

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

3rd December 2017
First Sunday in Advent



Advent opens with a great cry, and a great promise: “Oh that you would tear the heavens open and come down!”

is the cry of a people who need God. “...The master is coming” is the promise, not to breed fear, but to answer our cry. 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 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 love and 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: Thanking God for each other - “*Stay awake for you never know when the time will come...!*” Today’s Gospel reminds us to remember that our lives together will not go on forever. It is therefore so important to thank God every day for the wonderful gift that we are to each other, indeed one of the greatest gifts that the Father has given us.

Think Vocation: It might seem a little daunting to know that we all have a special vocation. But it is simply to say that God has a plan for each one of us. That is what a vocation is - a call from God, to become the saint he wants us to be. As we begin a new year in the life of the Church, we can resolve to discover that vocation or, if we know it already, to live it to the full.

Liturgy & Activities This Week	
<i>Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 2; Divine Office Week 1</i>	
Sunday Missal: Page 90; Readings page 93; Preface page 34	
Sunday 3rd December	9am Mass (SJ) – With Children’s Liturgy 11am Mass (SB) – With Children’s Liturgy 7.30pm Music and Readings (Salford Cathedral) <i>A Day of Special Prayer for Migrants & Refugees</i>
Monday 4th December	9.30am Mass (SB) 7.30pm Churches in Harwood Advent Service (SB) 7.45pm SVP (SJ)
Tuesday 5th December	8.15am St Columba’s School Advent Mass (in SC School) 2pm-2.45pm Christian Meditation (Harbour Room, SB) 7pm Mass (SJ) 7.15pm SVP (SB)
Wednesday 6th December	No Mass Today
Thursday 7th December – St Ambrose	9.15am Mass (SB)
Friday 8th December – The Immaculate Conception	10am Requiem Mass for Susan Delvard (SB) 7.30pm Mass to Launch Lourdes Pilgrimage 2018 (Salford Cathedral)
Saturday 9th December	2pm Baptism (SB) 5pm Mass (SB)
Sunday 10th December	<i>Bible Sunday</i> 9am Mass (SJ) – With Children’s Liturgy 11am Mass (SB) – With Children’s Liturgy <i>A Day of Special Prayer for Openness to the Word of God</i>

Parish Priest: Rev Canon Michael Cooke VG **Assistant Priest:** Rev Francis Parkinson

Parish Office: St John’s Presbytery, The Crescent, Bromley Cross, Bolton BL7 9JP

Tel: 01204 301927 **E-mail:** office@sbsj.org.uk **Website:** www.sbsj.org.uk

Prayers Please

Sick: Joan Coles, Isabelle Owen, Laura Shuttleworth, Bernard Holder, Eileen Murphy, Joan Pearce, Pauline Bowling, Caroline Garside, Sarah Parkinson, Linda Southern, Callum Fazackerley, Elaine Jansen, Mary Cassidy, Tony Wright, Janet Rabbett, Mike Greenhalgh, June Dawson, Greta Barlow, Cassie Wilson, Christine Hasleden, Suzanne Freeman-Hill, Jude McCann Brown, Ann Cunliffe, John Pryor, Maureen Woodward, Rose Adams, Valerie Piddock, Irene Parkinson, Father Francis McCauley, Zachary Ainscough (aged 7), Mary Bagg, Mary Castle, Peggy Ainscow, Canon Dorran, Christine Everitt, Mark O'Brien, Sheila Derbyshire, Margaret Gibson, Kathleen & Arnold Banks, Andrew Rostron, Rose Mellor, Michaela (Sick child), Linda Marsh, Ross Smith (young person) and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness

Lately Dead: Susan Delvard, Mary Greenhalgh, Thomas Rabbitt, Ronald Hailwood, Celia Aitken, Margaret Lomas, Douglas Bailey, Josie Knowles

Anniversaries: Gerard Dobson

Mass Intentions: Josie Wallwork (birthday), Celia Aitken, Thomas Rabbitt, Gerard Dobson, A special intention for all deceased parishioners from the SVP, Margaret Lomas, Susan Delvard, Douglas Bailey, Mary Greenhalgh

Cycle of Prayer Part 1 (of 6): We pray especially for: openness to the Word of God; migrants and refugees; expectant mothers.

