

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

27 February 2022

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Words are at the centre of today's readings. What we say and how we say it reveals much of our individual character. The passage from Ecclesiasticus conveys this message in a way that touches something in our spirit. It speaks of the importance of the way a person speaks. Words should be sieved to take out the rubbish, one's worth can be measured by the fruits of his conversation, by the way we speak, we will be judged.

Paul introduces a different topic, death, but in the eloquence of his words we can both measure the man and his message. There is no need to be frightened of death; a good life leads to immortality, a life lived in the spirit of Christ leads to imperishability. Jesus defeated death by His resurrection, this opened for us the promise of eternal life. We must never give up, never admit defeat; the prize is there to be won and doing the Lord's work will lead us to our heavenly home.

In the parables spoken by Our Lord we can see themes that we, as hearers of the Word, should reflect upon. The blind leading the blind is a familiar saying. In a modern context it generally means that one person leads another into a situation but neither of them has a real concept about where they are going. Usually both end up in trouble. Perhaps Jesus is speaking about the teacher and his disciple who are studying a text, both come to the same conclusion because they approach the text with their eyes closed and fail to see the teaching that is before them. Jesus speaks of the splinter and the plank. How often do we criticise someone but fail to see that we too are guilty of a similar fault? How often is our fault the greater because we speak from ignorance of the situation? We should look for perfection in our own lives, in our words and actions, before condemning others for their faults. The parable of the good fruit and the rotten fruit speaks to what is in our hearts. If we have goodness at the heart of what we do then we will produce good fruit, however, if our actions and words come from a spiteful or wicked thought, then we will produce rotten fruit. We cannot think one way and then act in another. We are either grapes or brambles, our nature depends on what is in our hearts. We may find that we are in the midst of a struggle within ourselves when we react to a situation but if our reaction comes from the goodness in our hearts then we follow in the footsteps of Christ; otherwise, we are doing the devil's work. **David Frank**

Masses this Week

Sunday Cycle C; Weekday Cycle 2

Divine Office Week 4

Readings: Ecclesiasticus 24: 4-7;
Corinthians 15: 54-58; Luke 6: 39-45
Roman Missal Page 248; Readings Page 254
Preface as announced

Sunday 27 February

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

12.30pm Baptism (SJ)

Monday 28 February

6pm Mass (SJ)

Tuesday 1 March - St David

9.30am Mass (SB)

Wednesday 2 March Ash Wednesday

8.45am-9.15am Confession (SJ)

9.30am Mass (SJ)

6.30pm Mass (SB)

A Day of Fasting and Abstinence

Thursday 3 March

9.30am Mass (SB)

Friday 4 March

10.30am Requiem Mass for Margaret Ainscow (SB)

Saturday 5 March

11am -11.25am Confession (SJ)

11.30am Mass (SJ)

12.15pm Baptism (SJ)

4.20pm-4.50pm Confession (SB)

5pm Mass (SB)

Sunday 6 March - First Sunday In Lent

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

2.30pm Rite of Election Service (Salford Cathedral)

3pm Stations of the Cross (SB)

Parish Contact Details

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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, Anne Killeen, Fred & Joyce Heywood, Emily Martin, Terence Gillett, Pat Margiotta, Mary Bagg, Frances Skemp, Kathleen Banks, Penelope Booth (poorly infant), Colin Markland, Joan & Edwin Rankin, Philip Anderson, Vincent Hopkinson, Irene Clappison, Dorothy Killoran, Frank & Pat McDowell, George Denton, Richard Crichton, Josephine Ward

Lately Dead: Tony Rawlinson, Peter Riley, Remia Jimenez Pasaylo, Margaret Ainscow, Margaret Senior, Margaret Hall, Margaret Shanley

Anniversaries: John Stones, Kathleen Malinovskis, James Mathen

May They Rest in Peace

Mass Intentions: Remia Jimenez Pasaylo, Tony Rawlinson, John Stones (1st Anniversary), Margaret Hall, Denis O'Toole (Birthday Remembrance), Peter Riley, Margaret Senior, Kathleen Malinovskis, James Mathen

During Ordinary Time; - we pray for: Peace on earth; Openness to the Word of God, Christian Unity; The sick and those who care for them; victims of trafficking and those who work to combat it, the Unemployed

At this present time, we pray for peace and an end to the conflict in Ukraine

Hope In The Future: We pray for the people of the parish of Christ the King, Newton Heath, for Fr Derek McCartney, their parish priest, and for their parish primary school. May they always give thanks to the Lord.

