

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

13 December 2020

The Third Sunday of Advent - Gaudete Sunday



Today is Gaudete Sunday, a day of Rejoicing during this Advent season; it is a chance to celebrate the gift that God is giving to us, the joy that is to come; the first two readings reflect the love and compassion of our God in the message they bring.

In the first reading Isaiah prophesies the ministry of Jesus. He speaks of the anointed one, filled with the Spirit of God, and coming to dwell with His people. He is not a King in the usual sense of a great ruler and warrior, instead he speaks of a King who will rule in the hearts of the people. He will bring Good News to the poor and the broken hearted, and justice to those held captive or in prison. By His example, all things will be made new, the land will bloom with good things and integrity will be the watchword of the people.

Paul calls on us to be happy. We should pray to God for all that we need and give thanks for the mercy He has shown us. Paul's message is for us to be faithful to God, to live our lives in a blameless way, with love and compassion, and always be ready for the coming of the Lord. He ends the passage with a prayer which we should hold in our hearts for the words echo the hope and joy of our lives with God.

John's Gospel is full of images as he reaches into our souls and ignites a fire in our inner being. He speaks of a Light, who is Christ, and a man, a man sent to reveal the light, a witness to call to us from the wilderness of sin and despair into a new light, one which banishes fear and makes us new. By contrast, John also speaks of the religious authorities, the representatives of the Law who hold captive the spirit of the Lord in words and gestures. They ask, "by whose authority do you act, Who are you?" John refuses to be named, refuses to be labelled, he is only a witness, and he will be followed by another, whom John, in his humility, is not fit to undo the strap of his sandals.

Jesus came, not to serve, but to serve; in the culture of that time if a visitor was welcomed into a man's house it was the duty of a servant to remove the man's sandals and wash his feet as a gesture of respect. John may be alluding to the image of the servant King who undoes the sandals and washes the feet of those who come to him. **David Frank**

Prayers & Congratulations: This Weekend, seven of our children will be making their First Holy Communion. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

Activities this Week <i>Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 2</i> <i>Divine Office Week 3</i> Isaiah 61:1-2.10-11; Thess 5:16-24; Mark 1:6-8.19-28	
Sunday 13 December	
9.30am Mass (SJ) 11am Mass (SB)	
Monday 14 December - St John of The Cross	
7pm Mass (SJ)	
Tuesday 15 December	
9.30am Mass (SB)	
Wednesday 16 December	
9.30am Mass (SJ)	
Thursday 17 December	
9.30am Mass (SB) 12.30 Private Funeral Service for Tracey McQuillan (SB)	
Friday 18 December	
Churches Closed	
Saturday 19 December	
11am Exposition 11.30 Mass (SJ)	
Sunday 20 December- Fourth Sunday of Advent	
9.30am Mass (SJ) 11am Mass (SB)	
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: Tracey McQuillan, Patrick Coyne, Nathan Coyne, Joseph Cleary, Alan Gadd, Owen Kavanagh, Mary Winstanley, Patrick Michael (Joe) Delaney, Ken Smith, Albert Parker, Josephine Shovelton, Patricia Harper, Olga Cole, Bernard Holder

Anniversaries: Michael McDonagh, May O'Brien,
May They Rest in Peace

Mass Intentions: Michael McDonagh, Patrick Coyne, Nathan Coyne, Alan Gadd, Owen Kavanagh, May O'Brien, In memory of Mark & Norah Maher, Andrew Hayes (Birthday Remembrance)

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 our Advent journey reaches its mid-point we pray for the parish of St Gabriel and the Angels and St John the Baptist, Castleton and Rochdale, with Fr Michael Johonnett, their parish priest, and the Franciscan Missionaries of St Joseph. We pray also for their parish primary schools. May the call of John the Baptist inspire them to serve 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.](#)

A Message from Fr Alf

I hope this finds everybody well and your preparations for Christmas are going to plan.

Due to the fact that we are in difficult times with social distancing and limited use of our Church space, I have, this year, doubled the amount of Christmas Eve Masses. Under Canon Law I am only allowed to celebrate three Masses, and I am grateful to Fr David for lending me his assistant priest, Fr Benneth, who will covering one Mass for us. Please book in for Christmas and Sunday Masses. Christmas Masses will be by ticket only, and please arrive in good time to avoid congregating and queuing in limited spaces. We are grateful for the stewards who have volunteered to allow us to function in these difficult times, they are here for your welfare so please listen to their guidance. **Importantly we are not allowed, as a congregation, to sing in Church.** We expel twenty times more breath through singing and increase the chances of spreading germs.

