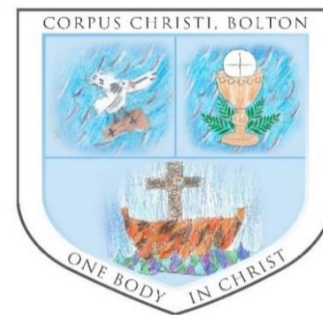


Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

5 December

The Second Sunday of Advent



Today's three readings come from very different traditions and represent different aspects of the Old and New Testament scriptures. The prophet Baruch writes in a very symbolic way about the glorious future of his city Jerusalem, Paul speaks of how prayer builds communities and Luke begins with a history lesson that introduces another prophet John the Baptist. How do we make sense of these readings which seem so diverse; what do they say to us today?

Each of the readings represents an attempt, by the writer, to understand the relationship between their communities and God. Each writer comes to the problem from a very different angle. The prophet Baruch uses the poetic, visionary language we often associate with Isaiah or Jeremiah, he speaks from that tradition which centres the worship of God on the city of Jerusalem and the central theme is of a glorious future for the chosen people. There is a sense here that God will provide. The relationship between God and his people is enshrined in a covenant; however, covenants are not one sided, they require both parties to fulfil their commitments and there is no sense here that the chosen people have met their part of the covenant.

Contrast that with the passage from Paul. The people of Philippi are steadfast in their prayer life and working closely as a community for the growth of the church. Paul is very proud of their achievements; they are a great help to him in his mission of proclaiming the Gospel of Christ. He does not shower them with praise but reminds them that they must keep working for the coming of the kingdom. His words of advice remind us today that the work is never finished; that we too must prepare for the Day of Christ.

John has the task of reconciling these very opposite views. He must take the people of the old covenant and, through a baptism of repentance, prepare them for the new covenant, the everlasting covenant that is Christ. His is the real task of making straight paths, filling in valleys and laying low the mountains of human pride and selfishness. John is an Advent prophet; he appears, does what is necessary, and then fades into the background. His role is also our role, we are called to live our lives in building the kingdom of God, we were not there at the beginning, and we may not see its future, but, through eternal life, we hope to see the completion of the Kingdom, the last glorious Advent. **David Frank**

Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle C; Weekday Cycle 1

Divine Office Week 2

Baruch 5: 1-9; Philippians 1: 4-6. 8-11; Luke 3: 1-6

Roman Missal Page 99; Readings page 106

Preface page 35

Sunday 5 December

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

Monday 6 December

12noon Mass (SJ) - This week only

6.45pm Contemplative Christianity Event (SJ)

Tuesday 7 December - St Ambrose

9.30am Mass (SB)

7.30pm Christian Meditation (SJ)

Wednesday 8 December - The Immaculate

Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9am Exposition & Adoration (SJ)

9.30am Mass (SJ)

Thursday 9 December

9.30am Mass (SB) - with Yr3 in attendance from St Brendan's School

Friday 10 December

No Mass Today

Saturday 11 December

11am Exposition & Adoration with Confession available (from 10.45am)

11.30am Mass (SJ)

5pm Mass (SB)

Sunday 12 December

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

12noon Confession available after Mass (SB)

7pm Brixi Singers Concert (SB)

Confession: Is always available on request, but now, as we prepare for Christmas, Fr Alf will be available on Saturday mornings (before Mass at St John's) and Sunday mornings (after Mass at St Brendan's)

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

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We pray for all the sick and housebound in our parish, and other relatives and friends: Jackie Harte, Moya Fau-Goodwin, Anne Killeen, Fred & Joyce Heywood, Emily Martin, Terence Gillett, Pat Margiotta, Mary Bagg, Vernon Holt, Peter Riley, Frances Skemp, Kathleen Banks, Penelope Booth (poorly infant), Colin Markland, Joan & Edwin Rankin, Philip Anderson, Vincent Hopkinson, Irene Clappison, Jennifer Monk

Lately Dead: Fr Brian Jerstice SDB, Christine Renshaw, Sheila Devlin, Joan Rowland

Anniversaries: Bert Hustwit, Alan Rebello, Ronald Hailwood, Gerard Dobson,

May They Rest in Peace

Mass Intentions: A Special Intention, Philip Anderson, A sick person, Christine Renshaw, Ronald Hailwood, Eileen Gartland (Birthday Remembrance), Mary & Peter Hodgins, Fr Brian Jerstice SDB, Someone critically injured, Sheila Devlin, Claire & James McManigan, Josie & Harry Brennan, Joan Rowland, For a 90th Birthday, Ernest Peacock, Gerard Dobson, Annie & James McGrath, The Conolly & Healey families, Denis O’Kane (Birthday Remembrance), In Remembrance of John & Gladys Hall

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: We pray for the people of the parishes of Our Lady and St Patrick, Walton-le-Dale and St Mary and St John Southworth, Samlesbury, with Fr Philip Nathaniel, their parish priest, and for their parish primary school. May the Immaculate Mother of God protect and guided them.

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 they can be made through Salford Diocese website, or by setting up a bank standing order. Thank you

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

Prayer Resource - For those at home the best resource for Sunday worship at home is through the **Universalis website** (<https://universalis.com/mass.htm>)

Advent

Walk With Me: Booklets and calendars are available to take with you.

CAFOD Prayer Cards: Please do take one of these beautiful cards

Christmas Stamps: When purchasing postage stamps for your Christmas cards, remember to ask for “religious Stamps.” Royal Mail have produced some beautiful new Nativity designs this year so be sure to ask for them at your post office.

First Sacrament of Reconciliation: We pray for all the children who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the week. Let us continue to pray for them as they continue to prepare for their First Communion.

