

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

22 December 2019

The Fourth Sunday of Advent



Here we enter a new stage of Advent: having spent so much time on the Second Coming, now we look back, to remember the details of the Lord's First Coming. Today we focus on the characters of Mary and Joseph, and hear of the circumstances surrounding the conception of the child Jesus, and the reaction of Joseph. This mystery springs from the House of David, and so we lead into the Gospel by hearing of the promise that the Messiah would come from that line. The link between the First Reading and the Gospel is quite explicit today, since Matthew actually quotes Isaiah. Joseph, descendant of King David, is invited to take his place in the great story of God's relationship with the Chosen people. There is great sense of a timeless mystery reaching its focal point, as that which was "promised long ago" (Second Reading) now takes flesh in the womb of Mary.

The Nativity of the Lord

We celebrate this great Feast on Wednesday, though it begins with our Masses on Tuesday evening. We have (hopefully) prepared throughout Advent and now our Feast is here.

We welcome the new-born Jesus, the child of Bethlehem, the Son of God and the Son of David. He is the Light of the World and our Saviour. He is the Word made flesh, Emmanuel, God-with-us.

The Church gives us the various feasts of the Christmas Season (Christmas Day itself, The Holy Family, The Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord) to help us explore in different ways the significance of this historical event and the wonder of the gift that is given. Let us make full use of the season, to pray about and reflect upon the mystery of the Incarnation.

Sunday Cycle A; Weekday Cycle 2; Divine Office Week 4
Sunday Missal: Page 119
Preface: page 34/35

Sunday 22 December

9.30am Mass (SJ) - *with Children's Liturgy*
 11am Mass (SB) - *with Children's Liturgy*
 6pm Carol Service at Ainsworth Methodist Church

Monday 23 December

11am Requiem Mass for Martin Cleary (SB)

The Nativity of the Lord



Tuesday 24 December - Christmas Eve Masses
 Carols from 4.30pm; 5pm Mass (SB)
 6pm Mass (SJ)

Wednesday 25 December - Christmas Day Masses
 9.30am (SJ); 11am (SB)

Thursday 26 December - *St Stephen*

12noon Mass (SB)

Friday 27 December - *St John The Evangelist*

12noon Mass (SJ)

Saturday 28 December - *Holy Innocents*

12noon Mass (SB)

5pm Mass (SB) - *with Children's Liturgy*

Sunday 29 December - *The Holy Family*

9.30am Mass (SJ) - *with Children's Liturgy*

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

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Prayers Please

We pray for all the sick and housebound in our parish, and other relatives and friends. Bernard Holder, Christopher Scott, Jackie Harte, Moya Fau-Goodwin, Matthew Harvey, Margaret Russell, Anne Hurst, Kenneth Martin, Vernon Holt, Colin Spragg, Margaret Padfiel

Lately Dead: Martin Cleary, Kathleen McClusky, Philomena Pritchard, Ciaran Rafferty, Eva O'Hara, Joan Cafferky

Anniversaries: Roy Shepherd, Neville Smith, Audrey Healey, Oswald Kenyon, James Gartland, Dorothy Mary Kirton, Breen Kelly, James and Annie McGrath, Anna Mikolajewski, Sheila Hayes, Peter McGowan, Gladys Finlay

Mass Intention & Christmas Remembrances:

Mr & Mrs Ambrose Royle and member of the Royle family, Mr & Mrs Kilcoyne and deceased members of the Kilcoyne family, Special Intention for the Smith & Harris family, Roy Shepherd, Deceased members of the Wheeler & Bell families, Maureen Gregson, Marie Loftus, A Special Intention, Barbara Proctor (Birthday Remembrance), Rose & Vincent Heron, Rae & Bill Carey, Billy Carey, Elizabeth Cerlin, A Special Intention, For a 90th Birthday, Neville Smith, Martin Cleary, Living & Deceased members of the Carter & Mathen families, Reg Nash, Roy Connelly, Audrey Healey, John McCormick, Vera & Fred Boatfield, Agnes & George Beeching, Lucy Hesford, Margaret Gibson, Philomena Pritchard, Members & friends of the Cambridge, Carter and Atkinson families, The Holden family, Herbert Hustwit, Andrew Hustwit, Joan Cafferky, Oswald Kenyon, James Gartland, Dorothy Mary Kirton, Don Giuseppe Rigolli, Fr McAuley, Mark Rinaldo Villa, Breen Kelly, James & Annie McGrath, Anna Mikolajewski, The Hayes and Heyes families, Sheila Hayes, Peter McGowan

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 St John Fisher, Kearsley, for Fr Bryan Cunningham, their parish priest, and for the Shoenstatt Community.

Facts and Figures

Mass Attendance

14/15 December

5pm-110; 9.30am-194; 11am -192

Total - 496

Offertory Collection

14/15 December: £1,054.23

Standing Orders

(12-20 December) - £302

Cheques: Please make all cheques payable to *Corpus Christi*. Thank you.

Congratulations: To Sebastian James Garland and Kenosa Sean Souzey who was baptised last Sunday. We pray that they and their family may continue to grow in faith.

Thank You

The SVP would like to say thank you to everyone who came to support the Christmas Flower demonstration on Saturday 7 December. A special thanks goes to Margaret Fazackerley who created some wonderful arrangements and to all who helped on the day. The total amount raised for families in need was £346! Thank you, once again.

Christmas Outreach

A huge thank you to everyone for supporting our collections of food and toys during these past weeks. Your kindness has helped so many people in either our own parish and in the wider Bolton community.

Christmas Baubles

Thank you for the tremendous response in decorating Christmas baubles. They will look fantastic on our trees! We hope the children enjoyed designing them as much as we will enjoy looking at them!

