

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

St John, the Evangelist, Bromley Cross, St Columba's, Tonge Moor
and St Brendan's, Harwood

29 November 2020

The First Sunday of Advent



Advent is essentially a time of waiting. One thing we should be aware of is that we must not waste our waiting time, we should use it to prepare for what is coming. Sometimes things move very quickly and before you know it, time is up, and whatever you are waiting for, is there at your door. If you are not ready, whether you have been waiting for years, for days or for hours the result is the same. First there is panic, second you begin to rush and jobs are half done and third all the pleasure, the joy, that you have been waiting for is lost and can never be recovered. Do not be the one who wastes time in the waiting and fails to enjoy the fruits of this holy season.

Today the readings speak to us of the anxieties of a people who are waiting on God. In the Old Testament passage the prophet Isaiah cries to the Lord, "Return, for the sake of your servants" "Oh that you would tear the heavens open and come down", powerful words, for a people in trouble. In his day Isaiah saw a people who had turned away from God, rebelled against his laws, were unclean and hiding from his face. And so, he pleads to God "Return" for he knows God as his Father; he knows that we are clay waiting for the hand of the potter to reshape our lives so that God may return to us.

Paul takes a different stance; he has seen the Risen Lord; he knows that he does not wait in vain. He urges the people to be thankful. to keep going, to be strong and live blameless lives, inspired by the gifts of the Spirit, because God is coming; He is faithful and will keep His word. When Jesus tells His disciples to be on their guard and stay awake, He is speaking also to us, in our day. He speaks to us of a man who has gone away and leaves his servants in charge. No one knows when he will return but his servants must stand ready, waiting for that day. We celebrate the birth of the Christ child every year to remember when He first came among us. We profess faith in His return each time we pray the Creed at Mass. Our preparations each Advent look back at the Lord's birth but also forward to his return in glory. So we too must stay awake, ready for His coming and we should rejoice in the waiting. **David Frank**

Parish Priest: Fr Alfred Rebello

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

Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity - 250037

Diocesan website: www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 2

Divine Office Week 1

Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1.3-8

Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:33-37

Sunday 29 November

10am-11am Private Prayer at both Churches

Monday 30 November

10am-11am Private Prayer (SJ)

Tuesday 1 December

10am-11am Private Prayer (SB)

Wednesday 2 December (subject to approval)

9.30am Mass (SJ)

Thursday 3 December (subject to approval)

9.30am Mass (SB)

Friday 4 December

Churches Closed

Saturday 5 December (subject to approval)

11am Exposition

11.30 Mass (SJ)

Sunday 6 December- Second Sunday of Advent

9.30am Mass (SJ) (subject to approval)

11am Mass (SB)

*Fr Alf writes; - In light of recent Government announcements, it appears that we will be able to celebrate Mass once again (as of next Wednesday) and our first Sunday Mass will be the second Sunday of Advent. We are just awaiting confirmation from the Diocese and **if this is the case we will, again, adopt a booking system for next Sunday.** When Masses were recently prohibited by the government, I did write to our local MP voicing my concerns over our right to worship communally; I have now received similar correspondence from Bishop John and have been asked to circulate his similar concerns. He invites us all to write to our MP about the importance and safety of our places of worship and that churches should remain open for public worship in the event of any future lockdown. Our local MP is Mark Logan email mark.logan.mp@parliament.uk. Bishop John's statement can be found on the back page of this newsletter.*

A number of you have asked about Christmas Masses. As yet, we are unable to inform you of any firm plans. Hopefully, during the next few days, we will receive guidance from the Diocese and we will let you know as soon as possible.

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

We pray for all the sick and housebound in our parish, and other relatives and friends:

Jackie Harte, Moya Fau-Goodwin, Anne Hurst, Margaret Padfield, Anne Killeen, Fred & Joyce Heywood, Emily Martin, Madeleine Evans, Barbara Pearl, Howard McArdle, Terence Gillett, Pat Margiotta, Mary Bagg

Lately Dead: Thomas Dowd, Olga Cole, Thomas Vosper, Bernard Holder, Angela Dease, Colin Oliveira,

Anniversaries: Alan Rebello, Denis O’Kane
May They Rest in Peace

Mass Intentions: Thomas Dowd, Olga Cole & Family, Thomas Vosper, Denis O’Kane

We continue to pray for victims of the Covid-19 virus, and for all those who are still working tirelessly to keep us safe.

