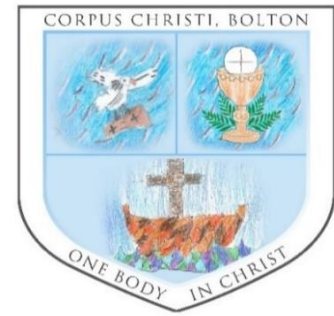


# Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

**27 November 2022**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent**



As Advent begins, the dark nights deepen, the days grow colder, the mornings frosty, we struggle to rise each morning and tiredness, lethargy, drags at our feet and our minds. We begin to shut down, to cabin up for winter and everything seems such an effort. There seems to be nothing to look forward to, just another winter to blight our lives. But, somewhere, a flame is lit, a candle burns, and hope rises in our hearts

Advent is a time of hope, of waiting, a time to prepare, to look forward to the coming feast of Christmas but to the people of Israel, five hundred years before the birth of Jesus, every day was a time of struggle, survival was all that was on the people's minds. So, today, we have the vision of Isaiah, a call to the people of God to shake off their lethargy, to look forward to the days to come when "the Temple of the Lord will tower above the mountains". Isaiah speaks of an oracle who will take authority over all nations, a time when war will be no more, when peace will descend on the land and all peoples will "walk in the light of the Lord".

About fifty years after the birth of Jesus Paul writes to the people of Rome. He has seen the light walking the land and calls on those enlightened by that light to remain steadfast, true to all they believe, for "the night is almost over, it will be daylight soon". He sees that the people of the Way are tired of waiting, they are in their advent of despair, and he calls on them to "arm themselves" to live decently and put on the armour of the Lord.

Jesus is preparing His disciples for the coming persecution of the people of God which will begin after His death on the cross. He speaks to them of the great flood of Noah's day, when all was washed away and only the faithful Noah and his family survived. He warns them to stay awake for they will not know the hour when all this will occur. The Gospels were written almost two thousand years ago, and countless generations have flourished and died but still the love of God continues to bless our lives. We do not know the hour when God calls us to His side, we only know that by keeping His Word we can be among those He has chosen for eternal life. **David Frank**

## Masses & Activities this Week

*Sunday Cycle A; Weekday Cycle 1*  
*Divine Office Week 1*  
*Readings: Page 90*

### Sunday 27 November

9.30am Mass (SJ)  
11am Mass (SB)  
12.15pm Baptism (SB)

### Monday 28 November

9.15am Advent Mass for St Columba's School  
(In School)  
12.30pm Requiem Mass for John Roberts (SJ)

### Tuesday 29 November

9.15am Advent Mass for St Brendan's School  
(SB)  
7.30pm Christian Meditation (SJ)

### Wednesday 30 November - St Andrew

9am Exposition & Adoration (SJ)  
9.30am Mass (SJ) - Followed by Coffee Morning  
1pm Harbour Room Book Club (SB)

### Thursday 1 December

10am Requiem Mass for Frank McDowell (SB)  
6pm Confirmation Programme (St John's  
Patmos Room)

### Friday 2 December

11am Funeral Service for Maria Kaliszczak (SB)  
7pm A Christmas Cantata (St Brendan's)

### Saturday 3 December - St Francis Xavier

11am Exposition & Adoration (SJ)  
11.30am Mass (SJ)  
1pm Flower Demonstration (SB)  
5pm First Mass of 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Yr A (SB) - With  
Children's Liturgy

### Sunday 4 December (2nd Sunday in Advent Yr A)

9.30am Mass (SJ) - With Children's Liturgy  
11am Mass (SB)  
12.15pm Baptism (SB)

#### Parish Contact Details

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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, Fred & Joyce Heywood, Pat Margiotta, Frances Skemp, Kathleen Banks, Edwin Rankin, Philip Anderson, Vincent Hopkinson, Irene Clappison, Dorothy Killoran, Pat McDowell, Richard Crichton, Josephine Ward, Wynn & Michael Latham, Agnes Kirby, Irene Sheridan, Thomas Baker, Kathryn Browning, Rachel Edge, Fr Leo Heakin, Peter Hayler, Frank Vickers, Frederick Parkinson

