

# Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

**1 August 2021**

## **Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time**



Bread is a basic commodity, one of the building bricks of life; without bread or its equivalent most people in our world would die of starvation. It is essential to life itself. However, bread also has another meaning, one of a deeply spiritual significance and this is the theme of today's readings. When you consider the basic needs of people on earth you go beyond food and water, you go to the very depth of our human existence. We need a way of living through which all members of the human race can live in dignity and security. Our readings today move from the desert wanderings of the people of God, through the pastoral letter of Paul to the Ephesians and then, a Gospel passage from John, which reveals the true meaning of the bread. Through these words runs a stream of ideas which help us to come to a real understanding of the purpose of our existence on earth.

Food is hard to find in the desert, it is a barren place with hot days and cold nights, the desert saps your strength, you exist from water hole to water hole, your very existence is based on finding food where there is none. The Israelites are caught between slavery and freedom. They begin to see their slavery as an acceptable experience because, despite the hardships, they could eat. They turn against God and their leaders Moses and Aaron. God sees their plight and is moved to "*Rain down bread from Heaven*". Each evening birds come to the camp and also at daybreak, Manna falls as bread from heaven. Thus, God feeds His people in their need, and they begin again their march to freedom.

Paul understands that after Christ there can be no going back to the slavery of sin. This is the way the pagans live not the followers of Christ. He urges the people to listen to the words of Jesus, to give up their old way of life, to change, to "*put aside illusory desires*". They and we, in our day, are called to life in the Spirit, a new life, a new self, created in God's way and filled with holiness and truth. "*What must we do if we are to do the works that God wants*" the people are confused, they see a healer, a prophet, a miracle worker, and they have never seen anyone like him before. Jesus sees through their confusion; He understands the human side of their nature. He is aware that meeting their physical needs is not enough, He must touch their hearts with His message. Bread now emerges not as food but as a sign of God's presence in the world. Jesus wants them to follow Him, to keep the commandments of God, He offers himself as this bread of life, this eucharist. A gift for all who follow Him. **David Frank**

### **Activities this Week**

*Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 1*

*Divine Office Week 2*

*Roman Missal page 349; Readings page 352*

Exodus 16:2-4; Ephesians 4:17, 20-24; John 6:24-35

#### **Sunday 1 August**

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

#### **Monday 2 August**

7pm Mass (SJ)

#### **Tuesday 3 August**

9.30am Mass (SB)

#### **Wednesday 4 August - St John Vianney**

9am Exposition & Adoration (SJ)

9.30am Mass (SJ)

#### **Thursday 5 August**

9.30am Mass (SB)

#### **Friday 6 August - The Transfiguration of the Lord**

No Mass Today

10am Funeral Service for Mary Josephine

Wallwork (Overdale)

#### **Saturday 7 August**

11am Exposition & Adoration (SJ)

11.30am Mass (SJ)

5pm Mass (SB)

#### **Sunday 8 August**

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

12.15pm Baptism (SB)

1pm Baptism (SB)

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# In Our Thoughts & Prayers



**We pray for all the sick and housebound in our parish, and other relatives and friends:** Jackie Harte, Moya Fau-Goodwin, Margaret Padfield, Anne Killeen, Fred & Joyce Heywood, Emily Martin, Terence Gillett, Pat Margiotta, Mary Bagg, Vernon Holt, Peter Riley, Frances Skemp, Kathleen Banks, Penelope Booth (poorly infant)  
**Lately Dead:** Mary Josephine Wallwork, Marie Geoghegan, Oliver Plunkett, Peter McCahey, Denis McGreavy, Joyce Kennedy, Norah Walton, Anne Hurst, James Waters, Roland Wallbank, Sherine Murray, Joyce Stephens  
**Anniversaries:** Peg Crowley  
**May They Rest in Peace**  
**Mass Intentions:** Peg Crowley

**Cycle of Prayer Part 5 (of 6):** We pray especially for: A deeper understanding between Christians and Jews; those who suffer persecution; oppression and denial of human rights; Europe, seafarers, human life

**Hope in the Future:** This week we pray for the parish of St Edmund and St Patrick, Bolton, for Fr Michael Haworth, their parish priest, and for all parishioners. We pray for its primary school, for the Bolton Hospice and for the staff and students of Bolton University. May they always hunger for the Bread of Life and be nourished by the Lord's gift of Himself.

**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 they 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 the Liturgy Office has prepared "The Lord's Day at Home", to pray on your own or with your family Please [click here](#) to view the Mass sheet for Sunday 1st August (Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time).

**Readers' Rota:** We are now able to bring back our rota in the next couple of weeks. Please could you let the parish office know if you would continue to read, begin reading or, alternatively, no longer wish to read. Many thanks.

**Lifting of Restrictions - New Guidelines:** We now have new guidance from the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales as to how we can continue our Masses and services during the easing of restrictions. Further details can be seen on our website [www.sbsj.org.uk](http://www.sbsj.org.uk). (please click "Home" on the front page and "Latest News"). For weddings, baptisms and funerals, please contact Fr Alf to discuss in more detail.



**Destitution Project:** Thank you for all donations so far. We have been asked to help with the following list of shortages: 1 litre cartons of orange or apple juice, cartons of WHOLE milk, Tins of sardines - preferably in oil, tins of fruit (they are almost out of these) - mango, pineapple and mandarin oranges are firm favourites but fruit cocktail also popular, packets of biscuits, boxes of tissues. Thank you, again, for all your kindness!

**Caritas Summer Appeal:** This summer, Caritas Salford will support over 5,000 families experiencing challenges and crisis. We will give practical support to those in desperate need. [Click here to view the poster](#)  
 If you can, please [click here](#) to support our work today. If you prefer to send a cheque, please mark your envelope *Caritas Summer Appeal* and include your full name and address and how you prefer Caritas to be in contact with you. Please make cheques payable to Caritas Diocese of Salford and send to Cathedral Centre 3 Ford Street, Salford M3 6DP. If you can Gift Aid your donation, it is worth 25% more to us, at no extra cost to you. Tick the box online, or let us know by post with your cheque. Thank you for helping children, families and those affected by poverty across the Diocese of Salford.

E	L	E	A	S	E	S	E	O	M	BOATS	RABBI	BREAD
L	O	F	O	O	D	O	O	D	A	FOOD	ETERNAL	SEAL
F	L	I	D	A	E	R	B	D	N	BELIEVE	SIGN	MANNA
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