and grant my prayer.
Amen

Resources: -The Diocese are regularly updating our website with signposts to helpful resources collated for use during this difficult time. You can find this, along with livestreaming times, here:

<https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/ovid19/>

Date for the Diary (hopefully)

Contemplative Christianity Event

Monday 16th November 2020, (7pm-9.30pm)

The Event includes:

- a retreat based on the Christian meditation practices as passed on through the teaching of the Benedictine monk Fr John Main (OSB).
- John Main had his spiritual roots in the tradition of the Desert Fathers & Mothers, so there will also be a short storytelling / theatre performance based on this desert spirituality and set in a modern, contemporary setting.



The World Community
for Christian Meditation

There is no charge for this event as it is funded by The Christian Meditation Trust (UK). Hot drinks will be provided. Free parking available.

At St John the Evangelist RC Church,
The Crescent, Bromley Cross, Bolton, Lancashire
BL7 9JP

There are limited places, so booking is essential.
For bookings, contact the Parish Office:
office@sbsj.org.uk OR telephone 01294 301927

You are all in our thoughts and prayers at this worrying time. Please stay safe, and support through your prayers those who are helping us all through this global emergency. They all need are prayers as they face this deadly virus on the front line.

I imagine we will might have some idea of the process for the gradual re-opening of our churches will be issued in due course; once the government have given indication of the next process in general. We can only pray that it can be safely achieved as soon as possible.

Hope you enjoyed or are still managing to enjoy the VE celebrations. Let us continue to pray for world peace and harmony.

WITH EVERY GOOD WISH AND BLESSING FOR
THE COMING WEEK; KEEP SAFE!

Fr Alf

DIOCESE OF  SALFORD

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