

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

21 March 2021

Fifth Sunday in Lent



Today's readings take on a note of anticipation; there are signs that warn us to be prepared for what is coming as Jesus makes his way to Jerusalem but there are also undertones which remind us that the

world is changing, that a fuller prophesy of the life and death of Our Lord is about to be revealed.

The passage from Jeremiah begins "See, the days are coming": the prophet is drawing a line in the sand. The covenant that God had made with His people has been broken and He is seeking to establish a new covenant. This will be sealed in the hearts of the people. It is a covenant that will bring neighbour to neighbour in their knowledge of the Lord. A covenant of forgiveness and mercy.

In his foreword to "Take and Read the Gospel of John" the author Father John J Henry writes "The Gospel of John is unique among the four Gospels. It has been prized by many since early times as a valued source of spiritual nourishment. It interweaves the easily-grasped world of what is visible and material, with the deeper world of reflection, mystery and the spirit. It's mystery, timelessness, and freshness constantly surprises us".

We begin today's Gospel with a group of Greeks who want to meet Christ. They represent the gentile world seeking for truth. They approach Philip and Andrew, the two apostles who were called to "Come and See" when they first encountered Jesus, the Lamb of God. There is a moment here of reflection, of a new beginning not of the ministry of Jesus to the Jewish people but of a ministry to the whole world. The Gospel speaks of the grain of wheat which "falls on the ground and dies" and that "if it dies, it yields a rich harvest". It is a parable on the teaching and example of Jesus and of His death and resurrection. Faith in Jesus grows because He does everything the Father asks of Him. If we can change and live as Jesus asks us to, if we spend our lives in loving care of our neighbour and deny the selfish life we could lead, then we are living as true servants of God and this will lead us to eternal life. *David Frank*

Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 1

Divine Office Week 1

Jeremiah 31: 31-34

Hebrews 5: 7-9

John 12: 20-30

Sunday 21 March

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

3pm Stations of the Cross followed by Exposition & Benediction (SJ)

Monday 22 March

7pm Mass (SJ)

Tuesday 23 March

9.30am Mass (SB)

Wednesday 24 March

9.30am Mass (SJ)



Thursday 25 March - *The Annunciation of the Lord*

9.30am Mass (SB)

10.45am Private Requiem Mass for Eric Hyland (SB)

Friday 26 March

Churches Closed

Saturday 27 March - *Clocks Go Forward one hour*

11am Exposition & Benediction

11.30 Mass (SJ)

6pm Vigil Mass for Palm Sunday (SB)

Sunday 28 March - *Palm Sunday*

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

3pm Stations of the Cross followed by Exposition & Benediction (SB)

Lent - Weekly Eco-Thought



'Unless a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single harvest; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.'

Take time over these next two weeks to notice signs of new life in the natural world around you; new growth making its way from beneath the winter soil, leaves returning, springtime making its presence felt, albeit often hesitantly. And let the cycle of dying and rising in nature deepen our resolve to draw closer in these two weeks to Jesus and walk with him on his journey through the Cross to the Resurrection.



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

Jackie Harte, Moya Fau-Goodwin, Anne Hurst, Margaret Padfield, Anne Killeen, Fred & Joyce Heywood, Emily Martin, Madeleine Evans, Barbara Pearl, Howard McArdle, Terence Gillett, Pat Margiotta, Mary Bagg, Vernon Holt

Lately Dead: John Stones, Margaret Caton, Brian Teare, Mable Leach, Ned Keaskin, Eric Hyland, Frank Airey, Phil Chisnell, Annie Rabbit

Anniversaries: Colin Gillespie, Bernard Ramsden

May They Rest in Peace

Mass Intentions: Frank Airey, Gladys Hall (Birthday Remembrance), John Stones, Colin Gillespie, Margaret Caton, In Thanksgiving, Brian Teare, Ned Keaskin, Annie Rabbit, Joseph Fitzgerald (Birthday Remembrance), Mable Leach, Bernard Ramsden

We continue to pray for victims of the Covid-19 virus, and for all those who are still working tirelessly to keep us safe.

Cycle of Prayer Part 1 (of 6): We pray especially for: Candidates for the Sacraments; Women; The needy & hungry of the world, Penitents & wanderers

Hope in the Future

We pray for the parishes of St Joseph the Worker and St Teresa of Avila, Irlam, for Fr Anthony Clarke, their parish priest, and for their parish primary schools. May God's Law be ever written in their hearts.

