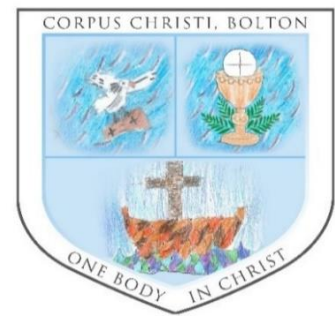


Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

24 December 2023

4th Sunday of Advent



We begin and end the fourth week of Advent today and enter the Christmas Season. If you have listened and taken note of the Advent message then you are awake, you have prepared well with prayer and patience, with laughter and, for some, tears. Now we are on the verge of the great feast of the Nativity of the Lord and He will soon be with us in the little child of Bethlehem.

There is a great contrast in our first reading, it speaks of building a great temple to God, a place for Him to dwell, yet, very soon, our God will come not to a palace but to a stable, not to wealthy parents but to a poor couple, homeless and needing shelter. God's ways are not our ways, His dwelling place on this earth is in our hearts not in some building. As Samuel reminds us, the house of David is a living family and from his descendants will come Christ.

As last week, we once again have the final words of one of Paul's letters, this time to the Romans. It is a reminder to us that Advent is a time to look forward as well as backwards, to a future coming of Christ in His glory. Paul speaks of the missionary work of the Church, of going out and broadcasting the Good News to all God's creation. This is our responsibility, the test of our faith, "part of the way the eternal God wants things to be."

The Annunciation to Mary is a pivotal moment in God's plan for Humanity. We know very little about Mary, many things have been speculated about this extraordinary woman. We believe that she was chosen from conception to be the mother of the Son of God, but we are also aware that, as a human, she is free to choose her own way. As Gabriel finishes his message the whole of creation in essence holds their breath. Her reply "I am the handmaid of the Lord, let what you have said be done to me" changes history forever and now we can rejoice and be thankful. *David Frank*

*Wishing all Parishioners, their families and friends a very Happy and Holy Christmas.
With best wishes, Fr Alf.*

Masses & Activities this Week

*Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 2
Divine Office Week 4; Roman Missal: p 119.
Readings: p122*

Sunday 24 December

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)



Christmas Masses - The Nativity of The Lord:

4pm Christmas Eve Mass (SB)

6pm Christmas Eve Mass (SJ)

Monday 25 December

9.30am Christmas Day Mass (SJ)

11am Christmas Day Mass (SB)

Tuesday 26 December - St Stephen

10am Mass (SB)

Wednesday 27 December - St John the Evangelist

10am Mass (SJ)

Thursday 28 December - The Holy Innocents

10am Mass (SB)

Friday 29 December - St Thomas of Canterbury

10am Mass (SJ)

Saturday 30 December

No Morning Mass

5pm Vigil Mass (SB)

Sunday 31 December - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

Parish Contact Details

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HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

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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, 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: Eric Hunt, Mary Cummings, Adam Swift, Trinidad Nabalitan, Bethovan Canete, Theresa Murphy
Anniversaries: Gladys Finlay, Roy Shepherd, Anna Mikolajewski, Peter Walker, Kathleen Banks, Eileen Mason, Jose Nilas, Peter McGowan, Sheila Hayes, Oswald Kenyon

Christmas Mass Intentions: Mr & Mrs Ambrose Royle & deceased members of the Royle family, Mr & Mrs Michael Swift & family and deceased members, A special Intention, Neville Smith, Frank McDowell, Cryer & McDowell families, The Grimes family (Ireland), Barbara Grimes, The Dawson family, Mark & Norah Maher, The Cambridge, Carter, Atkinson & Lynch families, Mary & Joe Fitzgerald, Deceased Members of the O'Brien & Fitzgerald families, Rose & Vincent Heron, Elizabeth Kerlin, The Barrett Family, The Carey Family, Margaret Gibson, Jessie Carter

Mass Intentions: Anna Mikolajewski, Roy Shepherd, Peter Walker, Kathleen Banks (1st Anniversary), Eileen Mason, Theresa Murphy, Peter McGowan (5th Anniversary), Adam Swift, Trinidad Nabalitan, Bethoven Canete, Jose Nillas, Mary Cummings, Sheila Heys, Oswald Kenyon, Cecillia Whittle

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.

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

Parish Trip to Lourdes 2024: Much interest has been expressed by parishioners to arrange a Parish visit to Lourdes. Proposed dates are Monday 21st of October until Friday 25th of October 2024. Cost per person £650.00 sharing and £780.00 for a single room. £25 per person discount if booked before 31st of January. Accommodation will be in a 4* hotel full board. I have checked the reviews of four suggested hotels, one outshines the other three. For more information and expressions of interest in joining the group, please contact the Parish office or contact me on 07528 027295. *Ann*

31 December 2023

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph



Masses & Activities this Week

*Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 2
Divine Office Week 1; Roman Missal: p 143.*

Sunday 31 December

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

Monday 1 January 2024 - Holy Mary, Mother of God

11.30am Mass (SJ)

Tuesday 2 January - St Basil the Great

10am Mass (SB)

Wednesday 3 January

9am Exposition & Adoration (SJ)

9.30am Mass (SJ)

Thursday 4 January

10am Requiem Mass for Eric Hunt (SB)

Friday 5 January

No Mass Today

Saturday 6 January

10.45am Exposition, Adoration & Reconciliation (SB)

11.30am Mass (SB)

5pm Vigil Mass (SB)

Sunday 7 January - The Epiphany of the Lord

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

A Very Big Thank You: The SVP would like to express their sincere thanks to all parishioners for their support over the last year; your generosity has been overwhelming. We have managed to consistently support the Destitution Project with your food items, we recently raised £462.95 from our Gaelic Coffee morning, hamper raffle donations gratefully received over the last two weeks. Finally, with the money raised from the sponsored walk and other donations, we have been able to support 20 families with 44 children this Christmas. Without your continued support this would not have been possible. Thank you once again.

200 Club Winners:

November	December
£50 M Parkinson	£100 K Carolan
£25 P Molyneux	£80 C Owen
£15 C Molyneux	£60 Fisher
	£40 L Fielding

Readers For 30/31 December 2023

5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
J O'Connor	P Barnes	C Bridge
Readers for Christmas Masses 6/7 Jan 2023		
T Proctor	J Carroll	M Day
Eucharistic Minister's 9.30am (SJ) 31 Dec		
M Speed & J O'Connor		