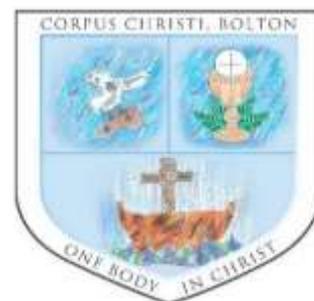


Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

1 December 2019

First Sunday of Advent



Advent opens with a great promise: "In the days to come..." the hope of a people who need God. "...The master is coming" is also a promise, not a threat to breed fear, but to answer our cry. So Advent begins, not with thoughts of the past,

with the coming of the Lord we celebrate at Christmas, but with the future, and the promise that He is coming back. We are encouraged to stay awake, and treat every day as the day the Lord will come; we do not do this out of fear for a Master who beats his servants, but out of love of a Master who always treats us with mercy. Nevertheless, we must always be watchful, because we can grow sleepy and complacent, saying that we can leave this prayer or that confession or the other change in the way we live to tomorrow. Even as we look forward to the tomorrow of the Lord's coming, we must remember that it might be today!

Marriage Matters

Walk in the light of the Lord: God's Word is clear - we can only be certain of each current moment in our day-to-day lives. To live as couples in the 'present moment' more often, we need to apply ourselves to today's call from Jesus to "stay awake". Also, St Paul tells us, "the time has come: you must wake up now", because now is all we have.

Think Vocation

Today marks the start of the Church's Liturgical Year. It's a very busy time of year but the Church tries to present it as an opportunity to slow down, to pray and reflect on the direction our lives are taking. We are preparing for the coming of the Prince of Peace. May this be a blessed time for us to become clearer in our minds about our priorities.

<p><i>Sunday Cycle C; Weekday Cycle 1; Divine Office Week 3 Sunday Missal: Readings page 90; Preface: Page 34</i></p>
<p>Sunday 1 December 9.30am Mass (SJ) - With Children's Liturgy 11am Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy 1pm Baptism (SJ)</p>
<p>Monday 2 December 9am Exposition and Adoration (SB) 9.30am Mass (SB) 6.30pm Advent Service of Light (Christ's Church Harwood). <i>All Welcome</i> 7pm Needles (Harbour Room, SB) 7.45pm SVP (SJ)</p>
<p>Tuesday 3 December 8.15am Advent Mass (SC) 9am Exposition and Adoration (SB) 9.30am Mass (SB) 7.15pm SVP (SB)</p>
<p>Wednesday 4 December 9am Exposition and Adoration (SJ) 9.30am Mass (SJ)</p>
<p>Thursday 5 December 9am Exposition & Adoration (SB) 9.30am Mass (SB) 1pm Requiem Mass for William Wheeler (SJ) 3pm Funeral Service for Albert Knowles (Overdale) 6pm Sacramental Programme Meeting (SB)</p>
<p>Friday 6 December 9am Exposition & Adoration (SJ) 9.30am Mass (SJ)</p>
<p>Saturday 7 December 10.30am Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (SB) 10.45-11.15am Reconciliation (SB) 11.30am Mass (SB) 11am Flower Demonstration (St John's Church) 5pm Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy</p>
<p>Sunday 8 December - 9.30am Mass (SJ) - With Children's Liturgy 11am Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy 12noon Rosa Mystica, Hour of Grace (SB)</p>

Parish Priest: Rev David Chinnery

Assistant Priest: Rev Alfred Rebello

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Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity - 250037

Diocesan website: www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Prayers Please
We pray for all the sick and housebound in our parish, and other relatives and friends. Bernard Holder, Jackie Harte, Moya Fau-Goodwin, Matthew Harvey, Margaret Russell, Anne Hurst, Kenneth Martin, Vernon Holt
Lately Dead: Bill Wheeler, Sandra Stones, Jean Gorse, Winston Shanley, Stephen Egan, Peter Richardson, Albert Knowles
Anniversaries: Patricia Harper, Ronald Hailwood, Ron Guidi, Alan Rebello
Mass Intentions: Bill Wheeler, Mary Lomax, Patricia Harper, For the Intentions of two sick parishioners, Sandra Stones, Ronald Hailwood, In thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit, Our Lady & the Sacred Heart, St Anthony & St Jude, For a parishioner who has undergone serious surgery, Ron Guidi, Jean Gorse
Cycle of Prayer Part 1 (of 6)
We pray especially for: openness to the Word of God; migrants and refugees; expectant mothers
Hope in the Future
We pray for the people of the parish of Sacred Heart, Westhoughton, and Fr Barry Lomax, their parish priest. Let us pray for their parish primary school.
Facts and Figures for 23/24 November
Offertory Collection: £1,003.15 Standing Orders (22-28 November): £165 Mass Attendance 5pm-117; 9am-172; 11am-170; Total-459 Cheques: Please make all cheques payable to Corpus Christi. Thank you.

