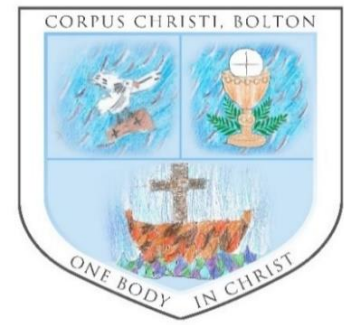


Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

20 December 2020

The Fourth Sunday of Advent



Today is the last Sunday of preparation. Next week our Saviour comes to us as a tiny child held in the arms of our heavenly mother, Mary. And we rejoice, in our family, our friends and in our community, they surround us with such great love. Let us pause, go to that silence that lies within each heart, and give Him praise and thanksgiving, for his wondrous bounty. It is all a matter of faith. We believe because, although we cannot see Him, we can feel His presence in everything and, when we are in need, His love surrounds us and comforts us. The writer of the Book of Samuel tried to explain the mystery of God by speaking of things of the earth; but God's answer lies not in material things, but in the hearts and minds of all those He has created.

Paul tries to win us to his side by reminding us of the sacrifice of Christ; when we are already won and all we need is to believe. Mary and Gabriel meet, and the world waits for her response. I have a feeling that she has waited all her life for this moment which will change our world forever. And she answers- "I am the handmaid of the Lord, let what you have said, be done unto me" Finally, on a day when we give grateful thanks to Mary, our Heavenly Mother, we also give thanks for all mothers:

*Angel voices fill the air and once again, I am there,
in the midst of childhood dreams,
And I hear my mother's voice, and with a full heart I
rejoice,*

*as I am carried, in tumbling streams
Down the years, into that place, where I may glimpse
my mother's face,
and hear once more, that blessed sound
That echoes still. despite the years, through
laughter, heartache, unshed tears,
that voice, once lost, remembered, found.*

Singing has always been part of our Family and Community life and my mother's voice is the one I listen for, in the silence, when my thoughts turn to her. David Frank

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Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity - 250037
Diocesan website: www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Activities this Week
Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 1
Divine Office Week 1
 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-16 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1: 26-38


Sunday 20 December
 9.30am Mass (SJ)
 11am Mass (SB)

Monday 21 December
 No Mass Today

Tuesday 22 December
 9.30am Mass (SB)
 12.45pm Private Requiem Mass for Patrick Coyne (SB)

Wednesday 23 December
 9.30am Mass (SJ)

The Nativity of The Lord



*For unto you is born this day
in the city of David a Saviour,
which is Christ the Lord.
Luke 2:11*

Thursday 24 December

4pm St Brendan's
 5pm St John's
 5.30pm St Brendan's
 7.15pm St John's

Friday 25 December

9.30am St John's
 11am St Brendan's

We would like to say *Thank you to Fr Benneth for celebrating our 5pm Mass.*

Saturday 26 December - St Stephen
 12noon Mass (SJ)

Sunday 27 December - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
 9.30am Mass (SJ)
 11am Mass (SB)

Christmas Masses

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). The 5pm Mass at St John's is now full but there is still some availability at the other Masses. 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: Patrick Coyne, Nathan Coyne, Joseph Cleary, Alan Gadd, Owen Kavanagh,

Anniversaries: Jean Stones, Neville Smith, Anna Mikolajewski, Audrey Healey, Roy Connolly, Pat O'Brien, John Fitzgerald

May They Rest in Peace

Mass Intentions: For a speedy recovery, Albert Parker, Jean Stones, In memory of Margaret Gibson, Patrick Coyne, Nathan Coyne, In memory of Margaret Gibson, Neville Smith, Anna Mikolajewski, Audrey Healey, Roy Connolly, Pat O'Brien, John Fitzgerald

Christmas Remembrance For: Deceased Members of the Whyte & Eastwood families, Living & deceased members of the Carter & Mathen families, Deceased members of the Wheeler & Bell families, John Cranshaw, Sarah Cranshaw, George Cranshaw, Annie Gaskell, Thomas Gaskell, The Hayes & Heyes families, All deceased members of the O'Brien & Fitzgerald families, Deceased members of the McGarry & Leach families

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 Christmas approaches, we pray for the parish of St Joseph, Ramsbottom, for Fr Frank Thorpe, their parish priest, and for their parish primary school. May St Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, inspire them to imitate her faith

Offertory: We are always extremely grateful for all you do to help us financially. Many thanks for your continued generosity. **Cheques: Please make all cheques payable to Corpus Christi. Thank you.**

Memorial Mass - 31st December: On Thursday 31st December, at 2pm, Bishop John will celebrate a Memorial Mass, livestreamed from Salford Cathedral, to remember all of the lives that have been lost this year.