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

As we enter Advent we pray for the people of the parish of Our Lady of Grace, Prestwich, for Mgr John Allen, their parish priest, and for Fr Tony Dearman. We pray for their parish primary school and St Monica’s High School, for the Sisters of Our Lady of Sion and for the patients, staff and chaplaincy at Prestwich Hospital. May they wait in hope for the Coming of the Lord.

Offertory

We are always extremely grateful for all you do to help us financially. Donations can be made by posting through the presbytery letter box, by post or alternatively donations can be made through Salford Diocese website, or alternatively by setting up a bank standing order. Again, many thanks for your continued generosity.

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

Prayer Resource - Lord's Day at Home:

Based on the Sunday Scriptures, this resource is particularly aimed at those not able to follow a Mass on the internet. This week's Lord's Day at Home prayer sheet [can be found by clicking here](#)

Walk With Me Booklets & Calendars: Are now available (and free of charge) for you to take to help prepare for the season of Advent.

Diocesan Almanacs: The 2020-21 Almanac is now on sale at the back of each church for £3.50

Memory Awakens Hope



Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, *Seek That Which Is Above*, 1986

“Advent is concerned with that very connection between memory and hope which is so necessary to man. Advent’s intention is to awaken the most profound and basic

emotional memory within us, namely, the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope. The purpose of the Church’s year is continually to rehearse her great history of memories, to awaken the heart’s memory so that it can discern the star of hope... It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope”.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

As we enter Advent, Confession is an ideal way of preparing for the coming of Christ into our hearts, that is, allowing Him to draw us into deeper conversion.

Fr Alf would like to remind everyone you are welcome to have Confession by appointment. Unfortunately, in the current climate, we are asked not to use the confessionals as they will need cleaning after each penitent; but if you call or email the office, or simply ask while in church, Fr Alf will always accommodate.

Diocese of Salford Advent Resources

As you know, this year the Season of Advent will be different. To help parishioners to build Church at Home, the Department for Formation have created a document of resources called *Preparing the Way: Advent at Home*. [You can view the full document by clicking here](#). You can also visit the full document via

<https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/covid-19/advent-at-home/>

Christmas Stamps: Nativity stamps are now on sale at Post Offices. This year’s stamps feature English stained-glass windows. Just ask for “religious stamps”.

Fort Alice Toy Appeal. This year, as you can imagine, will be different and there is an even greater need for children’s gifts. If you are able to donate a newly purchased toy or high street gift vouchers (for older children) they would be most welcome. If you can, please bring along any items to either church before Sunday 13 December when a representative from Fort Alice will come and collect them. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

National Grief Awareness Week 2020

National Grief Awareness Week 2020 (2nd-8th December), is spearheaded by The Good Grief Trust. Throughout the week there are several virtual events taking place across Greater Manchester, Lancashire and the UK. These include an Interfaith Webinar, physical activities such as yoga, music and local Hospice Light a Life Memorial Services. Further details of these can be found at

<https://www.thegoodgrieftrust.org/>

Bishop John will deliver a short message about grief which will be broadcast, via The Good Grief social media channels, on Sunday 6th December. On Tuesday 8th December at 5pm, we will mark a moments silence for those who have died and the bereaved, this will be followed by a special Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral, London. A virtual Interfaith Service will be streamed live from Manchester Cathedral to coincide with this service. At 6pm, key buildings across the UK, Greater Manchester and Lancashire, will be lit up in yellow as a symbol of hope. We are encouraging people to shine a yellow candle/lamp in their homes as a sign of remembrance and hope. For further support in Greater Manchester, please visit - <https://greater-manchester-bereavement-service.org.uk/>

Caritas Diocese of Salford Advent Appeal 2020:

