

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

9 December 2018

The Second Sunday of Advent



Again, we hear about the coming “Day of Christ”, and meet the character of John the Baptist. Just as once before he “prepared the way” for the coming of Christ, so today he does the same for us. Our hearts should be open to his

voice, as he calls us to repentance, and asks us to make the way straight for the coming of our Lord. The imagery of this Sunday is particularly rich: the dominant image is of a vast population moving together - the return from exile in the first reading, the going and coming of the sowers in the psalm, the community of the Church preparing together in Paul’s letter. We prepare for the coming of the Lord as His people - a community who cooperate to make the “processional way” of the Holy One - flattening the hills of opposition and ridicule, filling in the valleys of doubt and despair, so that “all mankind shall see the salvation of God.”

Marriage Matters

Smoothing out rough ways...to welcome You: Paul speaks of our ‘partnership in the Gospel’ and prays that our love continues growing. He wants us to ‘come to true discernment’ about our choices. Luke’s Gospel challenges us as married couples: are we enabling each other to ‘prepare a way for the Lord’? Are there ‘paths’ that need ‘straightening’ or ‘rough’ attitudes/behaviours that need to be made smooth?

Think Vocation

St John the Baptist was the voice that cries in the wilderness asking people to prepare a way for the Lord and to change their ways. Like John, the voice of the Church can seem to be a voice in the wilderness of our world. It might not be a message that the world wants to hear but it needs to hear it. May others be called to serve in the Church as a voice for the Lord for his people today.

<p><i>Sunday Cycle C; Weekday Cycle 2; Divine Office Week 2</i> <i>Sunday Missal: Page 99; Readings page 106</i> <i>Preface: page 34</i></p>
<p>Sunday 9 December 9am Mass (SJ) - <i>with Children’s Liturgy</i> 11am Mass (SB) - <i>with Children’s Liturgy</i></p>
<p>Monday 10 December 9.30am Mass (SB) 7pm Needles (Harbour Room, SB) 7.45pm SVP (SJ)</p>
<p>Tuesday 11 December 8.15am Advent Mass (SB School) 2pm Christian Meditation (Harbour Room, SB) 6.30pm Sacrament of Reconciliation (SJ) 7pm Mass 7.15pm SVP (SB)</p>
<p>Wednesday 12 December 9.30am Mass (SJ) 1pm Harbour Room Book Club (SB) 7pm Advent Service for St John’s School (SJ, in Church)</p>
<p>Thursday 13 December 9.15am Mass (SB) 6.30pm Reconciliation Service (SB) 8pm Christian Meditation (Harbour Room, SB)</p>
<p>Friday 14 December 9.30am Mass (SJ)</p>
<p>Saturday 15 December 11am Christmas Flower Demonstration (SB) 2pm Altar Server Meeting (SJ) 4pm Altar Server Meeting (SB) 5pm Mass (SB) - <i>with Children’s Liturgy</i></p>
<p>Sunday 16 December - Gaudete Sunday 9am Mass (SJ) - <i>with Children’s Liturgy</i> 11am Mass (SB) - <i>with Children’s Liturgy</i> 2pm Baptism (SJ)</p>

Parish Priest: Rev David Chinnery

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Prayers Please
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
Lately Dead: Christina Flynn, Angela Milligan Massimino Guarneiri, Miriam Idles,
Anniversaries: Robert & Hilda Healey, Gerard Dobson, Patricia Harper
Mass Intentions: Christina Flynn, Robert & Hilda Healey, Gerard Dobson, Massimino Guarneiri, Andrew Hayes (100 th Birthday Remembrance), Patricia Harper
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 parishes of St Kentigern, Fallowfield, and St Edward, Rusholme, with Canon Cleary, and for the parish of St Hilda, Tottington, with Fr Cannon. We pray for the Society of African Missions, for Opus Dei, for the Divine Mercy Primary School and for Xaverian College.
Facts and Figures
Mass Attendance 1/2 December 5pm-120; 9am-166; 11am -144 Total - 430
Offertory Collection 1/2 December: £831.63 Standing Orders (30 November - 6 December) - £842.50
Cheques: We now have our new Corpus Christi parish account name. Please make all cheques payable to <i>Corpus Christi</i> . Thank you.

Standing Orders to St Brendan's: The new account for our parish of Corpus Christi has now been constituted utilising an existing account number. Whilst the Barclay's Current Account "Switch Service" has enabled all direct debits and standing order payments (on St Brendan's account) to be automatically paid from Corpus Christi (formerly St John's account), standing order payments inwards (Gift Aid & non Gift Aid) cannot be switched.

We are endeavouring to write to all parishioners affected. In the meantime, Standing Order Amendment forms can be obtained from the Parish Office or you can speak to any member of the Parish Finance Committee: Michael Cropper, John Howarth, Marie Meagher, Chris Molyneux, Greg French or Kathryn Wilkinson. Thank you.