Offertory

We are always extremely grateful for all you do to help us financially. Donations can be made by posting through the presbytery letter box, by post or alternatively donations can be made through Salford Diocese website, or by setting up a bank standing order. Thank you

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

Prayer Resource - For those at home to attend the Liturgy Office has prepared a service called "The Lord's Day at Home", based on the Sunday Scriptures, that you can pray on your own or with your family. It is particularly aimed at those not able to follow a Mass on the internet. This week's Lord's Day at Home resource [can be found by clicking here.](#)



Lenten Activities

Lent Resources 2021: The Diocese of Salford have compiled a list of resources to help parishioners sustain their prayer life this Lent. You can find these on the website here <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/lent-in-lockdown-resources/>

EnviroLent - Caring For our Common Home:

The season of Lent provides us with an opportunity to take a step back and reflect. To refocus on what we believe, and why. We remind ourselves about the faith and trust that we have in our God and we take a moment to regain the sense of putting our faith into action in all that we do. This is particularly relevant through this year like no other, where we have faced a time of pandemic and of changes to our daily lives. As we move out of this time, let us put the protection of our common home at the centre of our efforts to create a better world for all. The Diocese have produced resources offering suggestions of practical actions which we can adopt in our communities. For more information please visit: <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/enviroLent-2/>

Caritas Lent Appeal - Pray, Fast, Give:

Lenten Prayers: A reminder that parishioners and the wider community can join in our Lenten prayers, written by pupils from our schools on the themes of Catholic Social Teaching, by going to <https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/service-view/sjp2021/> and clicking on *Weekly Prayers*.

Holy Week-Voices from the Holy Land (Poems & Reflections):

It features prayers and resources for support in this year's Lenten and Easter Journey. <https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/news/holy-week-voices/>

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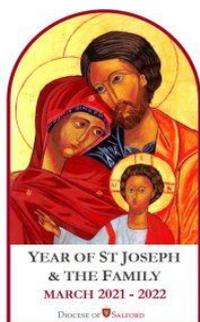
Diocesan website: www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk

A Message of Thanks from Shirley and Terry Gillett: We would like to send a big THANK YOU to everyone for your prayers and concern over the past few months, during a life changing, challenging and stressful time. Thanks also to friends who have kept in touch, sent cards, flowers and offered practical help and advice. All this has been so very much appreciated. Terry has recently moved to Southlands Residential Home, where he is able to do much more than was possible at home as the facilities for his needs are readily available. His speech has improved, but there is hardly any movement in his left hand and arm. The same physios are attending him on a regular basis, working mainly on his left leg, with a view to him being able to take a few steps (with the help of only one carer). I am now able to visit and hopefully it won't be long before the rest of the family and friends can do so. Again, many thanks for your kindness and words of comfort especially during the difficult times we are all experiencing. *God Bless, Shirley*

A Thank you from Caritas: Dear Father Rebello we write with grateful thanks to you and the parishioners of Corpus Christi parish for the retiring collection of £309 in response to Caritas Sunday: *Who is my neighbour?*

This generosity means the services operated by Caritas Diocese of Salford, working throughout Lancashire and Greater Manchester, can continue to offer a much-needed response to individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness, poverty, loneliness and marginalisation. The information available in our Impact Report is an indication of the difference the donation makes:

<https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/news/carita-s-impact-report-2020/>



Year of St Joseph and the Family

Although it may not be frequently mentioned, St Joseph is a Principal Patron of our Diocese. We will be celebrating his feast day on 19 March and we need to mark that day in a special way this

year because Pope Francis has dedicated this year to *St Joseph and the Family*. In this Diocese we will mark *The Year of St Joseph and the Family* together from 19 March 2021 - 19 March 2022. The Formation Department have produced a number of resources in a PDF which you can find on this page:

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



Please find below the dates and times of services for Holy Week. If you would like to attend any of these services, please book places through the Parish Office by email or phone. It is important that we can plan ahead for where you can sit in accordance with the Government guidelines. The liturgical rites will be simpler this year, so that the duration of the services are not prolonged.

We are hoping (subject to stewards) to re-introduce a Saturday Vigil Mass (6pm for the interim period) at St Brendan's. Please note the Easter Vigil will be at a later time of 6.30pm.

Vigil Mass for Palm Sunday 27 March
6pm (St Brendan's)

Palm Sunday Mass 28 March
9.30am (St John's); 11am (St Brendan's)
3pm Stations of the Cross and Benediction (St Brendan's)

Palm Sunday Masses

As a result of the pandemic our normal Holy Week Liturgy has had to be adapted. Usually, Palms are distributed at the start of our celebration and blessed as they are held up. This year the Palms will be blessed and then the Gospel will be proclaimed at the beginning of the Mass in the usual manner; the blessed palms will be distributed on your way out of Church by the kind stewards who will be wearing protective gloves. The shorter version of Mark's Passion will be read but the congregation are asked not to join in this year with the part of the crowd as the three readers will also take this part.