Congratulations: To Erynn Charlie Owen Fagan and Charlotte Lucy Botterill who were baptized last weekend. We pray that they and their families may continue to grow in faith.

Baptism Preparation: If you are seeking Baptism for your child, please contact the Parish Office. Tel: 01204 301927 or email office@sbsj.org.uk

Sacramental Programme 2019/20: The meeting for children and their parents is on Thursday 5 December (6pm, St Brendan's Church). If you have a child that doesn't attend one of our primary schools, but would like them to be part of the Sacramental Programme, please let us know.

The Year of the Word - The God Who Speaks: Today marks the official start of a whole year dedicated to celebrating, living and sharing the Word of God. There will be many national and local events throughout the year. In our own diocese several initiatives are planned to highlight the Bible's importance for our lives and our worship. Look in the usual places - parish newsletters and the diocesan website - for the many events that will help us celebrate the 'God Who Speaks'.

We pray that during this Year of the Word we may be attentive to the voice of God speaking to us through the scriptures. May the Word touch us and challenge us to be true and faithful followers of Jesus.

Hope in the Future - Stage Three

Back in October the Bishop wrote to us about Stage Three of "Hope in the Future", inviting us to think and talk and pray about "Living the Sunday Eucharist". Next week (weekend of 7th/ 8th December) there will be another short Pastoral message from the Bishop, together with a "worksheet" for us to begin our reflection. There will be three more of these in the coming Liturgical Year, so there will be plenty to think about!

Every week, from today to the end of August, there will be a short reflection in our parish newsletter. Week by week we will go through the Sunday Mass, offering thoughts and explanations which it is hoped will enhance our celebrations, and allow them to become more and more a real and vibrant encounter with God.

First Instalment

An Introduction: Preparing for Mass

*Since today we begin a new liturgical year, this is a good weekend to begin thinking about Sunday Mass! But where do we begin? With the Opening Hymn? The Sign of the Cross? The greeting at the church door? Sunday Mass actually begins during the week before, in our minds and hearts. We should all come to Mass prepared. This preparation can take different forms - for some it might be reflecting on the scriptures beforehand, for others practising music or readings or writing intercessions. But every parishioner should begin their Sunday Mass before they get to Church! An easy way is to bring an **intention**. The priest will be offering Mass for a particular intention - either the needs of the parish community or a specific intention he has been asked to offer - and everyone can do the same. Think of your intention before you come to Mass: this week it might be for yourself, or a member of your family or a friend, or for the poor or hungry of the world, or for a particular tragedy you have seen on the news, or a particular joy in your family. Think of what you will offer Mass for - remember your intention, and pray it in the quiet moments of Sunday Mass. You are coming to Mass to meet Jesus - prepare for this meeting by thinking of what you are going to offer Him!*

Family Bonanza: Thank you to everyone who attended or helped in any way to make the Family Bonanza a great success. A total of £268.20 was raised for church funds. Special thanks must go to our three acts and in particular Fr David who was brilliant as Elvis! *Parish Social Committee*

Christmas Dinner on Jesus

Please continue to bring in Pringles towards the Urban Outreach Christmas meal for needy families. Thank you.

Advent

Walk With Me Booklets and Calendars: Are available for you to take with you this weekend. They are free of charge

Advent Series at Wardley Hall: As we begin "*The God Who Speaks: The Year of the Word*," there will be Advent reflections held at Wardley Hall which will focus on praying with three voices: Isaiah, John the Baptist and Matthew in his Gospel account of the Christmas Story. Using Scripture, art, music, and poetry, the reflections will explore God's message and its relevance for us today making time for prayer and discussion. Each event will run from 10.30am - 12.30pm at Wardley Hall.

6 December: The Voice of John the Baptist

13 December: The Voice of Matthew

To book your place, please contact: Marie Sartini, Bishop's PA, 0161 794 2825, marie.sartini@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

CAFOD World Gifts: Give a life changing gift this Christmas, whether it's teaching someone to read, or giving enough seeds to grow a year's worth of food in a vegetable garden. World gifts has something for everyone. Catalogues are available at the back of each church.

