

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

25 April 2021

Fourth Week of Easter



Today is Good Shepherd Sunday; a day that sits long in the memory, a reminder of childhood days and that wonderful image of a shepherd, fresh from the fields, caring for His flock, keeping them safe, seeking out the lost, and bringing them home. The modern image of the sheepfold that comes to my mind is our church,

where the community we belong to gathers; a community which celebrates and weeps together through all the turmoil of daily life.

The Shepherd

*He came, looking for a place with green rich grass.
A flowing brook, rushed from the mountain side,
filling a pond with living water, cool and refreshing.
He looked for shelter, wood for building, stone for strength,
a buttress from the wind and the elements.
The sheep came, tripping, crashing into the glade.
Lambs were born, pulled into life with His hands.
They were named, Spot and Drip and Mary and Joe,
He nurtured them, gave them space to grow.
He called to them; they, knowing His voice, came to Him,
He looked for the lost, the lonely, the sad,
bringing all home, to safety, and to His Feast.
The Lord of the sheepfold, made a place of hope, of dreams,
a shelter from the storms of life,
filled with His love and peace.*

John, in his letter today, reminds us that the Father has lavished love upon us, letting us be called God's children. This poem reminds us that He prepared a place for His flock, somewhere near, where we can gather, raise our children, made holy by Baptism. Named by Him and fed through His Eucharist. This is where we are nourished by His Word, called to, by His familiar voice, and made a part of His wonderful kingdom. John reminds us that "The future has not yet been revealed" let us pray that our churches will remain a place of safety, where living stones can always gather round the cornerstone, Christ. *David Frank*

Activities this Week
Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 1
Divine Office Week 4
Acts 4: 8-12
1 John 3: 1-2
John 10: 11-18

Sunday 25 April 9.30am Mass (SJ) 11am Mass (SB)	Vocations Sunday <i>A Special collection for the Ecclesiastical Education Fund</i>
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Monday 26 April
No Mass Today

Tuesday 27 April
9.30am Mass (SB)

Wednesday 28 April
9am Exposition & Adoration (SJ)
9.30am Mass (SJ)

Thursday 29 April - St Catherine of Siena
9.30am Mass (SB)

Friday 30 May
9.30am Mass (SJ)

Saturday 1 May
11am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Benediction (SJ)
11.30am Mass (SJ)
6pm Mass (SB)

Sunday 2 May
9.30am Mass (SJ)
11am Mass (SB)

Weekly Eco thought



So many Gospel passages are connected to the world of nature and farming. Every year, on this Sunday, the Gospel is connected to the image of Jesus as shepherd, the Good Shepherd. While in English the word shepherd denotes the one who herds the sheep, in many languages the word (Pasterz, Pastore, Pasteur) denotes the one who feeds the sheep. How may we allow the Good Shepherd to lead us, and the whole of God's people, to fresh and sustainable pastures?

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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, Anne Hurst, Margaret Padfield, Anne Killeen, Fred & Joyce Heywood, Emily Martin, Barbara Pearl, Terence Gillett, Pat Margiotta, Mary Bagg, Vernon Holt

Lately Dead: Jill Steward, William Burke, Sister Bella Carroll, Richard Garcia

Anniversaries: Margaret Moss

May They Rest in Peace

Mass Intentions: Sister Bella Carroll, Frank Finn (Birthday Remembrance), David Gracie (Birthday Remembrance)

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 4 (of 6): We pray especially for: new members of the Church; vocations; the right use of the media; the Church; human work

Hope in the Future

Let us pray for the people of the parish of The Good Shepherd, Colne and Nelson, and for Mgr Peter Wilkinson, their parish priest. We pray for St John Fisher and St Thomas More High School, for the parish primary schools and for Pendle Community Hospital.

May they model their life on The Good Shepherd who gives his life for the sheep.

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, and not able to attend Mass, the Liturgy Office has prepared a service called "*The Lord's Day at Home*", 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.

[LDAH - Easter 4B](#)

Let us Dream - Easter Reflections: The Spirituality Committee, under the stewardship of Bishop Ralph Heskett, has produced a series of reflections based on the Holy Father's book *Let us Dream* for individual and parish use. [You can find the reflections by clicking here.](#)

I hope everyone is keeping well during this joyful Easter season.

Well, this coming Tuesday I will, at last, be inducted as Parish Priest at 7pm, please keep me and the parish in your prayers. This will be a private ceremony with the local Dean in his church (better late than never- I hope!). Hopefully when we can, we will have a lot of celebrations to catch up with; especially significant anniversaries of both St John's and St Brendan's.

The experiment of the return of the Vigil Mass at St Brendan's has been a little disappointing, we had 25 at Mass two weeks ago and just 13 at Mass last week. I assume there must be a lot of Man city fans converted by one of my predecessors! We will continue to monitor the situation but hopefully, we will return to 5pm in a few weeks' time.

This week on Friday I have a requiem so I will be taking Monday as my day off, and there will be no evening Mass that day. There will, however, be an additional 9.30am Mass on Friday for the Parish at St John's.

