

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

6 December 2020

The Second Sunday of Advent



The world in which we live is changing; social habits which we thought would last forever are now things of the past. Work itself has changed; no longer do we have the Steel, Engineering, and Factory jobs of past years; if we can get employment now it is in service industries and call centres, even the retail trade is suffering with the rise of on-line buying. We are in the middle of the greatest health catastrophe in 500 years. It seems to me that John's voice in the wilderness is echoing through all our homes and has become our voice too.

We live in a modern wilderness where religion is becoming a side issue, a school subject, an echo of times past, no longer relevant. But to us it is relevant it is alive and active, and we cannot understand why others cannot see it. It was the same in John's time, he came to the people of Israel with an important message; "God is coming to his people" he cries; "make straight his paths, prepare his way, repent and be saved". The common people listened; they made their way to the Jordan for a baptism of repentance, they made themselves ready for God to enter their lives. Their time of Advent was upon them and they waited for Him to appear.

These weeks of Advent are precious; if we are to be voices in the wilderness, then it is our time to shout, to prepare, to level out the mountains and valleys. We need to reconcile with each other; to seek those who have lost their way and bring them back into the sheepfold. We must be mindful of the health of those around us and the restrictions on gatherings but Christmas is a time to bring people together, a time, if possible, to invite family, to contact friends, to celebrate the feast that Christ lays before us. John's message touched the hearts of those who listened to him; if we do not repeat that message today then how can we reach those who do not hear the Christmas message. The best present we can give to those we love is simply to awaken them to the joy that God loves them and waits for them to turn back to Him. Let us try to change the wilderness in the hearts of the people around us into a garden of delight through the love of God. Be careful, keep safe, but rejoice, for this time of distress will end, hope will keep us going, and, soon, we will celebrate the gifts that we receive every day from God's rich bounty.

David Frank

Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 2

Divine Office Week 1

Isaiah 40:1-5.9-11; Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8

Sunday 6 December

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

Monday 7 December - St Ambrose

7pm Mass (SJ)

Tuesday 8 December - The Immaculate

Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9.30am Mass (SB)

Wednesday 9 December

9.30am Mass (SJ)

Thursday 10 December

9.30am Mass (SB)

Friday 11 December

Churches Closed

Saturday 12 December

11am Exposition

11.30 Mass (SJ)

Sunday 13 December- Third Sunday of Advent

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB) *(Gaudete Sunday)*

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve

4pm St Brendan's

5pm St John's

5.30pm St Brendan's

7.15pm St John's

Christmas Morning

9.30am St John's

11am St Brendan's

Due to the reduced capacity in our churches we have increased the option of Masses at Christmas, but the Obligation for attending Mass is still lifted. Bishop John invites you to consider attending Mass between Christmas and New Year's Day (The Octave) to help ease the strain on Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning. **If you do wish to attend the Vigil or the Christmas day Mass, it is very important that you book your place through the Parish Office (between the hours of 9am-12noon, Tuesday-Thursday). We would then ask that you collect a ticket either from the Stewards, Fr Alf or the Parish Office. This should then be brought along to the relevant Mass. Thank you for your patience and understanding.**



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: Mary Winstanley, Patrick Michael (Joe) Delaney, Ken Smith, Albert Parker, Josephine Shovelton, Patricia Harper, Thomas Dowd, Olga Cole, Thomas Vosper, Bernard Holder, Angela Dease, Colin Oliveira,

Anniversaries: Ciaran Rafferty, Hilda Healey, Robert Healey, Gerard Dobson, Annie McGrath,

May They Rest in Peace

Mass Intentions: Hilda Healey, Robert Healey, Gerard Dobson, Annie McGrath, Albert Parker, Patrick Michael (Joe) Delaney, Bernard Holder, Josephine Shovelton, Patricia Harper, Mary Winstanley

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

During this second week of Advent we pray for the parish of Our Lady of the Assumption, Middleton, with Canon Tadgh Mullins their parish priest. We pray for their parish primary schools and Cardinal Langley High School, and for the Sisters of Charity of St Paul and the Sisters of the Cross and Passion. May they prepare a way for 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: 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](#)

Diocese of Salford Advent Resources

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/>



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.

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.

Harbour Room Book Club: Members who have been asking about Barbara Pearl may be pleased to know that she is now out of hospital. Barbara has been the Membership Secretary for over ten years and was an enthusiastic member of the Book Club. After her stroke, in the summer, she has spent four months in hospital and is now in recovery. If anyone would like to send her a card of best wishes or for Christmas, please contact the Parish Office for her details. We have missed her very much and send our love. *Book Club*.

CAFOD World Gifts - The True Spirit of Christmas Gifts:

Whether it's giving someone access to facemasks and soap, some emergency food rations for those who cannot go out to work, or enough seeds to grow food for their family, World Gifts has something for everyone. In a time of stark inequality, give someone the chance to improve their lives this Christmas. For all CAFOD world gift ideas, please visit: <https://cafod.org.uk/Give/World-Gifts>

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.

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

National Grief Awareness Week 2020 National Grief Awareness Week 2020 ends on 8 December). 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.*



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>

Thought For the Week

“Always know in your heart that God is by your side. Let us never lose hope!”

Pope Francis



This Newsletter is sponsored by
HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE
 Peel House
 638 Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton.
 BL1 7AL
 01204 309609

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- MESSENGER
- WILDERNESS
- BAPTISM
- REPENTANCE
- CAMELSKIN
- LOCUSTS
- HONEY
- STRAP
- SANDALS
- SPIRIT

(COVID-19)

GUIDELINES FOR PARISHIONERS WHEN ATTENDING HOLY MASS

Before you decide to come to church, please read this guidance carefully. The obligation to attend Holy Mass is suspended at this time of pandemic. If you have any symptoms of coronavirus or have been in contact with someone who has symptoms, please stay at home.

- The church will open approximately 30mins before the scheduled Mass time.
- External doors will be open at all times, so wear suitable clothing in case it's cold.
- You must wear a face covering in church. Please bring your own.
- The toilet is closed at all times, except for emergency use.
- As you enter church, a steward will greet you and ask you to sanitise your hands.
- A steward will direct you to an allocated seat. You cannot choose where to sit.
- Social distancing of 2 meters will be observed. Those living in the same household or sharing the same social bubble may sit together.
- Remain in your place once seated and refrain from talking to others.
- Singing during the Mass is not permitted. Mass sheets and books are not available.
- You are not allowed to enter the sacristy area, nor speak to the priest in the sacristy.
- The stewards will have a basket at the back of church for any offerings you wish to give.
- At Holy Communion, please follow the instructions given by the priest and the directions given by the stewards. Wait in your seat before you are asked to move forward.
- After you have received Holy Communion, you can return to your seat in the pews.
- After Mass has ended, the congregation departs in an orderly and distanced manner.
- Sanitise your hands as you exit. Refrain from talking until you are outside the church.

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