Facts and Figures

Mass Attendance last weekend
5pm - 149; 9am - 195; 11am - 151; Total - 495

Offertory Collection: £988.67

Street Lamp Poppies: Anne & Bernard raised £220 of which £150 came via the church. Thank you.

This Newsletter is sponsored by

HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

Peel House
638 Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton.
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01204 309609



Readers & Eucharistic Ministers for 9/10 December

Mass	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers
5pm (SB)	L Lamoury	TBA
9am (SJ)	F Carter	E Rothwell, M Russell, A Gracie, F Smith, M Speed, M Cropper
11am (SB)	M Durkan	T Smith, J Proctor, T Proctor

Congratulations: To Elaine Jansen who celebrated her 100th birthday on Wednesday.



Congratulations: To James Henry Botterill who was baptised at St Brendan's last Sunday. We pray that he and his family continue to grow in faith.

Your Parish Needs Your Help with Lay Ministries: Thank you to our parishioners who volunteer as Sacristans, Readers and Eucharistic Ministers; greeting worshippers; organising the Children's Liturgy; taking collections; providing music; after Mass refreshments etc.

We now need more parishioners to volunteer to undertake all of these roles please, especially at the Vigil Mass on Saturdays at 5pm (SB). Parishioners who worshipped at St Columba's, as well as younger parishioners, are most welcome to join our teams so that our priests can be supported and all our Masses worthily celebrated.

Full training will be given and a rota system operates to ensure that parishioners have freedom & flexibility in their duties.

Please get in touch with the parish office on 01204 301927 or send an email to office@sbsj.org.uk with your contact details and your preference for any role, Mass time and church location. Also see the back of this newsletter for names of some of the Parish Enabling Team whom you can contact.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Christmas Window Displays (St Brendan's Church): Parishioners are invited to sponsor a poinsettia again this year in memory of a loved one. There is a form to complete (at the back of church). Thank you

Journeying with Advent Families: Join us for our Advent series on the following dates:

8 December: Zechariah, Elizabeth and John the Baptist (Promise Foreshadowed).

15 December: Mary, Joseph and Jesus (Promise Fulfilled).

Time: 10.30am - 12.30pm (Tea and coffee provided)

Venue: Wardley Hall, Worsley M28 2ND

Presenters: Sister Joan Kerley, FMSJ and Maria Kidd

For more information contact:

Marie Sartini (Bishop's PA) 0161 794 2825

E: Marie.sartini@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

or Sr Joan Kerley, FMSJ; 0161 971 7842

E: joankfmsj@gmail.com

Fort Alice - Christmas Toy Appeal

Following the overwhelming, generous response to this special toy collection over the past two years, we have been asked if we would hold another collection of newly purchased toys in aid of Fortalice. Without the generosity of people in the local community, the charity would not be able to survive or give parents and children a new experience of receiving individual presents. We will hold the toy collection at our Saturday and Sunday Masses on the 9 & 10 December and a representative from Fort Alice will give a short talk. *Thank you*

Local Winner at the Celebrating Young People's Awards: These were presented at a glittering ceremony in Central London. The Diocese was lucky enough to be represented by outstanding young people who scooped two of the big prizes. The awards are now in their third year and are organised by Million Minutes. Hundreds of young people were nominated in six categories, each celebrating a different aspect of Catholic Social Teaching lived out in action.

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon of Liverpool presented the Joseph Cardijn Award to 17-year-old Jonathon Wright, a pupil of Thornleigh Salesian College. Jonathan is a dedicated campaigner, raising awareness of youth mental health issues as well as building youth involvement in democracy. He helped young people of Bolton realise they can be part of the solution to the challenges of job opportunities and poverty. Through his '*Democracy in Action*' project, every student at Thornleigh took part in a mock General Election, the EU referendum and the '*Make Your Mark*' campaign for the UK Youth Parliament

His teacher says "Jonathan is a real role model in every sense of the word. Over the 40 years I have been a teacher I have never met a young man who was more involved in trying to improve his community, especially the lives of young people. We are very proud of him. When I asked him why he wanted to give up so much of his time, he replied with typical modesty 'I want to give to others the same opportunities that I have enjoyed'."