**Lately Dead:** Frank McDowell, Maria Kaliszczak, John Roberts, Vinnie Roohan

**Anniversaries:** Alan Rebello, Ronald Hailwood  
*May They Rest in Peace*

**Mass Intentions:** In Remembrance of Vincent Rothwell & Magda Rothwell, Kathleen Banks (for a full recovery from illness), Ronald Hailwood, Eileen Gartland (Birthday Remembrance), In thanksgiving for a successful organ transplant, Denis O’Kane (Birthday Remembrance), Vinnie Roohan, Fr Joe Mallon

**During Advent and Christmastide, we pray for:** Migrants and Refugees, Expectant Mothers.  
*We continue to pray for peace and an end to the conflict in Ukraine*

**Hope In The Future:** Let us pray this week for the parish of Our Lady of Dolours, Kersal, and Fr Vincent Coyne, of the Servite Friars, their parish priest. We pray for their parish primary school, St Monica’s High School, the Faithful Companions of Jesus, the Sisters of Nazareth and the residents of Nazareth House, together with their chaplain, Fr Anthony Dearman. May they walk always in the light of the Lord.

**Financial Support:** We are always extremely grateful for all you do to help us financially. Thank you  
**Cheques:** Please make all cheques payable to **Corpus Christi**.

**Standing Order:** Please contact us if you would like to set up a direct payment. *Thank you*

**A Message of Thanks from King Charles**  
Following our Requiem Mass for the passing of Queen Elizabeth; Fr Alf sent a Mass card to King Charles on behalf of our parish. We were pleased to receive his response this week. This has been copied and placed at the back of each church for you to read.

**Christmas Flower Demonstration:** Will be held on Saturday 3 December at St Brendan’s Church (1pm-3pm). Tickets (in aid of Church Funds) are £5 or you can pay on the door. All welcome!

Readers For 3/4 December 2022		
<b>5pm Vigil (SB)</b>	<b>9.30am (SJ)</b>	<b>11am (SB)</b>
J O’Connor	P Barnes	P Brennan

**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 leave the envelope in the basket after Mass. This year the poinsettias are from a different supplier and are a much higher quality.

**Harbour Room Book Club:** The next meeting will be on Wednesday 30 November at 1pm. The book for discussion is *The Children Act* by Ian McEwan. Refreshments available and all welcome!

**Fortalice Christmas Toy Collection:** As in previous years, we have been asked if parishioners would consider donating a newly purchased gift or voucher for children at Fortalice. These will be collected at the following Masses: 11 December (St John’s) and 18 December (St Brendan’s). Thank you for your continued support

**Christmas Dinner On Jesus Hamper Packing:** If you would like to volunteer to help pack hampers on any of the December dates, please call Laura or Jeannette at urban Outreach 01204 385848 or email [admin@urbanoutreach.co.uk](mailto:admin@urbanoutreach.co.uk)

**Christmas Cantata:** The Eden Singers will perform a Christmas Cantata *The Light of the World* on Friday 2 December, 7.30pm, at St Brendan’s Church. Tickets are £5 (or you can pay on the door) and proceeds will be used by the SVP to families in need

**Fair trade Stall:** There will be a stall of fairly traded goods in the Patmos room before and after the 9.30 Mass at St John’s on Sunday 4 December. There will be a small range of hand-crafted gifts made by skilled artisans from communities still suffering the effects of covid as well as global warming.

**Christian Heritage Centre:** Applications are now open for our 2023 *Christian Leadership Formation programme for Sixth Formers*.

The course is offered to students currently in Lower Sixth who are committed to their faith and who wish to pursue public-facing careers. It provides philosophical and theological formation around fundamental themes that underpin the common good, as well as spiritual accompaniment and training in practical skills. It aims to prepare them to become passionate defenders of the faith in the vocation they choose. For Further information, please visit: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/clf/>

This Newsletter is sponsored by

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