


DIOCESE OF  SALFORD

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

12 January 2025

The Baptism of the Lord



Baptism is a sacrament; it is a meeting place, a holy place, where we come face to face with God. In Baptism we are named, we are placed into the arms of God and become known to Him in a very special way. We receive a special gift, the Holy Spirit, a companion on our life journey. As we grow, the Spirit, given to us in the sacrament, grows with us and we have the choice whether to use the gift or to let it lie, dormant, until, perhaps on a future day, our hearts are awakened by God's call.

The people of the Old Testament were forever searching for God. In today's passage from Isaiah he acknowledges that the search has been long and difficult. He speaks of a time when a highway will be made straight in the desert, when valleys are lifted up, and mountains laid low so that "the glory of the Lord shall be revealed. He speaks of the Lord as a shepherd tenderly caring for his flock and gathering the lambs in his arms.

In Paul's time Baptism involved a great leap of faith, it was a lifelong commitment, often involving danger and martyrdom. Paul announces that "The grace of God has appeared", that it is time to renounce our previous faults and begin a new life washed clean by the sacrament and filled by the Holy Spirit "whom he poured on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior". The way we follow leads to the hope of eternal life.

There was great excitement when John appeared in the wilderness announcing the water of repentance. People flocked to him in the hope that he was the Messiah; but he denied this, promising only that another was among them and that, whilst John baptised with water, he would baptise "with the Holy Spirit and fire". Luke describes in epic language the descent of the Holy Spirit and the voice of God. Jesus was at prayer; he would have been aware of the noises surrounding him as John continued to baptise the people. Did Jesus have a sudden revelation that this was a special moment? From this moment the mission of Our Lord begins, His heart is awakened by the Father's call, and everything changes. The journey begins. David Frank

Poinsettias

If you were kind enough to donate to the poinsettia appeal, they are now ready for collection at both churches.

Masses & Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle C

Sunday 12 January

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

Monday 13 January

10am Requiem Mass for Bill Lynch (SB)

Tuesday 14 January

10am Mass (SB Church) - With Yr2 Children
7.30pm Christian Meditation (SB)

Wednesday 15 January

9.30am Mass (SJ) With Yr2 Y4 & Yr3 Children

Thursday 16 January

10am Requiem Mass for John Philbin (SB)

Friday 17 January

12noon Mass (SB Harbour Room)

Saturday 18 January

10.45am-11.15am Confession and Adoration (SJ)
11.30am Mass (SJ)
5pm Vigil Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy

Sunday 19 January

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

Caritas Sunday

Did you know that on Sunday 26 January, we will be marking Caritas Sunday? This annual occasion is a great opportunity to celebrate the work of our diocesan charity, Caritas Diocese of Salford. To find out more about the work of Caritas Salford and how you can get involved, please visit <https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/campaign/caritas-sunday/>. We invite you to keep our diocesan charity in your prayers over this coming week.

This Newsletter is sponsored by
HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

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Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees
Registered Charity - 250037
Diocesan website: www.dioceseofsalford.org.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,
Lately Dead: Bill Lynch, John Philbin, Maureen Holroyd, Mike Hall, Czeslaw Karakula, Bernard Wright

Anniversaries: Margaret Moss, Marion Kosecki, Eileen Croft, Harriet McAvoy, William Hurst, Barbara Stoppard, Howard McArdle, Michael Axford

Mass Intentions: Margaret Mary Moss, Marion Kosecki, Eileen Croft, Harriet McAvoy, Barbara Stoppard William Hurst, Michael Axford

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; if you are UK taxpayer please consider gift aiding your kind donation, the parish will benefit at no extra cost to yourselves.

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

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

Thank you to everyone who donated items to the Morning Star Hostel collection. The goods were delivered before Christmas. The staff were overwhelmed with your generosity and very grateful- and many thanks too for the kind toy donations for Fort Alice.

Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee

Some of you met Monsignor Allen last weekend at St Brendan's. He has harnessed his love of geography and the history of our Diocese, by penning a special book, *The Pilgrims of Hope*, has been published in time for the start of the 2025 Jubilee Year which is also focused on the theme of Pilgrims of Hope, and is available to purchase by visiting the Caritas website:
www.caritassalford.co.uk/pilgrimbook

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

19 January 2025

Masses & Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle C

Sunday 19 January

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

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

Monday 20 January

12noon Requiem Mass for Mike Hall (SB)

6pm Mass (SJ)

Tuesday 21 January

10am Requiem Mass for Maureen Holroyd (SB)

7.30pm Christian Meditation (SJ)

Wednesday 22 January

9.30 am Mass (SJ)

Thursday 23 January

10am Mass (SB Harbour Room)

6pm Confirmation Course (SJ)

Friday 24 January

12noon Mass (SB Harbour Room)

Saturday 25 January

No morning Mass

5pm Vigil Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy

Sunday 26 January **CARITAS SUNDAY mandatory 2nd collection**

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

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

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

This year, we celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity between 18th and 25th January. The theme this year is "Do you believe this?", based on Martha's confession of faith in Jesus, as told in John 11:17-27.

A Year of Hope: An Introduction to the Jubilee Year with CAFOD

As we know 2025 is a Jubilee year, but what does that mean? You are welcome to join CAFOD online on Saturday 18th January 10:30am-midday, to find the answers to some of these questions in a light and lively start to this Holy Year. With a special appearance by Catholic band Ooberfuse. Everyone welcome. Register here for free:

<https://cafod.org.uk/news/events/a-year-of-hope-an-introduction-to-the-jubilee-year>

Readers for 18/19 January 2025

5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
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G Kearns	J Carroll	M Day
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Eucharistic Minister's 9.30am (SJ) 19 January
P McArdle & J Summerton

Readers for 25/26 January 2025

5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
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L Lamoury	S Copley	K Denton
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Eucharistic Minister's 9.30am (SJ) 26 January
J Carroll & S May

