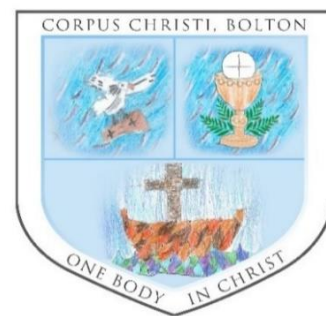


Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

22 December 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent



There is a sense of peace when the fourth Sunday arrives. Everything has been put in order, Jesus is coming and the whole joyous occasion is almost upon us. If there are last minute worries, put them behind you, now is the time, relax and enjoy.

We begin with the prophet Micah, speaking of the insignificant town of Bethlehem, "From you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel". Micah sees Christ, not as a mighty king, but, as a shepherd standing and feeding his flock so that they may live secure. He reminds us of the promise of God for the Christ Child "He shall be their peace". The psalm is a plea for forgiveness and protection and gives us hope that the hand of God will always be with us. "Let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved"

The passage from Hebrews brings a different dimension to the coming birth. It speaks of sacrifice and obedience, In the midst of birth we have a foretaste of the garden of Gethsemane and Jesus praying to the father "Here I am, I am coming to do your will"

The meeting of Mary and Elizabeth is both poignant and heartwarming, one approach to this reading is to sit quietly, if you can find a space in the turmoil, and pray the "Hail Mary" a prayer rich in scripture and insight. Pope John Paul II suggested that when we say this prayer we pause before and after the name "Jesus" because the prayer is said through Our Lady to Jesus and by pausing, we offer the prayer in a very special way

the wind of your dreams will take you on a Each Christmas we dream of a new start, each New Year we see twelve months, fresh and clean, laid out before us, an empty sea waiting for our boat of dreams to set sail. But if we only dream and not turn those dreams into action then our boat will stay in harbour and never feel the wind filling its sails. Mary's "Yes" to Gabriel set her dreams free, John the Baptists "yes" to a mission of bringing repentance to the people of Israel set him free. Jesus waits for our "yes" so that he can set us free on the path he has prepared for us. So, listen for his call, then, raise your anchor and set your sails. The ride will not be smooth, but the wind of your dreams will take you on a voyage you will never forget. *David Frank*

Masses & Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle C

Sunday 22 December

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

Monday 23 December

12.30pm Mass (SJ)

The Nativity of the Lord



Tuesday 24 December Christmas Eve

11am-12noon Confessions (SB)

4.30pm (SB)

6.30pm (SJ)

Wednesday 25 December Christmas Day

9.30am (SJ); 11am (SB)

Thursday 26 December - *St Stephen*

10am Mass (SB Harbour Room)

Friday 27 December - *Feast of St John the Evangelist*

10am Mass (SJ)

Saturday 28 December - *The Holy Innocents*

10.45am Confession & Adoration (SJ)

11.30am Mass (SJ)

5pm Vigil Mass for Sunday (SB)

Sunday 29 December - *The Holy Family*

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

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, 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: Bernard Wright, Peggy O'Brien, Iris Martin, John Power, Marie Rose Hammond

Anniversaries: Kathleen Banks, Harry & Phyllis Hamilton, Dorothy Mary Kirton, Oswald Kenyon, James McGrath, Anna Mikolajewski, Roy Shepherd, Roy Connolly, Audrey Healey, Peter McGowan, Eileen Mason

Christmas Remembrances: Walker & Brockhouse families, Mark O'Brien, Eileen Gartland, Deceased relatives and friends of the Carter & Cambridge families, Barbara Grimes, Kathleen, William Grimes & family (Ireland), Neville Smith, Samuel Cooper, Ivy Cooper, David Coffey & Coffey family, Healey family, Eileen & Stan Dearden, Patrick O'Donnell, Rinaldi & Mark Villa, Margaret Gibson, A Special Intention, Joe & May Wright, Mary Ellen & John Gilmartin, Frank McDowell, The Cryer and McDowell Families, Eileen Mason, Jessie Carter, Rose & Vincent Heron, The Kerlin family, The Barrett family

Mass Intentions: Peggy O'Brien, Harry & Phyllis Hamilton, Dorothy Mary Kirton, Oswald Kenyon, Marie Rose Hammond, James McGrath, Anna Mikolajewski, John Power, Roy Connolly, Roy Shepherd, Audrey Healey, Peter McGowan

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

Gaelic Coffee Morning: Please come and join us for our annual Gaelic Coffee Morning after 9.30am Mass today (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.



Wishing all parishioners,
your families and friends,
a very Happy and Holy

Christmas

From Fr Alf.

Thank you to all who volunteer in our parish throughout the year, especially at Christmas time. We also wish Fr Freddie and his Sri Lankan community a peaceful & Holy Christmas. Fr Alf



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/>

Opening Mass for the Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee
Pope Francis has invited dioceses across the world to unite in prayer as we begin the 2025 "Pilgrims of Hope" Jubilee. Our diocese will be marking the start of the Jubilee with a Mass, celebrated by Bishop John, on Sunday 29th December at 2pm at Salford Cathedral's Temporary Church. All are welcome to join us as we mark the start of this special year of grace.

Readers Rota: The new rota is ready to collect from the back of each church. Thank you.

Newsletter: Next week, the Newsletter will cover two weeks (the Holy Family & The Epiphany). Please send any items and Mass Intention to us before Friday 27 December. Thank you.

Readers for 24/25 December 2024		
5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
TBA	A Gracie	P Brennan
Eucharistic Minister's 9.30am (SJ) 25 December A Grundy & M Speed		

Readers for 28/29 December 2024		
5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
L Lamoury	A Grundy	C Bridge
Eucharistic Minister's 9.30am (SJ) 22 December V & A Rawlinson		