A Holy Night Amidst the Christmas Chaos

A quiet time away on the 13/14 of December to prepare for the Christmas mystery. Two talks, Holy Mass, communal prayer, and social time. Comfortable en suite accommodation and bed and breakfast provided. For booking and full details, please visit: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/event/advent-recollection/>

Music and Readings for Advent and Christmas

6.30pm, 15 December, St John's Cathedral, Chapel St, Salford, M3 5LE. Organised jointly between Caritas Diocese of Salford, and Salford Loaves and Fishes, this annual Advent concert will see Notability, a choir of quality, perform the old favourites again, this time joined by St Bede's College Choir. Bishop John Arnold will also attend, and refreshments are available afterwards. Tickets are £5 by phone or you can register your tickets on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/music-and-readings-for-advent-and-christmas-tickets-79136388067>

Harbour Room Book Club: Members who attended our "Lucky Dip", please note that any remaining books will be held until the next meeting on 11 December. If you didn't attend and have someone's book, please bring it along to return. Any books left will go to a charity shop. Thank you. Next book: *The Missing Girl* by Jenny Quintana.

Bolton Christian Bookshop Use It - Or Lose It

Update: Since we put out the original bulletin about the future of the Christian Bookshop in Bolton, the response and support from Churches and individuals has been remarkable and encouraging, for which we thank you. The shop will close on 24 January 2020 for stock taking and change of systems with CLC relinquishing the lease on 31 January. We have applied to the YMCA, who are the landlord, to take over the lease on 1 February reopening on that date. There is, however, an added complication; the YMCA are going to redevelop the site and have a planning application currently with Bolton Council which could affect our remaining at 129 Deansgate (even in the short term). With this in view, we are also looking at other premises in the town and decisions may need to be made as to the location of the Christian Bookshop. This may affect the re-open date. What is certain, from the response we have had, is that the Christian community in Bolton and surrounding towns feel it is important to continue to have a bookshop to supply their needs. From 1 February 2020 the Bookshop will have a new name (watch this space) and will no longer be a part of CLC. It will retain the current Tel. 01204 532384, and email and website will follow. We ask for your continuing prayer and support in this new and exciting venture. *David and Melanie*

Thornleigh Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner:

This will be held on Thursday 12 December (2pm). There is a list up in each church for the names of those wishing to attend this very popular event and a section for those who are willing to provide transport. Please add your name as soon as possible as places are limited. Thank you

Christmas Flower Demonstration:

There are still a few tickets left for the flower demonstration. This has always been a very popular event, and included in the price of £6 is a pastie lunch. All proceeds will go towards helping families in need this Christmas time.

Christmas Poinsettias:

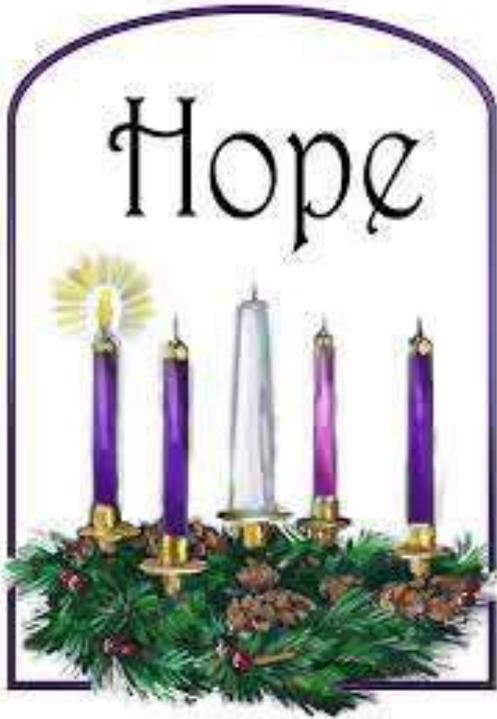
If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia plant in memory of a loved one, please complete a form (at the back of each church) and state which church you would like your memorial to be displayed in. All requests can be placed in the boxes provided.

Readers & Eucharistic Ministers For next weekend 7/8 December		
Mass	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers
5pm (SB)	S Mikolajewski	TBA
9am (SJ)	P Partington	M Cropper, P McArdle T Armstrong, F Smith A Rawlinson, S May,
11am (SB)	M Day	C Owen, P Brennan

Memory Awakens Hope

Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, *Seek That Which Is Above*, 1986

“Advent is concerned with that very connection between memory and hope which is so necessary to man. Advent’s intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely, the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope. The purpose of the Church’s year is continually to rehearse her great history of memories, to awaken the heart’s memory so that it can discern the star of hope... It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope”.



Rosa Mystica



On Sunday 8 December (after Mass at St Brendan’s) there will be an hour of Grace for the whole world (12noon-1pm). During the holy hour there will be prayers and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome.

“During the Hour of Grace, many spiritual Graces would be granted”

S	A	T	R	U	B	U	G	R	L
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L	D	U	O	N	R	S	I	E	R
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L	N	W	I	V	E	S	R	S	I
E	G	Y	D	E	A	R	A	K	M

FLOOD	EATING	DRINKING
WIVES	HUSBANDS	ARK
FIELDS	WOMEN	MILLSTONE
AWAKE	BURGLAR	READY



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