

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

8 December 2024

Second Sunday of Advent



There is something about the night sky that speaks to me of creation. I cannot look up into the stars, those thousands of tiny dots, without thanking God. It is as if He communicates with me through His creation, his universe, without the need for words, and I can only gaze in wonder.

Communication is a basic human need, we are a people who need community, we cannot truly exist alone. We need someone to talk to, to share our hopes, our dreams, our lives. So, it is understandable that, when we turn to God, we begin with words. Words, however, have their limitations, they are only pale reflections of our true feelings. When Paul writes "Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy" he expresses something beyond the words; the emotion he feels transcends the message. He does not have to say "I love you" the very use of the word, joy, conveys that love.

Prayers are words that we use to convey a message that another can understand. There are many powerful prayers that express our emotions, our thoughts, our concerns, However, there are times when words cannot express how we feel. Sometimes we need to sit in silence and set our thoughts free and rely on the Spirit who speaks for us in our time of need.

Baruch is so overcome by the prospect of returning to Jerusalem, after many years of exile, that he is moved to write all that pain, joy and emotion into our first reading. Paul loves those who he has brought to Christ so much that they are always in his prayers. John, filled with the Spirit, gains the courage to begin making a way in the wilderness, tearing down the mountains of doubt, levelling the valleys of despair, creating a new road of mercy and forgiveness for the Messiah who is to come.

Advent should fill us with anticipation. It must renew us, refresh our minds, stretch our legs, prepare us for our journey with Jesus through the wilderness of life to a place of peace, of hope, of joy. Our prayer this Advent is that we are set free from the chains we create in our lives and stand ready for the challenges ahead filled with confidence that we journey with our loving God.

David Frank

Masses & Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle C

Sunday 8 December

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



Monday 9 December - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

12noon Mass (SJ)

Tuesday 10 December

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

Wednesday 11 December

9am Adoration (SJ)
9.30am Mass (SJ) followed by SVP Coffee Morning

Thursday 12 December

10am Mass (SB Harbour Room)

Friday 13 December - St Lucy

12noon Mass (SB Harbour Room)
12.45pm Synod Meeting 4 (SB)

Saturday 14 December - St John of the Cross

10.45am Confession & Adoration (SJ)
11.30am Mass (SJ)
5pm Vigil Mass for Sunday (SB) - With Children's Liturgy

Sunday 15 December - *Gaudete Sunday*

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

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

Lately Dead: Mary Kelly, Stephen Murray, Gerard Holden, Iris Martin (Requiem 10am 16.12.24 St John's) Cyril Wilkins, Rev David Schofield

Anniversaries: Herbert Hustwit, Robert Healey, Hilda Healey, Adam Swift, Gerard Dobson, Annie McGrath

Mass Intentions: Mary Kelly, Stephen Murray, Gerard Holden, Iris Martin, Cyril Wilkins, Rev David Schofield, Andrew Hayes (Birthday Remembrance), Herbert Hustwit, Robert Healey, Hilda Healey, Adam Swift, Gerard Dobson, Annie McGrath

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.

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

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 15/22 December. Thank you.

Synod Meeting 4: The meeting for stage 4 will be held at St Brendan's on Friday 13 December at 12.45pm. The summaries are now available.

50th Anniversary: The Church of St Brendan's celebrates 50 years in April next year. Bishop John has kindly offered to celebrate Mass at 7pm on 1st May 2025 to mark this occasion. More details will be available nearer the time

200 Club Winners - November

First Prize (£50) A Murphy
 Second Prize (£25) M Lloyd
 Third Prize (£15) M Speed

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve

4.30pm (SB)

6.30pm (SJ)

Christmas Day

9.30am (SJ) and 11am (SB)

Health & Safety - Parish Ice & Snow Policy & Precautions:

For years, the parish has relied on a few older parishioners and Fr Alf to clear snow and ice at our churches. This is not a safe or sustainable arrangement. In January 2024 we appealed for fit & healthy volunteers to help clear ice & snow at short notice. We are grateful for the two people who volunteered, one at each church, but we need more volunteers. If you can help, please let Fr Alf or the parish office have your name and mobile number. Parishioners are reminded of the need to take care of their personal safety at all times to avoid the risk of slips, trips and falls. During icy and snowy conditions extra care must be taken. Please do not put yourself at risk. Our church car parks should be regarded as closed when icy & snowy conditions prevail. Subject to recruiting volunteers, the parish will endeavour to clear a single pathway and apply grit salt to enable pedestrian access from the public highway to the front entrance of our churches.

Other News From Around the Diocese

In the Footsteps of Mary: An Advent Prayer Walk

Join the Diocese of Salford's Laudato Si' Centre team this December for a reflective prayer walk around the Centre's beautiful woodland. This self-guided trail invites us to focus on Mary's journey to Bethlehem and the example she sets us as we continue our own spiritual journey in this season of Advent. A number of sessions will be taking place on Wednesday 18 December. Find out more at <https://laudatosicentre.org.uk/events/advent-retreat/>

Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee in our Diocese

Pope Francis has declared that the year 2025 will be a Holy Year of Jubilee for the Catholic Church, an event that takes place once every 25 years and offers the faithful an opportunity to renew their relationship with God, each other, and all of creation. Over the coming months, there will be plenty of opportunities for you to observe this special year of grace in our own diocese. To find out more about the Jubilee and how to get involved, please visit

<https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/jubilee-2025/>

Readers for 14/15 December 2024		
5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
A Grundy	G Drabble	C Owen
Eucharistic Minister's 9.30am (SJ) 15 December P McArdle & J Summerton		