At this time of year, Caritas Salford traditionally begins a winter appeal for donations of food, sleeping bags and other materials. Please visit the Caritas Salford website or use this link

<https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/service-view/advent-appeal-2020/> to watch a short film about how Caritas helped Rochelle, Quinton and Nikki and to make a small donation by debit or credit card if you are able. Please continue to remember in your prayers all the staff, volunteers and beneficiaries of Caritas services this winter. *Thank you.*

Call for Evidence - Faith Engagement

Adviser: England's Faith Engagement Adviser is leading a review into how best the Government should engage with faith groups in England and has launched a call for evidence to gather the thoughts of a variety of people, including people of faith. You can find the link to the Call for Evidence page by [clicking here: www.gov.uk/government/consultations/independent-faith-engagement-review-call-for-evidence](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/independent-faith-engagement-review-call-for-evidence)

This Newsletter is sponsored by

HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

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



One Hope Project Academy - Paid for place at St James and All Souls, Salford

The OHP Academy aims to raise up accomplished, Spirit-filled worshippers in parishes around the country. Whether you are a singer or a musician, we want to help you grow and encourage music teams. One Hope Project have teamed up with Divine Renovation and the parish of St James and All Souls, Salford to provide a paid for place. For more information visit <https://www.onehopeproject.co.uk/ohpacademy>



Destitution Project: Thank you for all donations that have been coming in - they really do make a difference. We continue to collect the usual items: tinned tomatoes, tinned chickpeas/red kidney beans, rice, cooking oil, sardines, tea, coffee, long-life milk, tinned fruit & corned beef, cartons of orange juice etc.

Mark 10 Mission - Children's Liturgy

Resource: Mark 10 Mission create free virtual Gospel liturgies for primary schools. They have just completed filming a second series and in the absence of children's liturgies, they can be used to share the gospel with families. You can find the resources here: <https://www.themark10mission.co.uk/theepisodes>

High Sheriff Young Citizen of the Year

Award: We have been asked by the High Sheriff of Greater Manchester, Eamonn O'Neal, to share the below message. *The exceptional young people of Greater Manchester have demonstrated their commitment to social action, community engagement and philanthropy across the entirety of Greater Manchester. The High Sheriff Awards for Young Citizen 2020 seek to celebrate these achievements and recognise the contributions that young people play in all our lives - fundraising, helping, or caring for people, or being very thoughtful, kind, or brave in some way. Nominations are open to individual young people who live or who carry out their work in Greater Manchester and who are aged between 11-18 years old as of the 31st December 2020.*

[Find out more on the poster here](#)



*Thought For the Week
"Advent is a time
when we journey
towards Jesus and his
Kingdom of justice
and peace"*

Pope Francis

Wednesday

25 November 2020

Diocese of Salford

The Right To Pray Together In A Crisis

Places of worship are essential. Acts of communal worship should be allowed in them in any future Lockdown or tiered system of restrictions.

We recognise that the current national measures are a matter of public health. They are to promote the flourishing, well-being and protection of the population.

We believe that Places of Worship play a positive and fundamental role in this strategy. We provide food-banks and communal support for people who are clinically vulnerable, socially isolated or in any form of need. But we also observe regular acts of worship, according to current guidelines for physical distancing and hygiene. These contribute positively to the mental, spiritual and emotional health of those who take part, whilst not endangering their physical health in any way that can be measured.

Acts of communal worship, especially for people within our communities, are an essential part of our identity. The Freedom and Practice of Religion is recognised, in the UK and across the globe, as a core Human Right. It says so in our Equalities legislation. It cannot simply be put alongside any “right” to shop, to eat out, or to attend a leisure facility, healthy though these are. Places and acts of worship should not be reckoned alongside non-essential shops, gyms or other indoor meeting-places. They are altogether different - and provide people with the energy, hope and inspiration they need to keep going, especially in these dark and challenging times.

The nation’s health is enhanced, not threatened, by acts of religious worship. As the Government plans ahead, we look forward to seeing them included and promoted, not suspended and forbidden. Please respect what they mean and what they are for those who take part in them.

Rt Rev John Arnold

Bishop of Salford