DIOCESE OF SALFORD

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

17 November 2024

Thirty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time





As we near the end of the Church's year the theme of the scripture passages changes and the vision of the "end times" comes into focus. We are now moving into the depths of winter, the nights are darker, the weather unpredictable and, in nature, death and decay are all around us. It is very difficult to see any promise of hope in the world in which we live. Yet we are a people of hope; a people who are at their best when times are tough, and we are beset by problems and challenges. It is a sign of hope that from the ruins of the closing year we can see a way forward to a brighter future and the symbol of that hope is the coming season of Advent.

The readings appear to be, on first sight, as gloomy as the weather; Daniel has the Archangel Michael coming to us in a time of great distress, the Gospel speaks of darkness and of stars falling from the sky. However, if we look beyond the fear, we can just glimpse the light of a new spring in our lives. Michael stands up; the great warrior angel comes to our aid. It is he who will be our guard and protector through the period of darkness and uncertainty. All those whose names are written in the Book will be spared, the righteous, the believers, the ones who show love and compassion, they will be numbered in the saved. Many of those who have died will come to eternal life; we will shine brightly as the stars in heaven, this is not a story of despair but bright shining hope.

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus echoes that theme of hope and of new life. He warns us that times may be hard, that life will throw its challenges at us. but we know that, if we are faithful to Him, we will not come to harm. He speaks of sending his angels to gather his people from the ends of the world to the ends of heaven. He uses the symbol of the Fig Tree to remind us that new life blossoms on the tree when summer is approaching; that hope in the future is not false, that the pain and suffering of this world will pass away to be replaced by a new heaven and a new earth. **David Frank**

Masses & Activities this Week		
Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 2		
Divine Office Week 1		
Roman Missal: p504; Readings: p508		
Sunday 17 November		
9.30am Mass (SJ) - With Children's Liturgy		
11am Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy		
1pm Baptism (SB)		
We Welcome Fr Andrew Batare from the African		
Missions who will celebrate Masses this weekend		
Monday 18 November		
No Mass Today		
Tuesday 19 November		
10am Mass (SB Harbour Room)		
7.30pm Christian Meditation (SB)		
Wednesday 20 November- The Presentation of the		
Blessed Virgin Mary		
10am Mass (SB Harbour Room)		
Thursday 21 November - St Cecilia		
10am Mass (SB Harbour Room)		
Friday 22 November		
12noon Mass (SB Harbour Room)		
Saturday 23 November		
11.30am Mass (SJ)		
5pm Vigil Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy		
Sunday 24 November - Our Lord Jesus Christ,		
Universal King		
9.30am Mass (SJ) - With Children's Liturgy		
11am Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy		
3pm Benediction & Afternoon Tea (SJ)		

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In Our Thoughts

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, Pat McDowell, Richard Crichton, Michael Latham, Kathryn Browning, Frank Vickers, Frederick Parkinson, Eileen Fitzgerald, Peter Reilly, Terry Scott, Joyce Strickleton, Margaret Doreen Kay, Tony Martin, Annie O'Brien, Dr Allan Needham, Margaret Roberts, Margaret O'Brien, Kevin Knowles, Peter McGawley, Pat Howarth, Bernard Earp, Arnold Banks

Lately Dead: John Marshall (Funeral 10.30am 27.11.24 SJ), Mary Mariner (Funeral 10am 25.11.24, SB), Peter Cole

Anniversaries: Frank McDowell, Bernard Ramsden, Bill Wheeler

Mass Intentions: Frank McDowell, Rinaldo Villa (Birthday remembrance), Bernard Earp (80th Birthday Celebrations), Peter Cole, Bill Wheeler, Mary Mariner, Bernard Ramsden

We are asked to pray for these intentions: Students & teachers, the spread of the Gospel, the harvest, the fruits of human work, the reverent use of creation, justice & peace in the world, all victims of war, young people, prisoners & their families.

Let us continue to pray for those devasted by the recent floods in Spain.

We pray for healing, a peaceful solution and restoration in the Middle East.

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. Our Parish only survives on your kind donations - but if you are a UK taxpayer, please consider gift-aiding your donation as we can claim 25p from the Government for every £1 that a taxpayer donates. Please contact the Parish Office for more information. *Thank you*.

Dona: We can now accept cashless payments, using our contactless system.

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

Christmas Poinsettia Memorials: As in previous years, if you would like to sponsor a poinsettia plant, in memory of a loved one, please take a request slip, card & envelope and place, with a donation (minimum £5), in the basket provided. The deadline for your request is Sunday 8 December. Thank you.

We welcome Fr Andrew Batare: Every year our Diocese adopts a mission appeal to support. This year it is the SMA Missionaries, we welcome Fr Andrew who will celebrate our Masses this weekend There will be a second collection to support their mission.

Synod Meeting 4: The final meeting for stage 4 will be held at St Brendan's on Friday 13 December at 12.45pm not Thursday 12th December as originally stated. The summaries will be made available in due course.

Urban Outreach - Christmas Dinner On Jesus: We are collecting items for the *Christmas Dinner on Jesus* appeal. Like last year, we aim to collect 200 jars of Cranberry Sauce (200g size) by the first Sunday in December (1/12/24). Thank you, as always, for your support.

Reflections from Lourdes 2024

It took a great deal of thought and even more courage to book a place on my own on this year's pilgrimage to Lourdes. But from the moment we met in the car park I was made to feel so welcome and cared for by everyone in the group, creating lifelong friendships. I didn't know what to expect but Lourdes is a very special place: beautiful buildings, prayerful services and a great sense of peace and community. We shared many services and tours together but there was also time for private prayer and reflection. One of the highlights for me was the Mass celebrated for our group by Fr Alf and Fr David in the small chapel in the City of the Poor - an amazing place of peace and tranquility with panoramic views of Lourdes. Later that evening we took part in the torchlight procession - the raising of the torches when hundreds of people sang 'Ave, Maria' united in faith was such an emotional moment. Shared mealtimes led to more opportunities to chat with each other, and we had lots of fun and laughter relaxing in the bar after dinner! A fellow 'new' pilgrim encapsulated the whole experience in this sentence:

"When we first arrived, the dark, rainy night and the candle glow from the Grotto created a special atmosphere that never really went away."

"Our first time in Lourdes but immediately we experienced a sense of peace, familiarity and belonging in this place the Heaven came down to Earth."

More reflections from people who experienced for the first time will be made available for you to read in both the Patmos Room and Harbour Room very soon. We hope they will whet your appetite for Lourdes!

Christmas Flower Demonstration: Saturday 7 December (1pm-3pm) in St John's Patmos Room. Tickets (In aid of the SVP) are on sale after weekend Masses at £5 per person.

Newsletter: Next week, the newsletter will be a two-week edition. Please could any items of news and Mass Intentions be handed in before Wednesday 20 November. *Thank you*

Readers for 23/24 November 2024			
5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)	
G Drabble	N Bunting	C Ezeogu	
Eucharistic Minister's 9.30am (SJ) 24 November			
V & A Rawlinson			