We must have some outside air coming into church, this may mean that it colder than we wish, as windows/doors must remain open to allow a draft. Again, this is for health and safety reasons to avoid the spread of germs.

With the Apostolic Letter "Patris corde" ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of Saint Joseph" from today, 8 December 2020, to 8 December 2021. Thank you for your support. God Bless, *Fr Alf*.

Last Days of Advent



Pope John Paul II in his address on December 18, 2002 said, "The liturgy of Advent...helps us to understand fully the value and meaning of the mystery of Christmas. It is not just about commemorating the historical event, which occurred some 2,000 years ago. Instead, it is necessary to understand that the whole of our life must be an 'advent,' a vigilant awaiting of the final coming of Christ. To predispose our mind to welcome the Lord who, as we say in the Creed, one day will come to judge the living and the dead, we must learn to recognize him as present in the events of daily life. Therefore, Advent is, so to speak, an intense training that directs us decisively toward him who already came, who will come, and comes continuously.

Christmas Poinsettias: If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia plant, in memory of a loved one, please hand in an envelope with the name of the person/s you would like to remember (along with a donation of a minimum £5) and state which church you would like your memorial to be displayed in. *Please hand in the envelope to the Stewards at Mass. The deadline for your request is Thursday 17 December. Thank you*

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>

Altar Servers Online Retreat - 'Serving God and our neighbour in the everyday': Saturday 27 February 2021 from 10am-12pm (Ages 8-11) and 1pm-3pm (Ages 12-17) - Servers aged 18 and over please email the address below. The day includes a keynote from Bishop John on the ministry of serving during this time and in the future, times of prayer, a recommissioning service and workshops on 'Challenges & Opportunities', 'Prayer - A Friendship with Jesus', and 'Called to Serve'. To register your place or for more information email formation@dioceseofsalford.org.uk An under 18's videoconferencing consent form [must be downloaded from here](#), completed by parents/carers and returned to the above email address. The retreat will take place on Zoom.

Fort Alice Toy Appeal. Thank you for your contributions for this appeal so far. A representative from Fort Alice will come and collect them. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.



Destitution Project: Thank you for all donations that have been coming in, it has been overwhelming. We have now taken our last food parcels, for 2020, down to the Destitution Project. The generosity from parishioners has been received with great thanks. We will resume the collections in the new year. Thanks once again!

Caritas Advent Appeal: Caritas Salford's Advent Appeal - the #MiracleOfKindness, is our first almost entirely non-paper appeal and is the first appeal to our supporters in parishes where Covid-19 has denied them the opportunity to come together physically to pray for us, as well as support our work through their generosity. The appeal has raised £14,000 so far. Our charitable work requires us to raise £2,055* per day in order to provide our existing services. The pandemic and the associated economic hardship meant that we are already seeing people who have never needed us before. We fear there will be many more families and individuals facing significant hardship with a need for Caritas services in the new year. *This excludes the numerous and welcome food donations. It is the cost of skilled and professional support workers to spend 1:1 time with individuals trapped in a cycle of poverty, illness or homelessness, which enables them to fulfil their human potential. If you can, please make a donation this Advent and Christmas. Call Rachel Taylor 0161 817 2285 or visit the website <https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/service-view/advent-appeal-2020/>

Light and Hope: Virtual Interfaith Event: Salford Interfaith Event - Monday 14 December, 6pm - 7pm (via Zoom). Adi Abeles, Former Salford Bnei Akiva Youth Director and currently Youth, Families and Young Adults Director at Shrubberies Synagogue will be saying a few words along with The Bishop of Salford, John Arnold, and Imam Rashid Musa of Salford University Faith Centre. The main part of the meeting will be a dialogue opportunity in breakout rooms then coming back together to look at next steps for taking this work forward in Salford. Paul Dennett, Mayor of Salford, will be joining and giving a vote of thanks at the end. People should book at <https://SalfordFaith.eventbrite.co.uk> and then follow the Zoom registration link they will receive in the confirmation email from eventbrite.

200 Club:

First draw of December Winners are:
£40 F Crompton
£20 D Whyte



Thought For the Week

"Joy is very infectious; therefore, always be full of joy."

St Teresa of Calcutta

(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.

This Newsletter is sponsored by

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