

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

10 December 2017

Second Sunday in Advent

**New
Parish Logo
Coming
Soon**

**(Now Being
Designed)**



Throughout the first three weeks of Advent our focus is very clearly on the Second Coming of the Lord - not so much on the run up to Christmas (until the last week). If we view Advent as a preparation for Christmas these readings will make little sense - and neither will the figure of John the Baptist who appears today: if it's about the preparation for Christmas, then John the Baptist, preaching after Jesus was born, is a confusing figure: but his role is to preach to us, as he did of old, and to prepare us for the (second) coming of the Lord. Today we have a very graphic reference to the end of time and the Second Coming in the reading from Saint Peter; it is a frightening picture, and so the first reading offers tender words of comfort to help us understand who is coming, and why we should be ready to meet him

Marriage Matters: A voice cries "*Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord*". Sometimes life can seem to be a wilderness as we look ahead. If we try to live today to the best of our abilities, removing those attitudes and behaviours, that prevent us from being better husbands and wives, then we can become a clearer 'signpost' for everyone

Think Vocation: On Bible Sunday we reflect on our openness to the Word of God. When we read the Scriptures - either in church or at home - God is speaking to us today. Our attentiveness to that Word will help us to understand what God is calling us to do in our life.

Liturgy & Activities This Week	
<i>Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 2; Divine Office Week 2</i> Sunday Missal: Page 99; Readings page 103; Preface page 34	
Sunday 10 December	<i>Bible Sunday</i>
9am Mass (SJ) – With Children’s Liturgy 11am Mass (SB) – With Children’s Liturgy 2pm Baptism (SJ) <i>A Day of Special Prayer for Openness to the Word of God</i>	
Monday 11 December	
9.30am Mass (SB) 7pm-9pm Needles (Harbour Room, SB) 7.45pm SVP (SJ)	
Tuesday 12 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) 7.30pm Becoming Catholic Course (SJ)	
Wednesday 13 December	<i>– St Lucy</i>
9.30am Mass (SJ) 1pm Harbour Room Book Club (SB) 7pm SJ School KS2 Advent Liturgy (SJ Church)	
Thursday 14 December	<i>– St John of the Cross</i>
9.15am Mass (SB)	
Friday 15 December	
9.30am Mass (SJ)	
Saturday 16 December	
11am Reconciliation Service (SB Church) 5pm Mass (SB)	
Sunday 17 December	
9am Mass (SJ) – With Children’s Liturgy 11am Mass (SB) – With Children’s Liturgy 6pm Carol Service with Harwood Methodists (SB Church) <i>Christmas Coffee Morning will follow straight after both morning Masses - All Welcome!</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

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Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity - 250037 Diocesan website: www.dioceseofsalford.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, Ronald Hailwood, Keith Barnes, Celia Aitken, Margaret Lomas, Douglas Bailey, Robert Buscall

Anniversaries: Andrew Hayes, Arthur & Annie McSherry, Ann Davies, Robert & Hilda Healey

Mass Intentions: Ronald Hailwood, Keith Barnes, Winifrede O'Connor, Andrew Hayes (Birthday Remembrance), Arthur & Annie McSherry, Ann Davies, Robert & Hilda Healey, Robert Buscall, For all deceased members of the Walker, Dobbyn, Jameson & Buscall families

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 -112; 9am -208; 11am - 159; **Total - 479**

Offertory Collection: £980.30

Poppy Appeal (SJ): £46.07

This Newsletter is sponsored by

HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

Peel House
638 Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton.
BL1 7AL
01204 309609



Readers & Eucharistic Ministers for 16/17 December

Mass	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers
5pm (SB)	T Proctor	TBA
9am (SJ)	H O'Donnell	M Cropper, F Smith, A Rawlinson, A Gracie, T Armstrong, M Russell
11am (SB)	T Regan	J Proctor, T Proctor, T Smith

Father Seán O'Brien

Having completed his novitiate, Father Seán has decided not to stay at Ampleforth but to return to the diocese. During these past months his dad has been receiving treatment for cancer and so Bishop John has agreed that Father Seán can spend the Christmas period with his family and take up a new appointment in January.

Bible Sunday: Today is Catholic Bible Sunday and it is themed: *Welcome the Word*. Bible Sunday reminds us each year of the gift of the Word of God, God's Word in human language, recorded for us in the pages of the Holy Scriptures, proclaimed in our Liturgy and available for prayer and reflection day-by-day. We know, and experience being fed by God's Word and Sacrament at Mass. Christ the Word teaches us. Christ our Eucharist nourishes us. Catholic Bible Sunday reminds us to hear, to be attentive to God's Word through reading and reflecting on the Scriptures in our homes daily. It reminds us too to seek ways of proclaiming that life-giving Word to everyone that we meet.

The Wednesday Word: Is a national prayer mission that links parishes and schools throughout the country through regular weekly prayer. Full details about the mission can be found at www.wednesdayword.org.

We provide copies of The Wednesday Word to the pupils in our parish primary schools.

Each week the Parish Version of The Wednesday Word will be made available at the back of each church for parishioners to take home. Please do consider starting to pray the *Parish Version* of The Wednesday Word in spiritual solidarity with many parishioners throughout the country. And please particularly remember the non-practising families throughout the schools in our country - that they be touched by the Gospel they read in the *Primary School Version* of The Wednesday Word and that their faith may be deepened and their lives in Christ flourish.