200 Club: We are looking for a new volunteer to take over the running of the 200 Club (which will start its new year in March 2020). If you are interested please contact Frances Smith or the Parish Office. Thank you.

Formation Series - Bishop Philip Egan: The New Evangelisation: Wednesday 8 January 2020, 7.30pm-9pm. St Gabriel's RC High School, Bridge Road, Bury, BL9 0TZ. Bishop Egan is the Bishop of Portsmouth. He was born in Altrincham, Cheshire and was previously Vicar General in the Diocese of Shrewsbury. He has a real passion for sharing the Good News of Jesus and will be sharing with us some suggestions of how we can share that good news with others. To register your place or for more information visit: www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/parishes/events. Call: 0161 817 2214 or email: hope@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Readers for Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve: 5pm Lisa Lamoury (SB)

6pm - Frances Smith (SJ)

Christmas Day- 9.30am Peter Barnes (SJ)

11am Frank Evans (SB)

General Church Clean at St John's
10am Monday 23 December

The Holy Family - 29 December 2018



As an example for us to follow, the Holy Family can seem a little too perfect: when we consider the more “dramatic” events of the Christmas and Easter story, it can seem so far removed from us. And yet, as today’s

Gospel reminds us (especially in the shorter version), there were also the so-called “hidden years” - the many years of family life in Nazareth, spent in ordinary things. During that time, we hear how Jesus grew and matured, and in the glimpse of that family life we see our example. The family is a basic unit of our Christian society, despite coming under threat nowadays. Our celebration of this feast, and the Word of God we proclaim, announces that there is a lasting value in the ideals of family life, and the relationship between husband, wife, parents and children. Whatever the changing details of each age, honour, understanding and love always remain the recipe for the perfect, and holy, human family. It is love that we put on over all the other clothes of changing cultures and places, to guarantee the life of the family in imitation of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Marriage Matters

Rejoice in God’s gift: Today we are invited to ‘Rejoice’ and recognise ‘God is in our midst’. This theme of celebration is manifest in our love and acceptance of each other. Though our life will fade with the passing years, the love we have for each other will continue to grow. We are always God’s delight, His gift to His people.

Think Vocation

Because of the permanence of the Sacrament of Marriage, we have the best setting for bringing children into the world. The marriage vows are lived out each day that the Lord sends to us. We pray for the people who are to be married in our parish this year. May the Holy Family bless all the families in our parish with a love for God, for his Church and for the sacred priesthood.

Think Vocation <i>Sunday Cycle A; Weekday Cycle 2; Divine Office</i> Week 1 Sunday Missal: Page 143 <i>Preface: page 36/37</i>
Sunday 29 December 9.30am Mass (SJ) - <i>with Children’s Liturgy</i> 11am Mass (SB) - <i>with Children’s Liturgy</i>
Monday 30 December 12noon Mass (SB)
Tuesday 31 December 12noon Mass (SJ)
Wednesday 1 January 2020- <i>Mary the Holy Mother of God</i> 12noon Mass (SB)
Thursday 2 January 12noon Mass (SB)
Friday 3 January 12noon Mass (SJ)
Saturday 4 January 10.30am Adoration & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (SB) 10.45am Reconciliation (SB) 11.30am Mass (SB) 5pm Mass (SB) - <i>with Children’s Liturgy</i>
Sunday 5 January - <i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i> 9.30am Mass (SJ) - <i>with Children’s Liturgy</i> 11am Mass (SB) - <i>with Children’s Liturgy</i>



Thank you to all parishioners who have helped to prepare our churches for the Christmas Season.

We would like to thank you for all your cards and gifts and we wish all parishioners, and their families, a very happy and Holy Christmas. *Fr David and Fr Alf*



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Readers & Eucharistic Ministers for 28/29 December		
Mass	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers
5pm (SB)	M Maybury	TBA
9am (SJ)	J Carroll	T Armstrong, L Rule, F Smith, P McArdle, M Cropper, A Rawlinson
11am (SB)	L Lamoury	J O'Connor, T Proctor, T Smith

Readers & Eucharistic Ministers for 4/5 January		
Mass	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers
5pm (SB)	S Mikolajewski	TBA
9am (SJ)	S Copley	J Carroll, F Smith, S May, A Rawlinson, A Gracie, M Speed
11am (SB)	C Owen	P Carolan, J Murphy, K Wilkinson

A	B	Y	M	E	L	C	H	I	O	R	R	E	CHRISTMAS TREE	ADVENT
B	D	E	L	B	A	T	S	L	A	A	E	S	DECORATIONS	CAROLS
S	I	V	D	L	E	O	N	Z	T	R	H	N	HOLLY	ANGEL
A	S	R	E	J	O	S	A	S	T	E	R	E	REINDEER	CRIB
N	G	G	C	N	O	H	O	S	P	E	T	C	TINSEL	HOLY
T	N	Y	O	M	T	S	A	H	G	I	J	N	MANGER	NOEL
A	I	B	R	L	Y	M	E	N	T	E	R	I	BABY	MARY
C	K	A	A	S	T	R	A	P	S	A	C	K	JOSEPH	BALTHAZAR
L	A	B	T	S	D	M	R	U	H	T	O	N	JESUS	MELCHIOR
A	B	R	I	G	H	O	S	H	O	L	Y	A	SHEPHERD	CASPAR
U	M	R	O	O	R	E	E	D	N	I	E	R	KINGS	GOLD
S	H	E	N	L	E	S	N	I	T	A	R	F	STAR	FRANKINCENSE
C	R	I	S	D	S	Y	R	A	M	I	N	G	STABLE	MYRRH
													SANTA CLAUS	