Fr Brian Jerstice SDB - Lately Dead: Fr Brian was the first priest to be ordained from St Columba’s Parish. He attended Thornleigh College after which he followed his Vocation to become a Salesian priest. He trained in Italy and was ordained in Turin in 1958. Subsequently he undertook many and varied roles. In particular he taught at the Salesian school in Farnborough and worked as a missionary in Liberia during the Civil War. He had a great love of Africa and Bolton. Whenever home he returned to St Columba’s Church to say Mass and he visited our schools regaling pupils with tales of his experiences in Africa. He was closely involved with the Thornleigh -Tanzania Sixth Form project. He loved walking across the moors above Thornleigh and was an enthusiastic Bolton Wanderers supporter - to the extent that his teams in Africa were often decked in the Bolton kit! He was truly inspirational and will be sadly missed by all who knew him. May he Rest in Peace

Contemplative Christianity Event: 6 December at St John’s Church. For those who have booked in for the Contemplative Christianity event, the wait is nearly over! Do you know that Donna Worthington and I were planning this event more than 18 months ago! Here is a note from Donna: *Hello All. Thank you for booking on to the Contemplative Christianity Event. Please note that we need to start on time at 6.45pm prompt. The evening finishes at 9.30pm. Hot drinks will be provided. I really hope you find the evening worthwhile. See you there, and a Happy Advent to you. Donna*

The reason that Donna stresses the prompt start is that the first part of the event is a blend of theatre and storytelling and this would be less effective if there are late entries, as I’m sure you would appreciate. After all the delays for this event, I’m really looking forward to it! See you on Monday; rest assured the car park will be open from 6.30pm. *Paul Brennan*

Congratulations: To Aaron and Katie Gandy who were married at St Brendan’s church last weekend. We pray they have a long and happy marriage.

Congratulations: To Olivia Anne Lucas and Dante & Rio Buckley who were baptised recently. We pray that they and their families continue in their journeys of faith.

Synod: As announced in the Bishop's letter (last weekend) Pope Francis has called a Universal Synod which is taking place in every Catholic diocese across the world. The Synod is themed: "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission". We want to hear



from as many people as possible, those involved in the church and those who are not. You can take part by completing an online submission using the QR code or following this link.

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3D3FXJ2. Please share this link with family and friends. We have until 1st March 2022 to make our submissions then, after national and continental gatherings, the Synod of Bishops will gather in Rome in 2023 to reflect on what has been heard. Please remember the Synod in your prayers. Your contribution is invaluable and will make a considerable difference to the future of the Church in our diocese and across the world.

Harbour Room Book Club: The next meeting is at 1pm, Wednesday 15 December and the book under discussion is *Tangerine* by Christine Mangan. All Welcome.

Christmas Flower Demonstration: We will be holding our very popular flower demonstration on Saturday 18 December at St Brendan's Church (1pm-3pm). Tickets (in aid of the SVP) are now on sale after weekend Masses at £5 per person. You may remember that in April 2020, we were planning an Easter demonstration, which had to be cancelled. If you had bought a ticket for this, please let us know, and your Christmas ticket will be free.

Christmas Poinsettias: If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia plant, in memory of a loved one, please hand in a request slip and envelope along with a donation (minimum £5). Please hand in the envelope to the Stewards at Mass. The deadline for your request is Sunday 12 December.

CAFOD: World Gifts Catalogue - Have you thought of buying something different as a Christmas gift this year? Perhaps you might like to buy a Queen Bee or Chirpy Chickens? The new CAFOD catalogue is now available (in each Church) and has some wonderful ideas for Christmas giving.

The Brixi Singers Present
 A Festival of Seasonal Music
 Carols for Choir and Audience
 At St Brendan's Church, Harwood
 On
 Sunday 12 December at 7pm
 Admission £10 on the door
 (Under 18s free)

Christmas Carols with the St Philip Neri Singers and Diocese of Salford Young Adults: An evening of festive music is coming to St Augustine's Roman Catholic Church this December with a special carol concert organised in association with the Diocese of Salford Young Adults. Featuring beautiful performances of some of the best-loved carols from the wonderful St Philip Neri Singers, this festive concert will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies. It will take place at 4pm on Sunday 19 December at St Augustine's Roman Catholic Church, Grosvenor Street, Manchester. All are very welcome to attend. Please contact Fr Michael Deas at michael.deas@dioceseofsalford.org.uk


Thought for the Week
 "In this second week of Advent, we ask for the grace to prepare ourselves with faith to celebrate Christmas."
 Pope Francis

Readers For (11/12 December)		
SB (5pm)	SJ (9.30am)	SB (11am)
A Grundy	M Roe	F Doloroso

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 638 Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton.
 BL1 7AL
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An Advent Examination

Edward Hays, *A Pilgrim's Almanac*



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 heart.

Diocese of Salford Vacancies

Re-advertisement: Parish Development Coordinator (with responsibility for Synod)

Appointment type: Full-time, permanent (35 hours per week. Some evening and weekend work will be required).

Location: Cathedral Centre, 3 Ford Street, Salford, M3 6DP

Salary: £26,000 - £28,000

Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 22nd October

The Diocese of Salford are looking to recruit a suitably qualified individual to play a key role in coordinating the Diocese's Synodal Journey. To achieve this, the post holder will be required to assist the Bishop, clergy and lay-people of the Diocese to discern carefully together what the Spirit is saying to the Church across the diocese and agree on common goals and actions for the coming years.

Chancery & Tribunal Senior Administrator (replacement role):

Appointment type: Permanent, full-time or part-time (35 hours per week full time, or 30 hours per week will also be considered).

Location: Cathedral Centre, 3 Ford Street, Salford, M3 6DP

Salary: £26,000 - £28,000 per annum.

For further information and to apply, please visit www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/vacancies/