

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

29 December 2024

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph



The final Sunday in December falls during the Christmas break for many families but we must remember those who need to work during this period. It is a day to reflect on our families, they should be places of love and compassion. We can also reflect on the family of God, the church, and the close ties we have within our communities.

In the first reading we hear the story of the birth of Samuel and his mother's desire to give him over to the temple to serve God. We may feel that his mother was very uncaring of the boy and such an act went against the idea of a loving family. The story of Samuel is linked to the kingship of Saul and David; these are turbulent times in the history of the chosen people, and it is only through the dedication of the adult Samuel that the nation survives. Samuel is formed from his earliest days by his relationship with Eli and the temple. He is a symbol of the unselfish act of vocation to the priesthood which calls to young men today.

John's first letter reminds us of our place in the family of God. It is a beautiful passage, full of hope for us and of advice as to how we should live within the family of God. John speaks to us of the power of our conscience; "If our heart does not condemn us", we know in our deepest heart when we have done wrong, being human we sometimes persist even when we know it is wrong. John reminds us that, from within our own selves, we have the power to do what is right and become true children of God.

Jesus may have always been torn by his relationships with the Father and with his earthly family. We cannot imagine the turmoil going through his young life; he was not born mature, he needed to learn, just as we learnt at our mother's knee and through school and all those relationships in our lives. Luke today gives us a short insight into a growing Christ, a young boy torn between two sets of duties. The childhood of Jesus is a mystery to us, all we know is that he was loved, and it was this love that was to sustain him through his journey to Calvary and beyond.

Masses & Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle C

Sunday 29 December

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

Monday 30 December

12noon Mass (SJ)

Tuesday 31 December

10am Mass (SB Harbour Room)

Wednesday 1 January 2025

10am Mass (SJ)

Thursday 2 January

10am Mass (SB Harbour Room)

Friday 3 January

11.45am Requiem Mass for Czeslaw Karakula (SB)

Saturday 4 January

10am Mass (SJ)

5pm Vigil Mass (SB)

Sunday 5 January

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

Happy New Year!

Thank you for all your kind gifts and wishes for Christmas. May I wish you, all your families and friends a very Happy, Blessed and Peaceful New Year. *Fr Alf.*

Every good gift comes from the Father of Light. May he grant you his grace and every blessing and keep you safe throughout this coming year. May he grant you unwavering faith, constant hope and love that endures to the end. May he order your days and work in his peace, hear you every prayer, and lead you to everlasting joy.. Amen

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
Lately Dead: Frank Vose. Bill Lynch, Bernard Wright, Czeslaw Karakula, John Philbin
Anniversaries: Sheila Hayes
Mass Intentions: Sheila Hayes (Birthday Remembrance), Maurice Magee (90th Birthday), Frank Vose, For Teresa, Fr McAuley, Josephine Ward, Denis O'Toole

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.
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.
Dona: We can now accept cashless payments, using our contactless system.
Cheques: Please make all cheques payable to *Corpus Christi*. Thank you

Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee: 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. The theme for the 2025 Jubilee is "Pilgrims of Hope", an invitation to showcase the hope of our Christian faith to people right across the world at a time when there is so much suffering from the impact of war, poverty, climate change, and the lasting effects of the COVID pandemic. The Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee presents each one of us with an opportunity to reignite the flame of our faith in our own hearts and to share the light of that faith with those in darkness. The concept of Jubilee is one rooted in the earliest days of Judeo-Christian tradition. In the Book of Leviticus, we read that the people of Israel celebrated this tradition every 50 years. Its purpose was to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation. It involved the forgiveness of debts, the return of misappropriated land, and a fallow period for the fields. Today, the Catholic Church celebrates this tradition once every 25 years as a year of grace, offering the faithful the opportunity to renew faith through prayer, pilgrimage, acts of charity, and by asking for a plenary indulgence - a special grace that strengthens our wounded souls in the fight against sin.

5 January 2025

The Epiphany of the Lord

Masses & Activities this Week <i>Sunday Cycle C</i>
Sunday 5 January 9.30am Mass (SJ) 11am Mass (SB)
Monday 6 January 9.15am St Columba's School Mass (In School)
Tuesday 7 January 10am Requiem Mass for Bernard Wright (SB) 7.30pm Christian Meditation St John's
Wednesday 8 January 9am Adoration (SJ) 9.30am Mass (SJ)
Thursday 9 January 10am Mass (SB Harbour Room)
Friday 10 January 12noon Mass (SB Harbour Room)
Saturday 11 January 10.45 Confession and Adoration (SJ) 11.30am Mass (SJ) 5pm Vigil Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy
Sunday 12 January 9.30am Mass (SJ) - With Children's Liturgy 11am Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy

Readers for 4/5 January 2025		
5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
G Drabble	P Barnes	P Brennan
Eucharistic Minister's 9.30am (SJ) 5 January		
M Speed & P Partington		

Readers for 11/12 January 2025		
5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
A Grundy	N Bunting	C Bridge
Eucharistic Minister's 9.30am (SJ) 12 January		
M Cropper & A Gracie		

200 Club Christmas Draw:
 1st Prize £100 A Hayes-Earp
 2nd Prize £80 R Coffey
 3rd Prize £60 J Ainscough
 4th Prize £40 C Shechter

Thank you: to everyone who supported all our Christmas charity collections and events. Your generosity is always so very much appreciated.