

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

11 December 2022

Gaudete Sunday



It makes our hearts beat a little faster, it raises our spirits, it makes the day and all its doubts and uncertainties disappear, it fills us with the feeling that nothing else can, its name is Joy. Advent is full of this great gift. If we look carefully, we can see it breaking out all around us. Just look at the children, they are growing more excited each day, look at the old folk they are remembering times past, just step back and take a deep breath, then let yourself dream of what is to come. Christianity is not for those who have no faith in the future, it is about the joy in what is to come, and it is enkindled in our hearts each Advent season.

It was joy that inspired Isaiah to write the words we hear in our first reading. There is no cause for concern in his words. They are full of expectation. He sees all creation crying out with joy for what is to come. The deserts will bloom with the promise of that day, and all will see the glory, the splendour of God. Our wilting spirits will be raised through the promise of the season. Those who suffer will find healing, the blind, the dumb, the lame, the deaf, all will see the mercy of God.

James tries to throw caution on our joy, he is living through the time after the resurrection; he trusts in the prophesy of Isaiah, but he also recognises that all is not well in his world. He calls on the people to be patient. He has seen the seed of Christ sown in the world, but he knows it will need autumn and spring rain to bring forth its harvest. He urges us to live in peace with our neighbours, to wait patiently on the Lord.

John, too, is impatient, cast down into his gloomy dungeon he finds it difficult to see any joy in his situation. He hears the stories of a man, Jesus of Nazareth, who is walking the dusty roads of the land, bringing consolation and healing to the people. These stories gladden his heart, he needs to know more, can this be the promised one of God? Then word filters back, Jesus sends to tell John that Isaiah's prophesy is being fulfilled, the blind see, the lame walk, the dead are raised to life and the Good News is being proclaimed to the poor. In the midst of despair, John finds hope, his spirit is raised, and joy fills his heart giving him, the greatest of men, the strength to endure whatever is to come.

David Frank

Masses & Activities this Week

*Sunday Cycle A; Weekday Cycle 1
Divine Office Week 3
Readings: Page 110*

Sunday 11 December

9.30am Mass (SJ)
11am Mass (SB) - With Confession after Mass

Monday 12 December

5.30pm Confession (SJ)
6pm Mass (SJ)

Tuesday 13 December - St Lucy

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

Wednesday 14 December - St John of the Cross

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

Thursday 15 December

10am Mass (SB)
6pm-6.30pm Confession (SB)

Friday 16 December

No Mass Today

Saturday 17 December

9.30am Adoration & Confession (SJ)
10am Mass (SJ)
4.30pm Confession (SB)
5pm First Mass of 4th Sunday Yr A (SB) - With Children's Liturgy

Sunday 18 December (4th Sunday in Advent Yr A)

9.30am Mass (SJ) - With Children's Liturgy
11am Mass (SB) - With Confession after Mass
Second Christmas Toy Collection at St Brendan's Church

Parish Contact Details

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
Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered
Charity - 250037
Diocesan website: www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk

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HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

Peel House
638 Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton.
BL1 7AL
01204 309609





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, Helen Fraser, Peter Reilly

Lately Dead: Martha Winifred (Win) Dawson, Frank McDowell, Terence Rabbitt, Emily Beatrice Chesterton,

Anniversaries: Herbert Hustwit, Gerard Dobson, Robert Healey, Hilda Healey, Martin Cleary, Ann Davies

May They Rest in Peace

Mass Intentions: Gerard Dobson (10th Anniversary), Robert Healey, Hilda Healey, A Mass of Thanksgiving, Terence Rabbitt, Emily Beatrice Chesterton, Frank McDowell, Ann Davies

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: We pray for the people of the parish of St Peter and St Thomas More, Middleton, for Father Peter Hopkinson, their parish priest, for Father Kevin Tierney and Father Boniface, and for Bishop Terence Brain. We pray for their parish primary schools. May they never lose heart.

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 Lucas Joshua and Oscar Jason McGaughey. We pray that both they and their family continue to grow in faith.

Thank you: Pat McDowell and family wish to thank Fr Alf, Fr McCauley and all those who attended Frank's Requiem Mass. They would also like to thank everyone for cards, Mass Intentions, flowers and kind wishes. A Mass will be said in thanksgiving for you all

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!

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

The SVP: Would like to thank everyone for supporting the recent Coffee Morning and the Christmas Cantata. The Coffee Morning raised £228.40 and the Cantata raised £728 (of which £250 was given to the Eden singers to support one of their own charities).

Flower Demonstration: Thank you to all who came and to all who volunteered their talent, time and help at this event. The amount raised for Church funds was £303.

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. 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>

Harbour Room Book Club: The next meeting will be on Wednesday 14 December at 1pm. The book for discussion is Richard Osman's *The Thursday Murder Club*. Refreshments of the festive kind will be served. *All welcome!*

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.

Christmas Posters: Are available in the back of each church, for you to take to display at home.

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

Parish Trip to the Holy Land: Confirmed dates for our trip to the Holy Land are Monday 6th November-Monday 13th November 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 forms at the back of each church. Booking forms are ready soon and deposits are needed before the end of February.

Readers For 17/18 December 2022

5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
T Proctor	S Copley	M Day