

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

27 December 2020

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph



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, 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. Our celebration of this feast 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.

Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 1

Divine Office Week 1

Eccl. 3:2-6,12-14; Col 3:12-21; Luke 2:22-40

Sunday 27 December

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

Monday 28 December - The Holy Innocents

12noon Mass (SJ)

Tuesday 29 December - St Thomas Becket

12noon Mass (SB)

1.30pm Private Funeral for Doreen Hogan
(East Lancs Crematorium)

Wednesday 30 December

12noon Mass (SJ)

Thursday 31 December

11.30am Exposition & Benediction (SB)

12noon Mass (SB)

Friday 1 January 2021 - *Holy Mary Mother of God*

No Mass Today at Corpus Christi

9.30am Mass at both Holy Infants and St Osmund's

Saturday 2 January - St Basil and St Gregory Nazianzen

11am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

11.30am Mass (SJ)

Sunday 3 January

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

Parish Priest: Fr Alfred Rebello

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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: Doreen Hogan, Patsy Fitzgerald, Shamie Durham, Kathleen Houlihan, Patrick Coyne, Nathan Coyne, Joseph Cleary,

Anniversaries: Gladys Finlay, Peter McGowan, Sheila Hayes, Sheila Smith, Oswald Kenyon

May They Rest in Peace

Mass Intentions: Gerard Murphy (Christmas Remembrance), Patsy Fitzgerald, Shamie Durham, Kathleen Houlihan, Peter McGowan, Patrick Coyne, Sheila Hayes (Birthday Remembrance), Sheila Smith, Oswald Kenyon

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

On this Feast of the Holy Family let us pray for the people of the parish of St Margaret Clitherow, Rochdale, and for Fr Francis Wadsworth. We pray for their parish primary school, for St. Cuthbert's High School, and for the patients, staff and chaplaincy at Springhill Hospice. May the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph be the bedrock of their parish life.

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.

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](#)

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 Lord is With Us: For those still at home and not attending 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.

[The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph \(27th December\)](#)

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.

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 Special Christmas Draw Winners:

£70 G Brooks
£35 P Grimes

Holy days of Obligation are currently suspended but there will be an extra evening Mass on the feast of the Epiphany at 6pm at St Brendan's

This Newsletter is sponsored by

HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

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3 January 2021

The Second Week of Christmas



In the East, this Season of Christmas is called the “Time of Manifestation”, or Showing. Today is the ‘Feast of the Manifestation’, or the Showing of the Saviour to the whole world, to all nations. In the wise men, who travelled from the East, we see all the nations other than the people of Israel being welcomed at the New Temple of the New Covenant - the new born child in the manger. A look at the Psalm response shows this: “All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.” The same is true of the key word in the second reading: “Revelation”. Remember that for the people of Israel this was to be their Messiah, come to restore their fortunes. By this feast, we proclaim God’s plan was to extend his salvation to men and women of every nation, of every time and every place - including us. In many ways this is our Christmas Feast, when we celebrate the Good News of the Saviour’s birth revealed at last to us

Activities this Week <i>Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 1</i> <i>Divine Office Week 2</i> Eccl 24:1-12.8-12; Eph 1:3-6.15-18; John 1:1-18
Sunday 3 January 9.30am Mass (SJ) 11am Mass (SB)
Monday 4 January 7pm Mass (SJ)
Tuesday 5 January 9.30am Mass (SB)
Wednesday 6 January - <i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i> 9.30am Mass (SJ) 6pm Mass (SB)
Thursday 7 January 9.30am Mass (SB) 11.45am Private Requiem Mass for Nathan Coyne (SB)
Friday 8 January No Mass Today
Saturday 9 January 11am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (SJ) 11.30am Mass (SJ)
Sunday 10 January - <i>The Baptism of The Lord</i> 9.30am Mass (SJ) 11am Mass (SB)

A Message From Fr Alf

I hope everyone is well and I wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas season and a better (should not be difficult) 2021. I did not think my first year as Parish Priest would be in such trying and unusual circumstances but let’s pray that 2021 will bring a return to normality. (They certainly did not prepare us for a pandemic in seminary- maybe they will add it to the syllabus!). I’m happy to hear some parishioners have already begun their course of anti- Covid inoculations.

Next year should be a great year of celebrations for our parish as St John’s celebrates 60 years and St Brendan’s 50 years respectively- let’s hope we can truly come together as a parish and celebrate these milestones, other than on zoom.

That reminds me that I have not yet been inducted by the Dean - an induction can take place during a mass or privately with the local Dean, I am thinking of the latter. What is an induction? The ceremony of Induction is an occasion when a new Parish Priest is formally presented to the Parish in a liturgical context. The ceremony is so arranged to remind priest and people of their responsibility together before God to serve Christ in His Church. and by their holiness and the example of their lives, individually and as a local community, to promote the mission of the Lord.

I cannot thank enough the kindness of those parishioners who have assisted and volunteered to act as stewards in this difficult year; without their generosity we could not have continued to function as much as we have.

Sadly, there have been many funerals this year, I know this can be such a challenging time for so many people but please be assured that you are in our prayers. Please keep safe, enjoy and God bless you all

Fr Alf