

# Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

2 December 2018

## The First Sunday of Advent



As usual, the great Season of Advent begins, not by talking about Christmas, but about the Second Coming. We've had this theme already for the past two weeks, but there is a slight

change of emphasis in the Scripture readings offered for this Sunday: here the tone is positive: it is the "promise" of what is to come that we contemplate. Even in the Gospel, though it talks of the dreadful signs that mark the end times, we hear of a promise - "liberation". For this we should stand erect and hold our heads high. The central theme is that we welcome the coming of a person - Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah, and this is what links this Sunday to the coming feast of his birth: we are now preparing to celebrate how he once came: may these preparations also help us to prepare for him when he comes again!

### Marriage Matters

**Keeping the star of our love burning brightly:** Jeremiah's joy reminds us of the weeks before our wedding, a time when we were deeply aware of our love for one another. Since then, many cares have threatened to divert us from that love and it has sometimes been necessary to make a special effort to share, listen and forgive to keep the star of our love burning brightly.

### Think Vocation

As we enter into the season of Advent, especially in this time of Hope in The Future, let us use the New Year in the life of the Church to consider what God is calling each one of us to do with our lives.

*Sunday Cycle C; Weekday Cycle 2; Divine Office Week 1*  
*Sunday Missal: Page 90; Readings page 96*  
*Preface: page 34*

### Sunday 2 December

9am Mass (SJ) - *with Children's Liturgy*  
 11am Mass (SB) - *with Children's Liturgy*  
 6.30pm Advent Service (Christ's Church, Harwood)

### Monday 3 December

9.30am Mass (SB)  
 7pm Needles (Harbour Room, SB)  
 7.45pm SVP (SJ)

### Tuesday 4 December

8.15am Advent Mass (SC School)  
 2pm Christian Meditation (Harbour Room, SB)  
 7pm Becoming Catholic Course (SJ)  
 7.15pm SVP (SB)

### Wednesday 5 December

9.30am Mass (SJ)

### Thursday 6 December

9.15am Mass (SB)

### Friday 7 December

9.30am Mass (SJ)  
 10am Coffee Morning (SJ)

### Saturday 8 December - *The Feast of the Immaculate Conception*

11.30am Mass  
 12noon-1pm Hour of Grace  
 5pm Mass (SB) - *with Children's Liturgy*

### Sunday 9 December

9am Mass (SJ) - *with Children's Liturgy*  
 11am Mass (SB) - *with Children's Liturgy*

**Parish Priest:** Rev David Chinnery

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*Diocesan website:* [www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk](http://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk)

<b>Prayers Please</b>
We pray for all the sick and housebound in our parish, and other relatives and friends. Bernard Holder, Fr John Ashton (SB), Peter McGowan, Jack Donnelly
<b>Lately Dead:</b> Peter Hoolihan, Angela Milligan Massimino Guarneii,
<b>Anniversaries:</b> Arthur & Annie McSherry, Monica Dawson, Ronald Hailwood, Graham Taylor
<b>Mass Intentions:</b> Graham Taylor, Arthur & Annie McSherry, Peter Hoolihan, Massimino Guarneii, Monica Dawson, Angela Milligan & her husband, Samuel & Ivy Cooper (Birthday Remembrance), Ronald Hailwood
<b>Cycle of Prayer Part 1 (of 6):</b> We pray especially for: openness to the Word of God; migrants and refugees; expectant mothers.
<b>Hope in the Future</b>
Let us pray for the parish of St Cuthbert, Withington, with Fr Curley, and for the parish of the Holy Spirit, East Manchester, with the Spiritans, for the Manchester L'Arche Community, the Christie Hospital, and the parish primary schools.
<b>Facts and Figures</b>
<b>Mass Attendance</b> <b>24/25 November:</b> 5pm-129; 9am-193; 11am -147 <b>Total - 469</b>
<b>Offertory Collection</b> <b>17/18 November: £987.81</b> <b>Standing Orders (23-29 November) - £207</b>
<b>Cheques:</b> We now have our new Corpus Christi parish account name. Please make all cheques payable to <i>Corpus Christi</i> . Thank you.

**Congratulations:** To Aida Catherine Edwards and Cora Elizabeth Edwards who were baptised at St John's last Saturday. We pray that they and their family may continue to grow in faith.

**Baptism Preparation:** Our next preparation session will take place on Saturday 12 January 2019 (10.30am-12noon) in the Patmos Room at St John's. This is for parents from any of our three parishes who wish to have a child baptised in the coming months. Please contact the parish office on 301927 or email [office@sbsj.org.uk](mailto:office@sbsj.org.uk).

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception:** On Saturday 8 December we will have Holy Mass at 11.30am (St John's) followed by an Hour of Grace for the Whole World from 12noon. All are welcome.

## Advent

**Walk With Me:** The booklets and calendars are available (free of charge) for you to take this weekend to prepare for the Christmas season.

**CAFOD (World Gifts):** Why not buy a loved one a different Christmas present this year? World Gifts are alternative gifts that make a world of difference - they change lives around the world. If you would like more information, please speak to a member of the CAFOD Group or visit [www.cafod.org](http://www.cafod.org) or pick up a catalogue.

**Advent Service:** Churches in Harwood have organized an Advent Service to be held at Christ's Church (6.30pm) this Sunday (2 December). All welcome!

