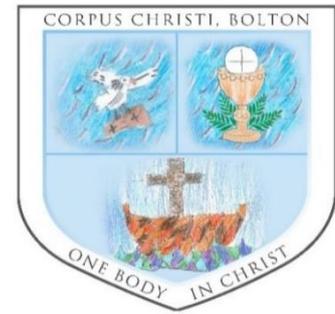


Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

15 January 2023

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



The Gospel of John is different from the synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, they have many stories in common and, in part, are written from other people's memories of Our Lord, John however is a witness, he writes from what he has seen and understood. He walked the dusty roads, was part of the group who received further teaching and explanation from Our Lord, he speaks for those close to Jesus. It is a gospel of signs, of signposts on the road to faith in Jesus Christ.

Today's readings are about signs, they point us towards our pathway to faith. The first reading from Isaiah is about service but more particularly about servants. We all know there is service to do but do we always understand that each of us has been chosen as servants, that each must do their part in building the kingdom of God. Isaiah speaks of honour and of strength: to be a servant is not an easy task, it can take you in all different directions, lead you down different paths but ultimately the choice is yours. We can serve in many unseen ways, working away in our own communities, giving service, but asking no reward or we can be like Paul working to bring light to the nations.

The psalm, today, is a reminder that the call to serve is often hidden and only revealed to us when circumstances allow. Many people serve without realising that they are being called by God to do something. It may be just listening, it may be in conversation with others, often it is found in a compassionate response or in a gentle gesture of support. We must always be open to the sweet, silent prompting of the Spirit.

Paul responded to his call through his missionary journeys and his letters to the communities he formed and nurtured. He always mentions others who serve with him but are often unnoticed by the world. He mentions Sosthenes, a brother in Christ, one who shares his work and the dangers of his calling. He recognises the prayers of all the saints, everywhere, who work for the kingdom.

John the Baptist was a great servant of God, it was to him that the call came to begin the work of Christ by calling the people to a baptism of reconciliation. Now, seeing Jesus, he realises that his work is done, that he must decrease as the ministry of Jesus begins. He points us towards our saviour "Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world". *David Frank*

Masses & Activities this Week

*Sunday Cycle A; Weekday Cycle 1
Divine Office Week 2
Roman Missal: p185*

Sunday 15 January

9.30am Mass (SJ) - With Children's Liturgy
11am Mass (SB)
12.30pm Baptism (SJ)

Monday 16 January

No Mass Today

Tuesday 17 January - St Anthony Abbott

10am Mass (SB) - with Yr2 Children
7.30pm Christian Meditation (SB)

Wednesday 18 January

9am Exposition & Adoration (SJ)
9.30am Mass (SJ)

Thursday 19 January

11am Requiem Mass for Josephine Ward (SB)
6pm Confirmation Course (St John's Patmos Room)

Friday 20 January

11am Requiem Mass for Agnes Kirkby (SJ)

Saturday 21 January - St Agnes

11am Mass Exposition & Adoration (SJ)
11.30am Mass (SJ)
5pm Vigil Mass of 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (SB) - With Children's Liturgy

Sunday 22 January - 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.30am Mass (SJ)
11am Mass (SB)

Parish Contact Details

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This Newsletter is sponsored by

HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

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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, Fred & Joyce Heywood, Pat Margiotta, Frances Skemp, Edwin Rankin, Philip Anderson, Vincent Hopkinson, Irene Clappison, Dorothy Killoran, Pat McDowell, Richard Crichton, Wynn & Michael Latham, Irene Sheridan, Thomas Baker, Kathryn Browning, Rachel Edge, Fr Leo Heakin, Peter Hayler, Frank Vickers, Frederick Parkinson, Mary Fitzgerald, Helen Fraser, Peter Reilly, Sheila Derbyshire, Helene Draper

Lately Dead: William Winnett, Timothy Sheehan, Mary Airey, Agnes Kirkby, Kathleen Banks, Josephine Ward, James Costello, Malcom Neill, Margaret Hodginson

Anniversaries: Winifred Kenyon, Thomas Heyes, William Hurst, Michael Hollingsworth

May They Rest in Peace

Mass Intentions: A Special Intention, Winifred Kenyon, Thomas Heyes, Joseph & Margery Heyes, Robert & Rose Hall, William Winnett, Michael Axford (Birthday Remembrance), Jessie Carter (Birthday Remembrance), Timothy Sheehan, William Hurst, Josephine Ward, Michael Hollingsworth, Kathleen & Stan Williamson, for the Egan, Hollingsworth & Martin Families, A special Intention for all Holy Souls in purgatory

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

We continue to pray for peace and an end to the conflict in Ukraine

Hope In The Future: We pray for the people of the parish of St Margaret Clitherow, for Father Simon Firth, their parish priest, for their parish primary schools, St Cuthbert's High School, and for Springhill Hospice. May they bring to others the light of the nations.

Financial Support: We are always extremely grateful for all you do to help us financially. Thank you

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

Standing Order: Please contact us if you would like to set up a direct payment. *Thank you*

Poinsettia Memorials: There are still a few poinsettias to be taken. For those left at John's, they will be available for collection in the Patmos Room. *Thank you.*

Parish Trip to the Holy Land: Booking forms are now available. Once completed, please return to Parish Office with the deposit by **Sunday 5 February**. Thank you.

Fair Trade Stall: There will be a selection of fairly traded goods on sale before and after the 9.30am Mass at St John's this Sunday. Each sale helps a family in the global south to pay for a basic need. Thanks for your support.

SVP Coffee Morning: Thank you to everyone who came along to the coffee morning last week. The amount raised was £254 which will be used for the SVP diocesan prison project (supported by one of our members).

Walsingham Pilgrimage 2023: Saturday 20th May. You can now register your interest to join our annual diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham this May. The cost for a day pilgrim is expected to be between £35 and £45. Our overnight option has been well received and is now nearly full. The cost of this is expected to be between £130 - £150 (includes evening meal, breakfast, and packed lunch.) Due to increased transport costs, we may look to reduce the number of coaches this year, so we would be grateful if you could please register your interest by emailing

walsingham.pilgrimage@dioceseofsalford.org.uk or calling 0161 817 2214. Further information and booking forms will be made available soon.

Great Manchester Run - Free places with Caritas Diocese of Salford Team: Thinking of taking on a new challenge for 2023? Would you please consider running the Great Manchester Run in aid of Caritas Salford? The team has secured a limited number of free charity places for the 10km run on Sunday 21 May. To find out more or secure your place, please visit www.caritassalford.org.uk/every-step-you-take-helps-local-people-take-a-step-towards-transforming-their-lives or email fundraising@caritassalford.org.uk

Women Saints and Spirituality: Friday 20 January, 10am - 12.30pm, Wardley Hall, Worsley, Manchester, M28 2ND. Join us for a new series of talks exploring the life and spirituality of women in the Church throughout history. Our next session focuses on Dorothy Day. To reserve a place contact Sister Joan Kerley at joankfmsj@gmail.com or 07934 816 796. <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/women-saints-and-spirituality/>

Newsletter: Next week the Newsletter will cover two weeks (w/c 22nd and 29th January). Please send in any news items or Mass Intentions that would fall on or around that time by Wednesday 18 January. *Thank you.*

Can You Help?

Bolton Destitution Project have asked if we would help as they are in desperate need of the following items:-

Bottles of oil, bags of sugar, tins of kidney beans, chick peas, sweetcorn, tuna and sardines. They have also asked if any one has any pairs of men's trainers that are in good condition (but no longer needed). Thank you, as always, for your kind support.