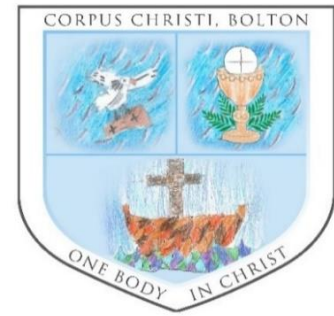


# Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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



## 4 December 2022 Second Sunday in Advent

Baptism is a sign of new life; when the sacrament is given to a baby or young child the parents take on the responsibility of making the sacred vows on the child's behalf but when a grown up is baptised, they speak for themselves. The choice is not easily made; it may seem straight forward for a child but for an adult there has been a long period of contemplation, sometimes painful, sometimes with joy, before a decision is made. It is not made lightly, sacrifices are made, ties are sometimes cut, there are tears of joy and sorrow shed. Baptism washes us with a flood of cleansing water, we die with Christ, we rise with him.

Imagine the scene on the river Jordan, a man came, his name was John, he speaks to the people with great conviction, his words capture the spirit of the times, and many are called to a baptism of repentance. John's call to the people to be reconciled to God is echoed in the Sacrament of Confession. We seek the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the Advent Season so that we can receive the child with a pure heart just as those men and women gathered on the banks of the river Jordan were opening their hearts, cleansing themselves of their sins and turning back to their loving God.

Isaiah speaks of a shoot springing from the stock of Jesse. Jesse was the father of King David from whose line we trace Joseph, the husband of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Jesus is the one on whom the Spirit of the Lord rests. The gifts of the Spirit are set on his shoulders; through the Gospel of Matthew, we will follow in His footsteps over the coming months, He will bring peace and harmony into the world and "stand as a signal to the peoples".

When we hear the Word, we are following in the footsteps of those who have gone before us. The Word brings us hope, the promises made to the patriarchs are fulfilled in Christ. We need to take the gifts of the Spirit, given to us through Christ, and share them with everyone we meet. In this way all humanity will give praise to God and our world can be "united in mind and voice".

*David Frank*

### Masses & Activities this Week

*Sunday Cycle A; Weekday Cycle 1  
Divine Office Week 2  
Readings: Page 99*

#### Sunday 4 December

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

#### Monday 5 December

6pm Mass (SJ)

#### Tuesday 6 December

10am Mass (SB)  
7.30pm Christian Meditation (SB)

#### Wednesday 7 December - *St Ambrose*

9am Exposition & Adoration (SJ)  
9.30am Mass (SJ)

#### Thursday 8 December - *The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

10am Mass (SB)

#### Friday 9 December

No Mass Today

#### Saturday 10 December

10am Mass (SJ) - Please note  
5pm First Mass of 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Yr A (SB) - With Children's Liturgy

#### Sunday 11 December (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent Yr A) - *Gaudete Sunday*

9.30am Mass (SJ) - With Children's Liturgy  
11am Mass (SB)  
First Christmas Toy Collection at St John's Church

#### Parish Contact Details

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Diocesan website: [www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk](http://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, 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, Mary Fitzgerald

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

**May They Rest in Peace**

**Mass Intentions:** Margaret Gibson (In Remembrance), Frank McDowell, For a very ill baby, To the Sacred Heart and Our Lady for prayers answered, Michael Hull, Joyce Hubbard, Betty Barr, Mary Fitzgerald (sick),

**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 for the people of the parish of Our Lady of the Assumption, Middleton, together with Canon Tadhg Mullins, their parish priest. We pray for their parish primary schools, for Cardinal Langley High School, for the Sisters of Charity and the Sisters of the Cross and Passion. May they reveal, by their parish life and mission, that Christ is saviour of all.

**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*

**Congratulations** To Nathaniel Albert Critchley who was baptised last Saturday. We pray that both he and his family continue to grow in faith.

**Gaelic Coffee Morning:** Will be held after the 9.30am Mass on Sunday 18 December at St John's Church. All are welcome for festive treats!

**Parish trip to The Holy Land:** Confirmed dates for our trip to the Holy Land are Monday 6th Nov 2023 - Monday 13th Nov 2023. The organisers need confirmation of people wishing to join the party in order to book hotel rooms. Please could everyone who is committed to this pilgrimage indicate their intention by completing their details on the form which will be available at the entrance of both churches. Booking forms will be ready in the next week and deposits will need to be paid before the end of February.

**World Youth Day 2023:** Joseph Parkinson (Altar Server at St John's Church) is raising funds for young people like him to attend World Youth Day in Lisbon next summer, where young people from around the world will meet together and have a gathering with Pope Francis as well as a pilgrimage to Fatima. Joseph has set up a just giving page (link below) and would be really grateful for any donations you can give. Your generosity is very much appreciated. *Thank you.*

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/josephparkinsonwyd2023>

**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.

**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

**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 this Sunday. 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 Meditation Dates for the New Year (7.30pm-8.30pm):**

- 10 January at St John's
- 17 January at St Brendan's
- 24 January at St John's
- 31 January at St Brendan's

**Christmas Mass Times**

**Christmas Eve**  
5pm St Brendan's  
6.30pm St John's

**Christmas Day**  
9.30am St John's  
11am St Brendan's

**Readers For 10/11 December 2022**

<b>5pm Vigil (SB)</b>	<b>9.30am (SJ)</b>	<b>11am (SB)</b>
A Grundy	J Carroll	C Bridge

This Newsletter is sponsored by  
**HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE**  
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