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 best resource for Sunday worship at home is through the **Universalis website**

<https://universalis.com/mass.htm>



Congratulations: To Joseph Alfred Critchley who was baptised last Sunday. Let us pray that both he and his family continue to grow in faith.

World Day of Prayer: A Global & Ecumenical Service at Longsight Methodist Church (new building), Longsight, Harwood on Friday 4 March. The event will commence at 12noon with a free lunch of soup & bread roll, tea & cake followed by short service at 1pm. Everyone welcome.

Activities in Lent

Walk With Me: The booklets and calendars are now available for you to take (free of charge). These are a wonderful resource to accompany us on our Lenten journey.

Stations of the Cross & Benediction: This opportunity to journey with the Lord will take place each Sunday in Lent at 3pm. The first Sunday (6th March) will be lay led Stations of the Cross only at St Brendan's as Fr Alf will be attending the **Rite of Election Service at Salford Cathedral**. Let us pray for the two parishioners who are being presented to the Bishop at this special service.

Christian Meditation: Beginning at 7.30pm, the new dates for Lent are:

1st March - St Brendan's

8th March - St John's

15th March - St Brendan's

22nd March - St John's

29th March - St Brendan's

5th April - St John's

Reconciliation: "Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart." (Joel 2:12). This Scripture begins the first reading on Ash Wednesday, and sets the tone for the entire season of Lent. To reconcile with God is the reason for the sacrament of reconciliation. Fr Alf is always available for Reconciliation. **During Lent, set times for the opportunity for confession will be Saturday mornings (during Adoration) at 11am (SJ) and Monday Evenings from 5.30pm-6pm (SJ)**

A Prayer for Peace in Ukraine

We pray for the people of the Ukraine and the people of Russia; for their countries and their leaders.

We pray for all those who are afraid; that your everlasting arms hold them in this time of great fear.

We pray for all those who have the power over life and death; that they will choose for all people life, and life in all its fullness.

We pray for those who choose war; that they will remember that you direct your people to turn and seek for peace.

We pray for leaders on the world stage; that they are inspired by the wisdom and courage of Christ.

Above all, Lord, today we pray for peace for Ukraine.

Amen

'At Your Side' - The Art of Accompaniment: Saturday 5 March, 10am-3pm, Thornleigh Salesian College, Bolton, BL1 6PQ. Please register for the event here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/256022418947>

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham led by Bishop John Arnold. Saturday 7 May: We are pleased to confirm the resumption of our annual pilgrimage to Our Lady's Shrine in England. The cost for the day trip is £20. Those wishing to make their own way are welcome to join the pilgrimage in Walsingham. Further information on available coaches and how to book will follow. Alongside this, there will be a youth pilgrimage for young people in years 7, 8 and 9. The Youth coach will leave on Friday 6 May around 10am from Salford Cathedral and arrive back around 10pm on Saturday 7 May. The group will be staying at Elmham House in Walsingham. The cost for the Youth pilgrimage is £50 (including accommodation, food, and travel). To book a place, go to:

<https://forms.gle/nwDThmqBFLV5LEjU7>

2022 Salford Lourdes Pilgrimage is Announced Friday 29 July - Thursday 4 August 2022

We are delighted to announce that we will return to Lourdes this Summer for the 88th Salford Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, led by the Rt Rev. John Arnold, Bishop of Salford.