Archbishop Malcolm told the young people gathered that "you are not the Church of tomorrow but the Church of today"

CAFOD

Thank you: For the tremendous support you gave to the Harvest Fast Day. The total amount raised was £1,681.40

Next Meeting: Will be held in the Patmos Room on 18 January 2018.

Save the Dates

Friday 16 February 2018 - Ceilidh
Friday 11 May 2018 - Spring Concert

Advent and Christmas

Walk with Me: There are still some copies of the booklet and calendar available - free of charge!

Churches In Harwood Advent Service: Will take place at St Brendan's on Monday 4 December at 7.30pm.

St Columba's School Advent Masses: Every Tuesday in Advent at 8.15am in the school hall.

Urban Outreach "Christmas Dinner on Jesus": This year we are asked to supply savoury crackers. These need to be small packets (200-300g) as boxes will not fit in the hampers. Please bring to church over the next few weeks.

Music and Readings for Advent and Christmas: Caritas and Salford Loaves and Fishes are pleased, once again, to present '*Music and Readings for Advent and Christmas*' at St John's Cathedral, Salford, with Bishop John Arnold. The Choir of St John's Cathedral, Anthony Hunt (organ) and Martin Barry (conductor) and Notability will perform on Sunday 3 December at 7:30pm. Tickets £5 each, from Caritas 0161 817 2250 or Salford Loaves and Fishes 0161 737 8775.

A Christmas Coffee Morning: Will be held after Masses at St John's (9am) and St Brendan's (11am) on Sunday 17 December. Please stay behind and enjoy mince pies and a Gaelic coffee. There will be a Christmas raffle and the proceeds will support church funds.

Joint Carol Service for St Brendan's and Harwood Methodists: Sunday 17 December at 6pm in St Brendan's Church.

Christmas Masses:

Sunday 24 December - 5pm (SB) & 6.30pm (SJ)
Monday 25 December - 9am (SJ) & 11am (SB)

Hope in the Future

This weekend we launch *Hope in the Future* in our parish. This diocesan initiative is a five-stage programme for developing missionary parishes. Our first stage is about celebrating all that we are already doing within our parish to welcome, engage and reach out to others. It is about celebrating the many ministries and roles that people already undertake on our behalf and encouraging others to get involved. Here are many of the things that people already contribute:

Hope in the Future at Corpus Christi



Parishioners giving their skills, gifts and time – lots to celebrate!

- Readers
- Eucharistic Ministers
- Musicians
- Sacristans
- Flower arrangers
- Altar Servers
- Children's Liturgy
- Sacramental Preparation
- Sacramental Programme
- RCIA (Becoming Catholic)
- Prayer Groups
- School Governors
- Teachers
- Social Finance Maintenance
- Parish Secretary



- Finance and Fundraising
- Collectors and Counters
- Church Cleaning
- Building Maintenance
- Teas and Coffees
- Parish Enabling Team
- Come and Meet Each Other (CAMEO)
- Book Club
- Needlework Group
- CAFOD
- Caritas
- St Vincent de Paul
- Catenians
- "Churches in Harwood"
- Newsletter
- Website



CAFOD
Just one world

To hear Bishop John Arnold talking about the aims of Hope in the Future, please go to the following site:
<https://soundcloud.com/salford-diocese/hope-in-the-future-pastoral-letter>

If you want to volunteer for any of these roles or simply to find out more about them, please contact one of the following members of the Parish Enabling Team and they will provide more information or put you in touch with the relevant person:

Andrew Sainsbury:
andrew.sainsbury85@gmail.com

Joanne Robinson: joarob71@gmail.com

James Proctor: jamest.proctor1@gmail.com

In his Pastoral Letter announcing *Hope in the Future*, Bishop John wrote: "If we were all to undertake just one task in our parishes we would transform the witness we give and make a difference to the lives of so many people."

What might you be able to do for the parish?

Hope in the Future Prayer

God our loving Father,
we thank you for blessing our parish
with all that we need
to respond to our vocation to be a missionary
community in our locality.

We thank you for all our parish members who,
in response to your call, give of themselves so
freely to enrich our parish life in the ways of
love and service.

We ask you now to pour out afresh the gifts of
your Spirit upon each one of us that we may be
inspired to serve you in new and creative ways
as missionary disciples, bringing your Light to
the world.

We ask your blessing upon us as we journey
together in hope, through Christ our Lord.
Amen.