With every blessing, *Fr Alf*

Day of Prayer for the Victims and Survivors of Abuse - 4 May 2021:

The Bishops of England and Wales have asked that a Day of Prayer for the Survivors of Abuse be celebrated each year on the Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Easter. On Thursday 6 May at 7pm, Bishop John will celebrate Mass at the Cathedral, remembering all victims of abuse, particularly those in our parishes and families. The Mass is open to everyone and all are welcome (subject to current social distancing restrictions etc). Survivors of abuse have been involved in the planning of the Bishops' Conference liturgy resources which will be used at the Mass. You can also take part in the Mass livestreamed via the following link:

<https://www.churchservices.tv/salfordcathedral>

Young Adults - An Evening with Austen Ivereigh:

We are privileged to invite all young adults (18-35 years) to an evening of reflection on Thursday 13 May (7pm-9pm). Austen is the co-author of Pope Francis' latest book: "*Let Us Dream: The Path to a Better Future*". In it the Pope sets out his vision on how to create a better world as we emerge from the crisis that we have been living through. To listen to the invitation on YouTube, please click on the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HZT4nZcd1yE>. The first 20 to register will receive a **free copy** of the book! For more information, please email: formation@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Walsingham's May Rosary:



Walsingham invites people from Dioceses across England and Wales to pray the May Rosary for the following intentions:

1. Protecting our families and the family of nations, especially in this Year of St Joseph.
2. A deepening of faith, hope and love and the protection of life.
3. Peace in the world.
4. Deliverance from Coronavirus; for those working for a cure; for those who have died; for those who are suffering and those who care for them.

The designated Rosary Hour for the Diocese of Salford for the National Rosary Relay Rally on Sunday 30 May is from 1pm to 2pm. All are welcome to join along in prayer.

The Elizabeth Prout Bicentenary Lecture series - A Moment of Hope in a Planetary

Emergency talk: Sr Nellie McLaughlin rsm, will deliver a lecture 'A Message of Hope and Challenge in a Planetary Emergency'. This will take place on Thursday, April 29 at 7pm. There is a suggested donation of £10. Please contact:

Katrina@drumalis.co.uk

Or visit: www.drumalis.co.uk

Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst:

Are hosting A Series of Talks Exploring some of the great themes of Catholic Christianity in writing (old and new) with Catholic scholars and contemporary authors. These talks are held every second Thursday (7.30pm) from the 29 April. For information and registration: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/logs-and-literature/>

GM Mayoral Assembly Invitation: On Tuesday 27 April (6-8pm) via Zoom.

To register online please go to: https://actionnetwork.org/events/citizens-uk-greater-manchester-assembly-2021-2?link_id=2&can_id=ee4e98c8f4d10f9b97b13d8b7b5282a7&source=email-mayoral-assembly-registration&email_referrer=email_1115443&email_subject=mayoral-assembly-registration

It will also be helpful if you can please notify us if you will be attending by emailing k.ansley@caritassalford.org.uk

Conference: *Rerum novarum* 130 Years

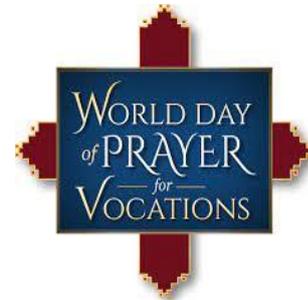
On: Wednesday 5 -Saturday 8 May. Open to all and free of charge. To register contact the Rev Dr Ashley Beck: ashley.beck@stmarys.ac.uk

URBAN
OUTREACH

We are currently looking for three compassionate, highly motivated and skilled people to join our team:

- Leadership Team Role: involves providing strategic management and operational support to the charity. Salary is £22,220 pa.
- Support Worker vacancies within our Children's and Families Team and our Food Team. The Children & Families Worker role involves helping families who are experiencing multiple issues including children not attending school, parents not in work, youth crime and anti-social behaviour. The Food Team role involves supporting our food related anti-poverty services to vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals and households across Bolton. Salary is £19,190 pa. Ideally, these positions are full time (35hrs per week), however part-time may be considered. If you are interested in one or more of these positions, please email your CV and contact details to admin@urbanoutreach.co.uk. Please include a statement about your interests and any voluntary activities you may be involved with. If you would like to have an informal chat first, please ring on 01204 385848 or email us as above. The closing date and time for our receipt of expressions of interest is 12noon on Friday 7 May 2021.

Prayer for Vocations Sunday



*Loving Father, you call us by name.
As we journey through life help us to be confident in our own unique identity and to find opportunities to develop our own gifts and passions.*

We pray that the Holy Spirit will pour on us wisdom and guidance to help us realise and follow our dreams, discerning your plan for our lives.

Bless your Church by raising up dedicated and generous people from our families and friends who will serve as Priests, Deacons, Sisters and Brothers.

May we support one another in response to God's call.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Thy Kingdom Come

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus. This year's Thy Kingdom Come will happen from 13th - 23rd May.

Since its start in May 2016, God has grown Thy Kingdom Come from a dream of possibility into a movement. Christians from 172 countries have taken part in praying 'Come Holy Spirit', so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ. This praying together has been across our diversity and differences as every person, household and church are encouraged to pray in their own way.

According to Thy Kingdom Come's annual survey findings an astonishing percentage of people said they were praying for family and friends to come to faith in Jesus, and a significant number of people join in for the first time, we recognise there is much more we can do together to help *Thy Kingdom Come* be fully in the lifeblood of the Church.

During the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come, it is hoped that everyone who takes part will:

- *Deepen their own relationship with Jesus Christ*
- *Pray for 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus*
- *Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness*

After the very first Ascension Day the disciples gathered with Mary, constantly devoting themselves to prayer while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Like them, our reliance on the gift of the Holy Spirit is total - on our own we can do nothing.

Through the centuries Christians have gathered at that time to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit. 'Thy Kingdom Come' picks up this tradition. Over the years more and more worshipping communities have dedicated the days between Ascension and Pentecost to pray 'Come Holy Spirit'.

We are praying that the Spirit will inspire and equip us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with our friends and families, our communities and networks. It has been amazing how many varied ways there have been in which people from every tradition have taken up this challenge. The effects have been remarkable.

There are events taking place around the country but there will be specific events taking place in both Lancashire and Manchester. Local Churches Together groups will be making arrangements also. More information will follow.

