

# Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

**15 December 2024**

**Gaudete Sunday – Third Sunday of Advent**



Today we celebrate God's gift of Joy. In our broken world, when joy seems to be missing from so many people's lives, how do we begin to celebrate this wonderful gift?

To begin we must consider what we have and build upon those strong foundations. We have the gift of life; it is a precious gift for it gives us the time and the energy to change, change not only our own lives but the lives of those around us. We have the gift of family and friendship; there are people around us who are ready to support and nourish us, helping us to find the true path to happiness. We have the gift of faith; we believe in our God of love who is ever forgiving and always there through the joys and sorrows of life.

Zephaniah lived in a world of great inequality, at a time when the morale of his people was at a very low ebb. Yet his words ring with conviction and joy. He knows that God walks with his people and shares with them in the storms of life. He calls to them "Rejoice and exult with all your heart". He can see a time when everything will be made right because "The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst. Paul speaks to the Philippians, "Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say rejoice". He urges them to be tolerant of those who have no faith, no hope, no joy. If those who listen seek God with prayer and thanksgiving, then the peace of God will be with them.

John tells us what we must do. Share our gifts, shun complacency, never be content with our lives, strive each day to act justly, show the love of God to all we meet. He assures the people that the Christ is coming and that they must be ready to receive Him into their hearts,

This is a season of waiting, the Christ child is near, we must look forward to his coming and build on His promise of a brighter future for all.

*David Frank*

## Masses & Activities this Week

*Sunday Cycle C*

### Sunday 15 December

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



### Monday 16 December

10am Requiem Mass for Iris Martin (SJ)  
6pm St John's School Advent Liturgy (SJ)

### Tuesday 17 December

10am Mass (SB Harbour Room)  
1.30pm St Brendan's' School Nativity (SB)  
7.30pm Christian Meditation (SB)

### Wednesday 18 December

9.30am Mass (SJ)

### Thursday 19 December

10am Mass (SB Harbour Room)

### Friday 20 December

10am St Columba's Whole School Mass (SB Church)  
12noon Mass (SB Harbour Room)

### Saturday 21 December

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

### Sunday 22 December - *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

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:** Brenda Moody, Iris Martin

**Anniversaries:** Mary Ann Royle, Mary Constantine, Ann & James Davies, David Walton

**Mass Intentions:** Mary Ann Royle, Deceased members of the Royle & Kilcoyne families, A Special Intention, For peace in the world, Mary Constantine, Ann & James Davies, Me & Mrs Piachonka, Brendan Moody

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

*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

## SVP Events

**Christmas Flower Demonstration:** Thank you to all who came along to the Flower Demonstration. over £400 was raised for the SVP to help families in need over Christmas in our parish. We would also like to thank those who gave their time to help and to Margaret Fazackerley for her talent!

**Gaelic Coffee Morning:** Please come and join us for our annual Gaelic Coffee Morning after 9.30am Mass on Sunday 22 December. At this event there will be the chance to win hampers, and the Christmas 200 Club draw will take place. All proceeds will go towards the SVP.

**Wednesday Coffee Morning:** Raised over £200 for the Destitution Project. Thank you for all your generosity!

## Thought for the Week

*"God is merciful towards us. We too should learn to be merciful."*

**Pope Francis**

**Harbour Room Book Club Christmas donation:** The Club this year has donated £100 to the *Be More Ted* Charity for wooden benches to be made and used in school areas where they can be accessed by children who have need of them. The benches are made by Emmaus charity and are local. With many thanks to all our members.

**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.

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

## Christmas Mass Times

### Christmas Eve

4.30pm (SB)

6.30pm (SJ)

### Christmas Day

9.30am (SJ) and 11am (SB)

## Other News From Around the Diocese

**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/>

**New Pilgrims of Hope book launched:** Monsignor John Allen has harnessed his love of the geography and history of our diocese, penning a very special book which is being sold in aid of Caritas Salford. The book, *Pilgrims of Hope*, has been published in time for the start of the 2025 Jubilee Year which is also focussed on the theme of *Pilgrims of Hope*, and is available to purchase by visiting the Caritas website:

[www.caritassalford.org.uk/pilgrimbook](http://www.caritassalford.org.uk/pilgrimbook)

**Reader's Rota:** The new rota will be published before Christmas. Please let the parish office know if you would like to become a reader or, alternatively, if you no longer wish to continue. Thank you.

## Readers for 21/22 December 2024

<b>5pm Vigil (SB)</b>	<b>9.30am (SJ)</b>	<b>11am (SB)</b>
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G Kearns	L Fakanule	K Wilkinson
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<b>Eucharistic Minister's 9.30am (SJ) 22 December</b>		
J Carroll & S May		