



THE PARISH OF
HOLY TRINITY
BOLTON LE SANDS & ST MARK'S NETHER KELLET



The Link

Sunday, 22nd March, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Holy Trinity, 9.15am - The 9.15 All-Age Service.

St Mark's, 10.30am - Morning Prayer Service.

Holy Trinity, 10.30am - Sunday Communion Service in church and on Zoom.

PLEASE TAKE THIS HOME WITH YOU OR GIVE IT TO A NEIGHBOUR

Website: www.bolton-le-sands.org.uk **Email:** kathrynpool@parishbls.co.uk **Charity Number:** 1144401.

HYMNS (ANCIENT & MODERN):

- 690** Jesus is Lord
144 How Deep The Father's Love For Us
557 Beauty for Brokenness
669 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

THE COLLECT:

Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord. **All: Amen**

OLD TESTAMENT READING:

Today's reading is from the book of **Ezekiel**.

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **John**.

All: Glory to you, O lord.

John 11:1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may

be glorified through it.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

PRAYERS:

We pray for our communities and in particular for all who live in St Michael's Grove, St Michael's Lane, and St Michael's Close.

We pray for those who are sick or in need: Rodney, Andrea, Alasdair, Ian, Julie, Helen, Peter and Andrew.

We pray for the family and friends of Robert Whitaker and Beryl Wilkinson who have recently died.

From our Book of Remembrance, we remember in prayer: William Cowperthwaite, Frank Bracey Croll, Audrey Wilson, Brian Seddon, Annie Cowperthwaite and Robin Foster (Priest)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we also do for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever. **All: Amen.**

Notices and Announcements

Flowers in Church 🌸: The flowers at the Book of Remembrance are in birthday remembrance of Joyce Farr

Ecumenical "Way of the Cross": Good Friday 11am Holy Trinity.
If you would like to be involved in this ecumenical service please email andywilliams@parishbls.co.uk or ring 07866260728.

Parish Finance: The PCC has approved the Parish Accounts for 2025 and a copy is available to view on the noticeboard near the kitchen, and at St Mark's



† Our Services and Events †

Sunday, 22nd March, 12.15pm: Christening of Alba Rose Peach

Sunday, 22nd March, 6.30pm: Youth Cafe, Slyne with Hest Church Hall.

Monday, 23rd March, 1.45pm: Funeral and Celebration of life for the late Robert Whitaker.

Tuesday, 24th March, 7.30pm: Lent Course 2026, Old Boys Grammar School.

Wednesday, 25th March, 10am: Wednesday Communion Service, Holy Trinity.

Wednesday, 25th March, 12pm: Lent Lunch, Holy Trinity.

Friday, 27th March, 8pm: Men's Intensive Care Meeting, The Blue Anchor.

Sunday, 29th March: British Summer Time Begins (BST)

Sunday, 29th March, 10.30am: Sunday Communion Service in church and on Zoom, Holy Trinity.