[You can join the livestream on Church Services tv](#)

The Nativity of the Lord

We celebrate this great Feast on Friday, though it begins with our Masses on Thursday 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.

Prayer Resource - Lord's Day at Home: For those still at home, and not able to attend Mass the Liturgy Office has prepared a service called "The Lord's Day at Home", based on the Sunday Scriptures, that you can pray on your own or with your family. It is particularly aimed at those not able to follow a Mass on the internet.

[Fourth Sunday of Advent \(20th December\)](#)

[THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD \(25th December\)](#)

God is with Us - Christmas at Home Resource
The Department for Formation have created a resource pack similar to the Advent at Home resource for the Christmas Season. [A PDF of 'God is with Us - Christmas at Home' can be downloaded by clicking here](#)

BOSCEP Carol Service: Last week a virtual carol service was held at Thornleigh featuring our primary schools. Brother Steven and the chaplaincy team at Thornleigh pass on their thanks to everyone who has contributed - in very difficult days the faces of these children have brought some magic! Here is the link for version 2.0 of the BOSCEP Christmas Service. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/165JAG-2hmPe0B1AtKhvEVb3lGMfcvgCR/view?usp=sharing>

Primary Education Pool: The Diocesan Department for Education's 2021 Newly Qualified Teacher Pool is now open for applications. Advert and further details, along with application form to apply can be found on the diocesan website using the following link: <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/education/vacancies/>

Decarbonisation Project: The Diocese of Salford has started work with academic partners on a 'decarbonisation strategy.' This will involve understanding our carbon footprint and ways to reduce it over the next two years. The team would welcome anyone with expertise in this area in our parish communities to get in touch at decarbonisation@dioceseofsalford.org.uk, so that we are more aware of those that might want to get involved. Thank you.

**Vacancy
Cathedral Volunteer Programme
Coordinator**

Location: The Cathedral Church of St John the Evangelist, Salford, M3 6DP
Working Hours: 35 hours per week, Monday to Friday with flexibility for some weekend or late finish working
Salary: £26,000-£32,000 per annum
Appointment Type: 12 months fixed term

The Diocese of Salford is seeking to recruit a suitability qualified individual to coordinate the Salford Cathedral Volunteer Programme alongside the establishment and development of the Volition Programme (www.volitioncommunity.org). This is an exciting opportunity for a highly organised and motivated team player to grow and develop the Volunteer Programme at Salford Cathedral, working in close partnership with representatives from Volition Community at Manchester Cathedral.

Closing date for applications: 12 noon on Friday 8th January 2021

[View a full advertisement here](#)

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 email address.

200 Club:

Second draw of December Winners are:
 £40 E Connelly
 £20 P Dharmendrechim

Thought For the Week



"The Child Jesus reveals the tenderness of God's immense love surrounding each one of us"

Pope Francis



Thank you to all parishioners who have helped to prepare our churches for the Christmas Season. I would like to thank you for all your cards, gifts and Christmas wishes. I wish all parishioners, and their families, a very happy and Holy Christmas. *Fr Alf*



G	A	B	R	H	E	S	U	O	H	ANGEL	GABRIEL	JOSEPH
A	J	O	S	T	N	O	S	T	A	MARY	REJOICE	SON
B	A	R	R	E	N	N	E	M	N	LORD	JESUS	CHILD
R	C	E	E	R	D	B	D	A	D	ELIZABETH	BARREN	HANDMAID
I	O	C	J	A	A	I	A	Y	M			
E	B	H	O	Z	S	L	V	R	A			
L	N	I	I	A	E	U	I	A	I			
O	S	L	C	N	G	O	S	M	D			
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D	A	V	I	H	P	E	S	O	J			

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(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 metres 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.