Holy Thursday 1 April
6.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper (SJ)

Good Friday 2 April
3pm The Passion of the Lord (SJ)
10am Stations of the Cross (SB)

Holy Saturday Vigil Mass of Easter 3 April
6.30pm (St Brendan's)

Easter Sunday Mass 4 April
9.30am (St John's); 11am (St Brendan's)

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Our Lord Jesus Christ suffered, died, and rose for our salvation- to forgive our sins and to offer us everlasting life in Heaven. Moreover, He wanted His healing ministry of forgiveness for sin to continue through the Sacrament of Penance. On the night of the resurrection, Jesus appeared to the apostles and said, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you.... Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive men's sins, they are forgiven them; if you hold them bound, they are held bound" (John 20:21-23). Currently, it is still difficult to have a Reconciliation service but confession / reconciliation is readily available. Just ask Fr Alf and he will happily oblige



Cathedral Centre Books: The Cathedral Centre Bookshop is open Mondays and Thursdays (8.30am to 4.30pm) for processing online and phone orders. You can make orders

from the bookshop's new website:

www.cathedralcentrebooks.com

Coronavirus Day of Reflection and Prayer

Tuesday 23 March is the anniversary of the start of the first lockdown and it is to be marked in our



country as a Day of Reflection. We have been asked to observe Tuesday as a Day of Prayer as well. The organisers have suggested that there be a minute's silence at midday and a doorstep Vigil of Light at 8pm. Below is a family prayer for before the evening doorstep vigil. This can be followed by lighting of candles (or using the torch on your mobile telephone):

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, our shepherd, who guided your people through the desert with a pillar of cloud by day, a pillar of fire by night. In this past year you have led us through the time of pandemic and in these days of Lent you lead us on a pilgrimage of prayer that time and again we might learn to be your people. You open our eyes to your presence in the world and you free our hands to be of service to others. Refuge of the weary, healing for the sick, rest for the departed and comfort for those in grief, blessed are you, O Lord and God, light in our darkness, stay with us on our journey. Amen

Diocesan Environmental Survey: We'd like to find out more about the views of anyone connected to our Diocese on the environment. You are invited to take part in a survey which will go on to shape our environmental strategy. The survey can be found at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SalfordEnvironment>



Earth Hour - 27 March 2021: No matter where you are in the world, you can make an impact and join WWF for the Hour as we speak up for nature. At 8.30pm, on 27 March, we are encouraged to switch off our lights for an hour. For more ideas on ways to get involved, click here:

<https://latest.earthhour.org/earthhour-at-home>

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North Mayo Heritage Centre - Genealogy: Do you have ancestors or relatives with Mayo connections? If you would like to find out more about your Mayo roots, the [North Mayo Heritage Centre](#) can help. Contact 00 353 9631809, write to us at Enniscoe, Castlehill, Ballina, Co. Mayo, F26FR94 or email: northmayo@gmail.com

Sung Vespers at Salford Cathedral:

Since the beginning of Lent, and continuing each week, our Cathedral Choral Scholars will lead us in communal prayer as we sing the **Office of Vespers each Tuesday and Thursday evening at 5pm**. Vespers will initially be live streamed only. Those watching online can participate safely and fully from home by visiting the homepage of the cathedral website where you can join the live stream from the cathedral and also find the link to download the order of service - www.salfordcathedral.co.uk We look forward to having you with us.



Caritas - Stations of the Cross:

We are delighted that our schools have responded to our invitation to provide art work for our Caritas Stations of the Cross resource. This has

enabled us to produce three unique short videos, each containing five Stations of the Cross with reflections and prayers representing the voices of the voiceless - the most vulnerable in our communities whom Caritas work with on a daily basis. We are now pleased to share these video Stations of the Cross with you as part of our #LockdownLent prayer resources:

Stations 1-5

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2UUi0zHIGWU>

Stations 6-10

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vodabhHE9C0>

Stations 11-15

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eHqLSQ1cfc>

The Catholic Universe: Are facing a difficult time at present, and are hoping to increase their circulation. If anyone would like to order a copy please go to www.thecatholicuniverse.com



200 CLUB: Subscriptions are now due (£12 per number). These can be handed in by the following ways:

1. Post/deliver to the Parish Office
2. Leave at the front of either church in the basket provided.
3. Contact me on 01204 302912/ 07528027295. For options 1 and 2 please place your subscription and your details in an envelope F.A.O Ann Gracie. **New Subscriptions are Welcome. If you want to find out more please ring!** All cheques made payable to Corpus Christi. *Many Thanks, Ann.*

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