

# Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

## 12 December *Gaudete Sunday*



Today is Gaudete Sunday, a day of joy and rejoicing. The Lord is very near, and we need to prepare for His coming. The people of the Old Testament were a people waiting, they were a small nation surrounded by powerful enemies. They were sustained by their faith in the One True God who would bring them their salvation. The prophet Zephaniah proclaims, "Shout for joy...the Lord is in your midst, you have no more evil to fear". So, they waited, not in fear, but in hope for His coming.

Long after Zephaniah, the prophet, was dust in the earth, another takes his place. John, the voice in the wilderness, and the people flock to him hoping their redemption was at hand. When you are a poor impoverished nation, under the grip of a ruthless, tyrannical conqueror what can you offer? what can you do? The gift that God looks for is that of themselves, they must give up their selfish ways and create a world where everything is shared. They must act with fairness, taking only what is their due, they must act with integrity, with sympathy, for those who are poor and rejected. For after John will come another, baptising with the Holy Spirit and fire. and when He comes, they must be ready.

Some years later, Paul writes to the Philippians, he has witnessed the events that followed the Resurrection of Christ. He knows that God has visited His people and that the kingdom of God is very near. The people Paul is speaking to are waiting for the return of their saviour. They must take off the cloak of fear and despair, they must clothe themselves in the joy and hope of Christ. Paul tells them "I want you to be happy". He urges them to live in tolerance and peace, praying constantly for anything they need and in thanksgiving for the gifts that God has given them. With hindsight we know that this time of waiting was not to be measured in months or years, but in centuries, in millennia, and still we wait. We cannot understand the mind of God but, if we wait in joy and hope, His peace will come to us, and then we can truly rejoice. **David Frank**

### Activities this Week

*Sunday Cycle C; Weekday Cycle 1*

*Divine Office Week 3*

*Zephaniah 5:14-18; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18*

*Roman Missal Page 110; Readings page 112*

*Preface age 34*

### Sunday 12 December - The Third Sunday of Advent

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

12noon Confession available after Mass (SB)

7pm Brixton Singers Concert (SB)

### Monday 13 December - *St Lucy*

7pm Mass (SJ)

### Tuesday 14 December - *St John of the Cross*

9.30am Mass (SB)

2pm Christian Meditation (SB)

### Wednesday 15 December

9am Exposition & Adoration (SJ)

9.30am Mass (SJ)

1pm Harbour Room Book Club (SB)

### Thursday 16 December

9.30am Mass (SB)

### Friday 17 December

No Mass Today

### Saturday 18 December - *Toy collection for Fort Alice*

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

11.30am Mass (SJ)

1pm Flower Demonstration (SB)

5pm Mass (SB)

### Sunday 19 December - *Toy collection for Fort Alice*

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

12noon Confession available after 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 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, Dorothy Killoran

**Lately Dead:** Doreen Ward

**Anniversaries:** Peter Coles, May O'Brien, Robert Healey, Hilda Healey, Michael McDonagh, Ann Davies  
**May They Rest in Peace**

**Mass Intentions:** Peter Coles, Doreen Ward & family, For a 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Robert Healey, Hilda Healey, Michael McDonagh, Michael Hollingsworth & Family, Michael & Mary Egan & family, Stanley & Elizabeth Williamson & Family, Kathleen & Stan Williamson (Jnr), Ann Davies, Andrew Hayes (Birthday Remembrance)

**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:** Let us pray for the people of the parish of the English Martyrs, Whalley, and for Fr David Yates, their parish priest. We pray for the staff and students of Oakhill College. May they rejoice in the Lord always.

**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>)



### Last Days of Advent

Pope John Paul II 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 Mass Times

**Christmas Eve**

4.30pm St Brendan's  
6pm St John's

**Christmas Day**

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

**Fortalice Christmas Toy Collection:** As in previous years, we have been asked if parishioners would kindly donate a newly purchased gift or voucher for children at Fortalice. These will be collected at Masses on 18/19 December. Thank you for your continued support.

**Christmas Flower Demonstration:** There are still a small number of tickets left for this event; Saturday 18 December at St Brendan's Church (1pm-3pm). Tickets (in aid of the SVP) are on sale after weekend Masses at £5 per person.

**Christmas Poinsettias:** If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia plant in memory of a loved one, please complete a form (with the stewards) **Please note, this is the last weekend for requests. Thank you.**

The Brixi Singers Present

A Festival of Seasonal Music  
At St Brendan's Church, Harwood

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 (organised in association with the Diocese of Salford Young Adults) will be held at 4pm on Sunday 19 December at St Augustine's Roman Catholic Church, Grosvenor Street Manchester. All welcome! Contact Fr Michael Deas at [michael.deas@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:michael.deas@dioceseofsalford.org.uk)

**ECT Primary Pool 2022:** The Primary Pool is looking for ECT candidates (due to gain Qualified Teacher Status in summer 2022) to recommend for interview to Catholic schools with vacancies for September 2022. You can find out more, and apply, by visiting the Diocese of Salford website at <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/education/vacancies>

### Readers For (18/19 December)

SB (5pm)	SJ (9.30am)	SB (11am)
T Proctor	L Howarth	F Evans

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