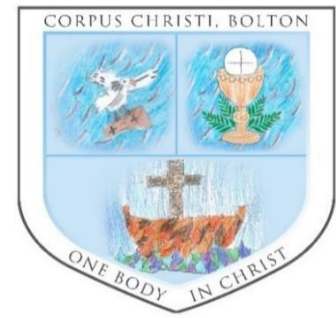


Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

19 December

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Lord, what do you want of me?

*Open my eyes, that I might see
the barriers I place between myself and thee.
Open my ears, that I may hear
your call to me, your message clear.
Open my lips, to sing your glory,
speak your Word, tell your story
Open my arms, that I may hold,
the lonely, the lost, in the dark and the cold.
Open my heart, let my love increase
Make me a channel of your precious peace.*

Mary opened her heart to receive the Christ Child, she did not stop to consider the consequences of her action, she reacted with love and with faith to a God who lived within her very nature.

She took that gift of love, growing within her, and followed her heart, to go to another, to share her joy with her cousin Elizabeth.

Together they faced a future full of mystery, a future in which they would gain a whole world of wonder and majesty but one which would also be of pain and loss.

Their experience is our experience. We follow their path, we share their faith, we live in hope, we give our love.

In life, nothing remains the same; sometimes there are dark days and loss, sometimes happy days and new life. Despite all this, because of this, Love remains.

"God, here I am, I am coming to do your will"

David Frank

Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle C; Weekday Cycle 2

Divine Office Week 4

Micah 5:1-4; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-44

Roman Missal Page 119; Readings page 124

Preface page 35

Sunday 19 December - Toy collection

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

12noon Confession available after Mass (SB)

Monday 20 December

7pm Mass (SJ)

Tuesday 21 December

9.30am Mass (SB)

Wednesday 22 December

9am Exposition & Adoration (SJ)

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Funeral Service for Noel Egan (Overdale)

Thursday 23 December

9.30am Mass (SB)

The Nativity of The Lord



Friday 24 December - Christmas Eve

10.30am Burial of Ashes for Patricia O'Hara
(Tonge Cemetery)

4.30pm Mass (St Brendan's)

6pm Mass (St John's)

Saturday 25 December - Christmas Day

9.30am Mass (St John's)

11am Mass (St Brendan's)

Sunday 26 December - The Holy Family

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

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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Diocesan website: www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk



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, Frank & Pat McDowell

Lately Dead: Michael James McPaig, Noel Egan
Anniversaries: Gladys Finlay, Josephine McDonagh, Audrey Healey, Roy Connelly, Patrick O'Brien, John Fitzgerald, Lois Scott, Norman Scott, Sheila Smith

May They Rest in Peace

Mass Intentions: Josephine McDonagh, Audrey Healey, Roy Connolly, Michael James McPaig, Patrick O'Brien, John Fitzgerald, Lois Scott, Norman Scott

Christmas Masses: Deceased members of the Cambridge, Carter & Atkinson families, Mary & Joe Fitzgerald, Deceased members of the O'Brien & Fitzgerald families, Mark O'Brien, Eileen Gartland, Sheila Smith

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: This week we pray for the people of the parish of St Mary, Bamber Bridge, for Fr Mark Harold, their parish priest, and for Fr Colin Battell. We pray for the sisters of Our Lady of the Missions and for St Catherine's Hospice. We pray for the staff and students of their parish primary school and of St Mary's High School. May the Lord be born in the hearts of all through their life and witness.

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>)



Is combining efforts with the DEC to launch the Afghanistan Crisis Appeal. In Afghanistan, 8 million people are on the brink of famine because of drought, collapsing economy, food shortages, conflict, and COVID. CAFOD is supporting sister Caritas agencies to reach communities most in need with food, clean water, and fuel. During Advent, when we open ourselves to the needs of others, let's do all that we can to save lives. You can donate on the CAFOD website: cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal and please pray for the people of Afghanistan. Should you need any further information please contact your local CAFOD Community Participation Coordinator - Steve or Simon, in the Diocese of Salford

Fortalice Christmas Toy Collection: A representative from Fort Alice will be at our Masses this weekend to collect any toys. Thank you for your continued support.

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 this 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

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>

Car Parking - St John's

You may be aware that last Saturday morning, a parishioner's car was damaged whilst parked on the road outside St John's Church. As we approach our Christmas Masses, please try and use the car parks (as much as possible) and take extra care.

Readers For (26 December)

SJ (9.30am)	SB (11am)
P Barnes	C Ezeogu

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New COVID Guidance for Churches December 2021
(Summarised from the Bishops of England and Wales statement)

General Information

The requirements for NHS Covid passes will not apply to places of worship and the acts of worship associated with them.