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Weekly confession will start on Tuesdays at St John's. **Apologies, but the first will now start on Tuesday 11 December at 6.30-6.50pm.** This will continue on a permanent basis. **We will also be holding a Reconciliation Service on Thursday 13 December (6.30pm) at St Brendan's Church.**

**Early Morning Advent Masses:** During Advent, Mass will be held at each of our primary schools (8.15am) beginning on Tuesday 4 December at St Columba's. The next will be on Tuesday 11 December at St Brendan's, and the final one will be at St John's on Tuesday 18 December. All welcome.

**Harbour Room Book Club.** The next meeting is on Wednesday 12 December to discuss *Our Souls at Night* by Kent Haruf. The meeting starts at 1pm and everyone is welcome.

**Needles:** Thank you to all who have been coming to our group over the last twelve months. We have been able to donate £880 to the parish. Everyone is welcome to come along on a Monday night, especially if you would like to learn a new skill (knitting, embroidery, crochet etc). It's a wonderful way to make new friends.

**Choir (St Brendan's):** Hello. My name is Kathryn Wilkinson. I have sung in the choir at St Brendan's for several years. As it is getting near to Christmas, I thought now would be a good time to see if we could recruit some more volunteers to join the choir. We are looking for people who enjoy singing, can hold a tune and who are not afraid to sing out. If you would like to help us, just come up to the choir loft at the start of Mass. You will be made very welcome. Thank you.

**Thornleigh Senior Citizen's Christmas Party:** Thursday 13 December (2.15pm). We now have tickets for the annual Christmas party at Thornleigh. There are 20 free places for each of our churches. There is a list at the back of St Brendan's and St John's for you to put your name on if you wish to go. As this is always a very well attended event, it is advisable to put your name on either list as soon as possible.

**Altar Servers:** We will hold two Christmas practice sessions for our Altar Servers on Saturday 15 December. For those who serve at St John's, it will be at 2pm (in St John's Church) and for those who serve at St Brendan's it will be at 4pm (In St Brendan's church). Children should be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Thank you.

**Christmas Flower Demonstration:** Saturday 15 December (11am-1pm) at St Brendan's Church. Tickets are now on sale for this event priced at £6 per person (which includes a pastie lunch). Proceeds will go towards Urban Outreach and the Destitution Project.

**Christmas Window Displays (St Brendan's):** If anyone would like to sponsor a poinsettia (in memory of a loved one) please fill in a form at the back of church. Thank you.

**Fortalice Christmas Toy Collection:** Please bring along any unwrapped, newly purchased toys to our Weekend Masses on the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> December. A representative from Fort Alice will collect the toys and give a short talk. Fortalice have asked, this year, that as well as toys for younger children, any donations for teenage children would be most welcome; for example, high street vouchers, etc. Thank you as always for your support.

**Red Box Collection:** The next gather-in of Red Boxes and donations will be after 9am Mass at St John's on Sunday 16 December.

**CHRISTIAN MEDITATION**

Do you want to learn more about prayer?  
Are you stressed with the preparations for Christmas?

Why not come along and experience a time of peace and calm amidst your busy life this Advent?

Our December dates are Tuesdays: 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> (2pm-2.45pm)

Thursdays: 13<sup>th</sup> - 8pm (Following Reconciliation Service) and 20<sup>th</sup> - 7.15pm-8pm

All sessions are held at St Brendan's

**Coffee Morning:** Will be held at St John's Church at 10am on Friday 7 December. All welcome!

**Pathways to God Resource:** Jesuit Media Initiatives and the Diocese of Westminster Marriage and Family Life Team have joined forces to produce a series of imaginative contemplations to help families journey alongside the Holy Family in prayer this Advent. The six imaginative contemplations, plus an introduction are available to listen to or download from the Jesuits' spirituality website, [www.pathwaystogod.org](http://www.pathwaystogod.org).

Each contemplation focuses on a person or group from the Nativity story - Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and the Magi - who will all be very familiar to children. Each session will have its own suggested storyline and you are invited to imagine and reflect along with it.

**Bringing Christ to our World Today:** Join us at Lancashire Martyrs Church, Hallstead Avenue, Little Hulton, M38 0DL (10.30am-12.30pm) for our Advent series:

**30 November:** Col. 1:15-20 Remembering Christ in the beauty of our common home

**7 December:** Rm.8:18-27: Identifying Christ in the suffering of our earth and God's people

**14 December:** Jn.1:1-14: Bringing Christ's life and hope to our world

**Format:** Using the CaFE DVD "Global Healing", Laudato Si, Scripture and poetry, we will explore the reality of Christ's Incarnate Word today.

**Presenters:** Sister Joan Kerley, FMSJ and Maria Kidd

**Contact:** Sister Joan Kerley, FMSJ; 0161 971 7842; E: [joankfmsj@gmail.com](mailto:joankfmsj@gmail.com) or Marie Sartini 0161 794 2825; E: [marie.sartini@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:marie.sartini@dioceseofsalford.org.uk)

**Online Alternative Advent Calendar:** St Mary's Star of the Sea, Edinburgh have invited us all to join their online alternative advent calendar. Each morning at 7am you will get an email with a scripture verse, prayer or reflection. They promise you won't be added to any other list! For the full link: <https://stmarysstarofthesea.us17.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=e508bcfcab2f0339b7597155f&id=fdd8be1a5a>

Readers & Eucharistic Ministers for 8 <sup>th</sup> /9 <sup>th</sup> December		
Mass	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers
5pm (SB)	L Lamoury	TBA
9am (SJ)	M Roe	P McArdle, A Rawlinson, M Speed, E Rothwell, T Armstrong, L Rule
11am (SB)	M Day	C Owen, P Brennan, M Durkan

This Newsletter is sponsored by  
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