

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

18 December 2022

Fourth Sunday in Advent



As we come to the last week of Advent our thoughts turn, inevitably, to the coming feast of Christmas but the church, in its wisdom, has one more week of preparation before the event. The attention now falls on the human family which is going to be affected by the coming birth, a young family, thrown into uproar by the unexpected events, and struggling to come to terms with what is happening to them.

Isaiah speaks of a sign of God's relationship with His people. He speaks of the patience of God, beset by the cries of a people, living in hope yet impatient for a sign that will show them the extent of God's love for them. Perhaps they were hoping for a message of glory and power, an intervention in their lives that would raise them above all other nations, but instead God's promise is the opposite of their hopes, He promises a child, born of a maiden, a son who is to be called Emmanuel, a sign that God is with us.

Paul was a great believer in people, throughout his ministry he calls on a great number of individuals, male and female, to join him in proclaiming the Good News of Christ. Today we have the beginning of perhaps his greatest epistle, the Letter to the Romans; the stage now moves to the centre of the first century world, to Rome, and the diversity of cultures and beliefs that exist in the city. There are many Christian converts in Rome, drawn from places throughout the empire, divided by their nationality and language but united in their faith in Christ. Paul seeks to unite the people of God so that they can be a sign to the pagans that the love of God is for all people. He calls on them to be saints, united with him in service to God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ.

Matthew's account of the happenings to the families of Mary and Joseph is centered on Joseph, a man of honour, who wants to do what is best in a very awkward situation. He is in a dilemma, he cannot understand what is happening to his beloved Mary, he seeks a way that will do least harm. We know very little about Joseph, but from the scraps of information in the gospels, we can be assured that he was a very devout man, well versed in scripture, ready to do God's will. He sleeps, and, in his dreams, he is visited by an angel of God. This encounter assures him that all that Mary and the scriptures say has come to pass, Mary will have a son, and he will be called Jesus, for he comes, to save his people. *David Frank*

Masses & Activities this Week

*Sunday Cycle A; Weekday Cycle 1
Divine Office Week 4
Readings: Page 119*

Sunday 18 December

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

Monday 19 December

9.15am Mass for St Columba's (In School)

Tuesday 20 December

10am Mass (SB)

Wednesday 21 December

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

Thursday 22 December

9.30am Full School Mass (SJ)

Friday 23 December

No Mass Today

The Nativity of The Lord



Saturday 24 December - Christmas Eve

9.30am Adoration & Confession; 10am Mass (SJ)
5pm Mass (St Brendan's)
6.30pm Mass (St John's)

Sunday 25 December - Christmas Day

9.30am Mass (St John's)
11am Mass (St Brendan's)

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, Mary Fitzgerald, Helen Fraser, Peter Reilly

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

Anniversaries: May O'Brien, Gerard Dobson, James & Annie McGrath

May They Rest in Peace

Mass Intentions: Andrew Hayes (Birthday Remembrance), May O'Brien, Margaret Quayle, Frank McDowell, Mike Whelan, Gerard Dobson, James & Annie McGrath, A Special Intention

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: This week let us pray for the people of the parish of St Vincent de Paul, Norden, for Father James Manock, their parish priest and the Rural Dean, and for their parish primary school. May they know the nearness of God who is Emmanuel.

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*

Newsletter: Next week the newsletter will cover two weeks (due to Christmas holidays). If you have any news items or Mass Intentions for this period, please could they be handed in by Wednesday 21 December. Thank you.

Carols By Candlelight: Salford Cathedral, 250 Chapel St, Salford M3 5LE, Sunday 18 December, 7.30pm. You are warmly invited to Salford Cathedral's annual Carols by Candlelight celebration. The service is a highlight in the Cathedral calendar and brings together all our Cathedral Choirs, including Salford Cathedral's Children's Choir, Girls' Choir and Cambiata Boys' Choir. Amongst familiar readings, there will be some new carols and music as well well-known traditional Christmas Carols with an opportunity for all gathered to join in with some hearty singing. It promises to be a truly uplifting evening and we hope you can join us for mulled wine and mince pies afterwards in the cloister.

Vocations to the Priesthood

It is important to persist in our prayers for Vocations to the Priesthood. If the Church continues to pray for vocations to the priesthood our candidates will gain the grace they need to answer the call to the priesthood. *[Jesus prays to the Father for his disciples:] "I passed your word on to them, and the world hated them, because they belong to the world no more than I belong to the world. I am not asking you to remove them from the world, but to protect them from the Evil One. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world, and for their sake I consecrate myself so that they too may be consecrated in truth. I pray not only for these but also for those who through their teaching will come to believe in me."* John 17:14-19

Welcome to Carmine Rea - a student for the priesthood studying at St Mary's Oscott

When we are discerning and studying at seminary, seminarians always stay in parishes for a few weeks every year to get used to parish life. I remember many good placements during my six years of seminary. It started off with a cold January in the East End of London working in a homeless shelter but then the rest of the placements were dotted around different parishes in our Diocese, all of which were good experiences.

I am delighted to say Carmine, who is in his second year of seminary formation, will be staying with us for three weeks in January, I am sure we will make him very welcome in the Parish and keep him in our prayers. *Fr Alf*

Nb: - On the evening of Friday February 10th we have been asked to host an evening Mass praying for Vocations- all are welcome.

Parish Trip to the Holy Land: Monday 6th November-Monday 13th November 2023. 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 24/25 December

5pm (SB)	6.30pm (SJ)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
L Lamoury	M Roe	L Fakanule	K Denton

This Newsletter is sponsored by
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