The Wednesday Word Mission is dedicated to St Joseph, Patron saint of Families and Protector of the Church. In the tradition of the Catholic Church each Wednesday is dedicated to him.

*Lord, we ask you to bless our parishes and the many families in our Catholic schools.
Open our eyes to see your glory; open our ears to hear your call; open our lips to sing your praise; guide us on our journey of faith. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.*

Advent and Christmas

Walk with Me: Copies of the booklet and calendar are available - free of charge!

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

St Mary's (Hidden Gem) Manchester: It has long been a tradition at St Mary's to have visiting schools leading Carol Services in the Advent days leading up to the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Each Carol Service will begin at 1pm, immediately after the 12.30pm Daily Mass, and will last about 25-30 minutes. Thornleigh School Children will be leading the service on Thursday 21 December.

School Nativities & Services:

St John's Advent Liturgy - Wednesday 13 December (7pm) in Church

St Columba's Nativity - Monday & Tuesday 18 & 19 December (2pm and 6pm) in School

St John's Christmas Mass - Wednesday 20 December (9.30am) in Church

St Brendan's Nativity - Wednesday 20 December (1.30pm) in Church.

St Columba's School Christmas Mass - Friday 22 December (10am) in St Brendan's Church

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. **Tickets for the raffle will be on sale from this weekend.**

Parish Reconciliation Service: Saturday 16 December at 11am in St Brendan's Church.

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)

Christmas Window Displays (SB Church): The last orders for poinsettias will be taken this weekend. Please place your order in the box in the church porch. Thank you.

Journeying with Advent Families: The last session is on 15 December (10.30am-12.30pm) at Wardley Hall, Worsley M28 2ND. 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

Christmas Outreach

Fort Alice - Christmas Toy Appeal

We will hold the toy collection at our Saturday and Sunday Masses this weekend and a representative from Fort Alice will give a short talk. Thank you

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.

Caritas Diocese of Salford

Cornerstone - Homelessness Shelter

During Advent as part of our support for Caritas we will be running a reverse advent calendar. Instead of receiving something each day we are asking that parishioners bring in items next week that will be donated to Cornerstone. They have requested the following items:

- Tinned soup / Tinned stewing steak
- Tuna / Mayonnaise
- Washing up liquid
- Shaving foam / Razors / Shower gel
- Biscuits / Sugar

Any items that you can donate will be gratefully received and used to help people who are struggling to feed themselves and their families at this time.

Harbour Room Book Club: The Christmas meeting will take place on Wednesday 13 December at 1pm. Please note the earlier time. The novel for discussion is anything belonging to the *Romance* genre and is a personal choice. Remember to wear something green or red (scarf, jumper, bracelet) to enter the Spirit! Raffles! All welcome!

Christie Friends Fashion Show: Thank you to all who supported this worthy cause. The final total raised was £1,189.

CAFOD

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

Hope in the Future

Thank you to all who helped with last weekend's launch of *Hope in the Future*. It was good to see how many ministries and activities are already present in our parish. But we still need more!

Your Parish Needs Your Help with Lay Ministries: Thank you to our parishioners who have shown an interest in helping undertake roles at our new Mass times.

If anyone would still like to volunteer, you 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. Or you may wish to contact one of the following members of the Parish Enabling Team:

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.

Forming Corpus Christi Parish

I have recently received the decrees setting up our new parish of Corpus Christi and appointing me as the parish priest. Since I was already parish priest of the three constituent parishes, I have been dispensed from the requirement to be inducted as the new parish priest.

Following the closure of St Columba's church, there is some work to do in clearing it out and I am grateful to those who are helping with that task. It would seem that we timed the closure just right, with the boiler breaking down on that day (as many of you know) and with the sacristy ceiling finally falling in a few days later (after hanging precariously for many months). It is not yet clear exactly when anything will happen with the church (or what) but the diocesan property office is working on this with me.

One of the concerns when we closed the church was about the children from St Columba's school being able to visit a church for Mass on certain occasions. So I am happy to report that we have agreed to bus the children to St Brendan's church for a Mass in the last week of this term. This will cost between £400 and £500, depending on which of the bus companies are available. We will do the same again around Easter time and possibly in the summer term. Whilst this may seem expensive, it is fulfilling an important promise and ensuring that those children have some access to a church. It is certainly cheaper than maintaining a very large church building that was infrequently used and in poor repair.

Whilst on the subject of transport, a number of our older parishioners mentioned to me last week that, in thanking everyone for what they do, we hadn't mentioned those who are kind enough to give lifts to church. This is indeed an important ministry and one that I am delighted to see developing, since there was concern expressed at the time we were preparing to close St Columba's that some of our stalwart parishioners might not be able to get to church. So, thank you to those who continue to make this possible.

Finally, just to mention that we are still running the separate bank accounts that we had previously. This is at the request of our Finance Office who wanted to keep things this way until the end of the current financial year (31 Dec). Our new account will be set up in January and I will let you know when you can begin making cheques payable to Corpus Christi.

Canon Michael Cooke VG