Face Coverings - HM Government has made the wearing of face covering mandatory in Places of Worship from Friday 10th December 2021 (see here). However, there will be exemptions for those leading worship, public proclamation of scriptural readings or prayers, and those who are unable to wear face coverings and are exempt

Singing - The current Church guidance states that congregational singing should take place with face coverings in place and choirs and soloists may sing without such coverings. As the Church moves towards Christmas celebrations it is strongly recommended that congregational singing within church buildings continues with the applied face coverings.

Practical Guidance for Churches;

With respect to the current situation with the Omicron variant it is important to ensure the following points are followed in our churches:

- That people displaying any symptoms of covid-19 should stay at home and not travel to church or participate in person.
- That hand sanitiser should still be used
- Face coverings must be worn by those attending public acts of worship unless there is a genuine exemption or the person is leading worship or participating in a role that requires the mask to be removed for a period of time.
- That there is good ventilation throughout the building; Please wrap up well in church!
- There is now very strong evidence to support that the main mode of this variant's viral transmission is through aerosols therefore general church cleaning is sufficient.
- That people who are engaged in a form of pastoral ministry which involves ministry to the housebound, sick and vulnerable, should take regular lateral flow tests to ensure they are safe to do so. These are free from the NHS.

Clarification on the Sunday Obligation

The Bishops' Statement Honouring Sunday reflected the pastoral situation of public worship in the light of the pandemic situation at this time. The Bishops have asked for all Catholics to reflect on their personal circumstances with respect to their attendance at public worship. Questions have been raised regarding the status of the Sunday Obligation. The Code of Canon Law states that "Sunday... is the primordial holy day of obligation" (Can. 1246§1) and "the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass." (Can. 1247)

At the beginning of the pandemic, from Friday 20th March 2020, the Bishops of England and Wales recognised that the participation of the faithful in the Sunday Eucharistic Celebration was prevented due to grave cause because of the inception of the covid-19 pandemic and stated that the Sunday obligation could not be fulfilled due to the inherent danger of the faithful gathering in churches for the Eucharistic celebration. On Monday 23rd March 2020, HM Government mandated the closure of places of worship along with other locations.

The Bishops, now having reflected on the current situation in England and Wales, recognise that the causes and effects of the pandemic are still present to such a degree that the absolute duty for all to freely attend the Sunday Eucharistic Celebration cannot yet be fulfilled.

As such, they have asked that all Catholics now reflect on the centrality of the Eucharist to their own life of faith and take into consideration their personal circumstances and the reasons as to whether they can now attend the Sunday Eucharistic Celebration or otherwise. Should a person feel that grave cause honestly persists in their personal circumstances, there is no sin associated with their non-attendance at Mass, and they are encouraged to devote themselves to prayer at home. This may be achieved either through personal prayer or by participating with a live-streamed celebration of Mass from a Church.

From the letter of

Rev. Canon Christopher Thomas

Christmas Volunteering: Each year the Jewish community in Greater Manchester volunteers to help with events for vulnerable people on Christmas Day. Last year, this changed from transporting people to lunches, to taking them hot meals. This year, volunteers are looking to link up with churches across the festive season (barring Christmas Day, as that falls on the Sabbath) to help with any deliveries or activities that may be taking place. If you know of any activities or projects that may need an extra pair of hands, please contact Jonny Wineberg by emailing jonny@westandtogether.org.uk or call 07930534422

Formation Series: Synodality in the Universal Church with Sr Nathalie Becquart *Wednesday 19 January 2022, 7.30pm Online Event Via Zoom.* Sr Nathalie is the Undersecretary of the Vatican Synod Office coordinating the Universal Synod 2021-2023. As part of our Formation Series on Synodality, we will be hearing from Sr Nathalie sharing her experience of Synodality across the universal Church. There will be chance to ask Sr Nathalie questions at the end. For more information and to register visit www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/synodality-in-the-universal-church/. The Zoom link will be emailed once you register.

Wishing all parishioners, their families and friends a happy and peaceful Christmas time.

With thanks to everyone who has helped prepare our churches for the Christmas Season



God Bless, Fr Alf

H	A	E	L	H	A	D	U	J	A	MARY	JUDAH	ZECHARIAH
E	A	T	O	T	M	B	O	W	D	ELIZABETH	CHILD	LEAPT
L	B	I	M	E	O	Y	J	R	E	WOMB	BLESSED	FRUIT
I	L	U	R	B	M	O	W	A	S	MOTHER	JOY	PROMISE
Z	E	R	O	A	L	A	T	H	S			
A	S	F	E	Z	H	E	R	C	E			
B	E	D	L	I	H	C	O	Y	L			
T	P	A	E	L	O	T	E	A	B			
M	O	T	H	E	R	S	O	Z	L			
D	E	S	I	M	O	R	P	M	E			