Full details, including travel and accommodation pricing, insurance details and volunteer application forms will be available in the coming weeks but may we ask in the meantime that if you may be interested in joining us this Summer that you, please fill in an 'expression of interest' form by clicking the links below. The form does not commit you to travelling with us but will enable us to make plans appropriately and will help us to keep you informed as details become available. We look forward

We look forward to welcoming you to Lourdes for our joyful return in July. [Click here to register your interest as a pilgrim.](#)

CAFOD Walk against Hunger: Two parishioners are going to take part in this Lenten challenge and sponsor forms will be available at each church. If you would like to take part in this activity for CAFOD, please contact any member of the CAFOD Group. Thank you - Peter Carolan. 01204 386006

Readers' Rota: The new rota will be issued in the next two weeks. If you would like to become a reader, please let the office know. Thank you

Readers For (5/6 March 2022)		
J O'Connor	H O'Donnell	F Evans

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HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE
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www.hfs.co.uk

200 Club Subscriptions: Are now due (£12 per number). The 200 Club is a great way to support the Parish so any new members are greatly appreciated and made very welcome. It may be difficult for some parishioners to get their subscription to me, so here are a few options to help:

1. Post/deliver to the Parish Office
 2. Leave at the front of either church in the basket provided
 3. Contact me on 01204 30291 /07528027295
- For options 1 and 2 please place your subscription and your contact details in an envelope F.A.O Ann Gracie. All cheques made payable to **Corpus Christi**. Thank You. *Ann*

Salford Cathedral Concert Series: Emmeline Ensemble at Salford Cathedral, 250 Chapel St, Salford M3 5LE Saturday 5 March, at 3pm. We're excited to announce Salford Cathedral's Monthly Concert Series, beginning with the Emmeline String Ensemble. The Concert Series will continue with a wide variety of musicians throughout term-time, taking place on the first Sunday of each month. The Emmeline Ensemble is named after one of the most influential Mancunians, suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst. The group have played in famous venues across the UK, such as the Royal Albert Hall, the Bridgewater Hall and the Royal Festival Hall. The concert is free, but there will be a retiring collection which helps to support Salford Cathedral's Music Foundation. Find out more [here](#)

 **Synod Reminder:** We have until 15 March to make our submissions. You can complete an online submission using the QR code or following this link: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3D3FXJ2.

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DISCIPLE
TEACHER
SPLINTER
PLANK
HYPOCRITE
TREE
GRAPES
THORNS
GOODNESS
BADNESS
STORE
HEART



Ash Wednesday

Turn Away From Sin And Be Faithful To The Gospel

A Reflection from Jennifer Beckmann is an Administrative Secretary for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

“Did you forget to wash your face this morning?”

As someone who doesn't like to draw attention to herself, stares and questions can make Ash Wednesday hard. It is the only day of the year (at least to my knowledge) where people can immediately identify you as Christian on sight. You don't even have to do anything; it is right there, spelled out in black and white, on your forehead.

For the distribution of ashes, the priest has a couple choices, but one option is to remind the people of their call to “turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel.” Jesus asks us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and to visit the imprisoned (Mt 25:34-46). How can your Lenten sacrifice live out the gospel message?

When I was little, I would give up something that I loved for Jesus, like sweets or, as in the case of one really difficult Lent, fizzy drinks. Making any sacrifice, intending to show your love for God, is a great start, but I encourage you to take it one step further. If you decide to sacrifice your morning coffee, maybe money you would have spent at the coffee shop could go to a local charity that provides winter coats for the homeless. If you've noticed that you being spending a little too much of your Saturday mornings watching television, this Lent might be a wonderful time to volunteer to stock shelves at your local food bank or to serve meals at the soup kitchen. Maybe you could wake up an hour earlier to take a lonely, elderly neighbour to Mass.

This Lent is the perfect time to be a living witness to the gospel, but that witness should continue even after Easter. That does not mean that you should give up coffee for the rest of your life or that you should never spend another Saturday morning watching television, but it does mean that our desire to make sacrifices out of love for Jesus shouldn't end just because Lent does. This Ash Wednesday, I encourage you to think about not just how you can live the gospel during the next forty days, but how can you make it a part of your daily life. Ash Wednesday should not be the only day where people can immediately tell that you are Christian; your actions should make it crystal clear all throughout the year. There is no greater compliment than for people to be able to tell that you belong to Christ. Wear your ashes as a proud witness to your belief in Christ, answer any questions that come, and you just might inspire someone else to start his or her own faith journey.