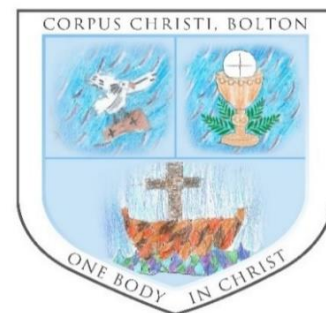


Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

10 December 2023

Second Sunday of Advent



Masses & Activities this Week

*Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 2
Divine Office Week 2; Roman Missal: p 99.
Readings: p103*

Sunday 10 December

9.30am Mass (SJ) - *With Children's Liturgy*
11am Mass (SB)

Monday 11 December

6pm Mass (SJ)

Tuesday 12 December

10am Mass (SB) - With Yr 3
7.30pm Christian Meditation (SJ)

Wednesday 13 December - *St Lucy*

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

Thursday 14 December - *St John of the Cross*

10am Mass (SB)

Friday 15 December

No Mass Today

Saturday 16 December

10.45 Reconciliation, Exposition & Adoration (SJ)
11.30am Mass (SJ)
5pm Vigil Mass (SB) - *With Children's Liturgy*

Sunday 17 December - 3rd Sunday of Advent

9.30am Mass (SJ) - *With Children's Liturgy*
Followed by Gaelic Coffee (with raffle for the
SVP) tickets now available.
11am Mass (SB)

Today's readings speak of a time of preparation. A time to take stock of how we are living these precious lives of ours and how we can be ready, be awake, for His coming into our hearts.

The people of Isaiah's time had grown tired of waiting for the Messiah and turned away from God into a life of sin. They had lived, as a nation, through a time of great upheaval, of slavery in a foreign land and now they were home again but still not at peace with God. Isaiah calls to them to prepare for the coming of the Lord. To level the valleys, to pull down the mountains, to make a way, through the wilderness of their lives, for the messenger of God. But this will not be a God of war, a God of conquest over all nations, this will be the Shepherd King, gathering the people together, holding them close, and leading them in peace to their eternal home.

Peter calls for patience, the Lord will come in His own time. We must be ready for His coming by living our lives without spot or stain, our hearts, havens of peace for the coming of our God.

Peace was far from the world of the evangelist Mark. He had seen the Christian community in Rome torn apart by betrayal of one another under the tyranny of Nero. In a noble attempt to heal and restore the communities he writes His Gospel, reminding them of the life and sacrifice of Christ and hoping to begin again the building of the church of God. Mark reminds his listeners that Isaiah's vision was made possible by the mission of John the Baptist, a strange figure, coming out of the wilderness and calling the people to a Baptism of repentance from their sins and announcing the arrival of "Someone" who would come after him, clothed with great power, one who would baptise the people, not with water, but with the Holy Spirit.

Advent never stands still; it rushes through the days not waiting for the unprepared. We are given this time to prepare, to make our hearts open, ready to hold the love of God and share it with all mankind. Do not delay, if you need to change do it now, for the time of the Lord is almost upon us.

David Frank

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

This Newsletter is sponsored by

HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

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



www.hfs.co.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, Edwin Rankin, Philip Anderson, Vincent Hopkinson, Irene Clappison, Dorothy Killoran, Pat McDowell, Richard Crichton, Michael Latham, Irene Sheridan, Thomas Baker, Kathryn Browning, Rachel Edge, Fr Leo Heakin, Frank Vickers, Frederick Parkinson, Eileen Fitzgerald, Helen Fraser, Peter Reilly, Terry Scott, Michael O'Connor, Joyce Strickleton, Christine Gardner, Margaret Doreen Kay, Tony Martin, Annie O'Brien, Joan Turner, Dr Allan Needham

Lately Dead: Dennis Joyce, Franca Alaimo, Edna Baker, Ken Goodwin, Dexson & Petrus Sarmiento, Margaret Roscoe, Mary Cummings

Anniversaries: Herbert Hustwit, Hilda Healey

Mass Intentions: Dennis Joyce, Andrew Hayes (Birthday Remembrance), Edna Baker, The Banks Family, Franca Alaimo, Hilda Healey, A Special Intention, Margaret Roscoe

During Advent and Christmastide, we are asked to pray for these intentions: Migrants and Refugees, Expectant Mothers.

We pray for healing, a peaceful solution and restoration to the conflict in Gaza and Israel.

We continue to pray for peace and an end to the conflict in Ukraine.

This week we pray for the people of the parish of the Holy Spirit, East Manchester, with Fr Matthias Odaudu, CSsP, and the Spiritan fathers. We pray for their parish primary schools and for all assisted by the Mary and Joseph Home.

Offertory: We are always extremely grateful for all you do to help us financially.

Cheques: Please make all cheques payable to *Corpus Christi*. Thank you

Congratulation: To George Alexander Chapman (baptised on 26 November) and Cole Mody who was baptised last weekend. We pray that both they and their families continue to grow in faith.

Harbour Room Book Club: The next meeting will be on Wednesday 13 December at 1pm. The subject for discussion is literature which has influenced our reading in childhood such as favourite books and stories. This is a free discussion in which everyone contributes a memory. There will be Christmas refreshments, and all are welcome.

Fortalice Christmas Toy Collection: As in previous years, we have been asked if parishioners would kindly donate a newly purchased gift or voucher for children at Fortalice. These will be collected at Masses on 16/17 December. Thank you.

Christmas Poinsettias: This weekend is the last for submitting a poinsettia memorial request. Forms are still available at each church.

Churches in Harwood (Christmas Dinner on Jesus): Thank you to everyone for helping us collect the jars of cranberry sauce - we exceeded our target, and they are now in the safe hands of Urban Outreach!

Coffee Morning (SJ): Thank you to everyone who came along to our coffee morning on Wednesday 29 November. The amount raised was £140.65 and is in aid of the Senior's Christmas Dinner at Thornleigh.

Fair Trade Stall: The last fair-trade stall of the year will be on Sunday 10 December before and after the 9.30am Mass. There will be a small range of fairly traded Christmas gifts which support people in the developing world.

Churches in Harwood: Are carol singing at the White Horse, Harwood on Friday 15 December at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to join in.

Christmas Masses

Please see below the Masses for Christmas. As you can appreciate, as Christmas Eve falls this year on a Sunday, there is still the Sunday obligation for Mass on the 4th Sunday of Advent.

4th Sunday of Advent	5pm (Vigil) - St Brendan's 9.30am - St John's 11am - St Brendan's
Christmas Eve	4pm - St Brendan's 6pm - St John's
Christmas Day	9.30am - (St John's) 11am - (St Brendan's)

ECT Primary Pool 2024: Are you looking for a career in teaching? Do you know someone who is training for a career in primary education? ECT (Early Career Teachers) due to gain Qualified Teacher Status in Summer 2024 are being invited to apply for recommendation for interview to Catholic schools with vacancies for September 2024. Email education@dioceseofsalford.org.uk to find out more and apply.

2025 "Pilgrims of Hope" Jubilee: This Advent, Pope Francis invites people across the world to embark on a Year of Prayer in preparation for the 2025 "Pilgrims of Hope" Jubilee. Over the coming weeks and months, the Diocese of Salford will be sharing a range of resources and ideas to help us journey together through this Year of Prayer. Head to <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/jubilee-2025/> to find out more.

Almanacs: Are now available at £3.50

Readers For 16/17 December 2023		
5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
T Proctor	H O'Donnell	C Grundy
Eucharistic Minister's 9.30am (SJ)		
A Gracie, M Cropper		