Financial Summary for October 2018	
Income (for General Use)	
Gift-Aided Envelopes	1,726
Non Gift-Aided Offertory	2,186
Standing Orders	2,062
Piety Stalls, Votives & Almanacs	563
Baptisms/Funerals/Weddings	495
Fundraising (inc. 200 Club subs)	116
Harbour/Patmos Room Rental	201
Restricted Income (Specific Use)	
CAFOD	1,570
Missio	535
Total Monthly Income	9,674
Expenditure	
Church Expenses (both)	2,620
Presbytery Expenses (both)	1,099
Clergy Allowances	3,029
Wages (Estimate for the month)	2,000
Fundraising	75
Diocesan Levy	1,388
Total Monthly Expenditure	10,211
Balance of Income/Expenditure	-537

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 our parish who wish to have a child baptised in the coming months. Please contact the parish office on 301927 or email office@sbsj.org.uk.

Access Road (SB): The access road into SB car park has many potholes which present a trip and fall hazard. The road is unadopted which means the Diocese and Parish have no responsibility for its upkeep. However, we have regularly filled potholes in at parish expense. We have also provided flood lighting in the area of the gate. Estimates are being obtained to yet again fill the potholes. In the meanwhile, all traffic, both pedestrian and cars should exercise extreme caution. Parishioners who unlock the gates should ensure that the pedestrian gate is unlocked and open. Pedestrians are advised to keep to the Pennine Vet's side of the road when approaching the gates and use the pedestrian gate.

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.

Advent

Sacrament of Reconciliation: We will be holding our 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). 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.

Churches in Harwood Carol Singing: On Wednesday 19 December Churches in Harwood will be Singing Carols around the Harwood area. Meet at 6.30pm at Manor Gardens. All welcome

Carol Service: On Sunday 23 December (6pm) there will be a joint Carol Service for St Brendan's and Longsight Methodist Church. All are most welcome to come along to St Brendan's and join us.

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve

5pm St Brendan's, 7.30pm St John's

Christmas Day

9am St John's, 11am St Brendan's

Fortalice Christmas Toy Collection: A representative from Fort Alice will collect the toys this weekend and give a short talk. 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

Our December dates are Tuesdays: 11th and 18th (2pm-2.45pm)

Thursdays: 13th - 8pm (Following Reconciliation Service) and 20th - 7.15pm-8pm

All sessions are held at St Brendan's

This Newsletter is sponsored by

HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

Peel Home
638 Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton.
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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.

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.

CAFOD Talk: On Wednesday 6th February (7pm) Bishop John will be speaking about his most recent trip to Sierra Leone and Liberia, visiting CAFOD partners and finding out about their work. Come along to find out about how CAFOD is "listening to the cry of the Earth and of the poor". Meet CAFOD volunteers and staff from the diocese.

Venue; The Becket Suite at St Thomas of Canterbury Church in Heaton, Bolton. BL1 4PN
Doors open from 6.30pm. All welcome.

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:

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 or

Marie Sartini 0161 794 2825;
E: marie.sartini@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Readers & Eucharistic Ministers for 15th/16th December

Mass	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers
5pm (SB)	C Grundy	TBA
9am (SJ)	E Rothwell	M Russell, M Speed, A Gracie, F Smith, S May, M Cropper
11am (SB)	K Denton	T Proctor, T Smith, J O'Connor

An Advent Examination

Edward Hays, *A Pilgrim's Almanac*



Advent is the perfect time to clear and prepare the Way. Advent is a winter training camp for those who desire peace. By reflection and prayer, by reading and meditation, we can make our hearts a place where a blessing of peace would desire to abide and where the birth of the Prince of Peace might take place.

Daily we can make an Advent examination. Are there any feelings of discrimination toward race, sex, or religion? Is there a lingering resentment, an unforgiven injury living in our hearts? Do we look down upon others of lesser social standing or educational achievement? Are we generous with the gifts that have been given to us, seeing ourselves as their stewards and not their owners? Are we reverent of others, their ideas and needs, and of creation? These and other questions become Advent lights by which we may search the deep, dark corners of our hearts.

Sister Monica Byrne

At the end of last month after Mass in Saint Ethelbert's Church in Bolton, Sister Monica was presented with the Bene Merenti Medal, awarded to her by Pope Francis for her many years of faithful service to the Catholic Church and the wider community.

The Medal and citation were presented to her by Sister Therese O'Regan CP, Provincial Leadership Team Leader of the Cross and Passion Sisters, in the presence of Father Morrough O'Brien PP and parishioners. In making the presentation, Sister Therese recalled Sister Monica's lifetime's work as a teacher and later as a Community Volunteer. There was, she said, something very special about Sister Monica as she recalled how she has now completed almost 64 years of unbroken service to Bolton's Catholic community and to the wider Bolton Family and how for over 30 of those years she has officially been retired! Later this month, Sister Monica will finally be leaving Bolton to take up residence in her Order's Retirement Home in Lytham. She will, indeed, be a great loss not only to Bolton's Catholic community but also to the wider Bolton Family whom she has so faithfully and assiduously served in so many capacities. We wish her a long and happy retirement!