

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

2 February 2025

The Fourth Week of Ordinary Time The Presentation of the Lord



Today is Candlemas, a day on which all the candles to be used in church over the next twelve months are blessed. Candles are important in our liturgy, they shine in the darkness, transforming a dark world into a world of light, they are a symbol of Christ, the true light, the light of the world. During the Baptism ceremony a candle of faith is lit and held by an adult for the child being baptised. In an adult baptism the one being baptised holds their own light to show that Christ has entered into their lives to drive away the darkness and to welcome the light of Faith. At the final event of our lives the Easter Candle is lit at our funeral to remind those present of the promise of resurrection and eternal life. We each have a light, a light that never goes out, it may grow dim, but God's love sustains its flame.

Malachi is writing 400 years before the birth of Jesus, and he is the last of the Old Testament prophets. Now a silence will descend on Israel which will only be lifted upon the birth of a child. Malachi prophesies the coming of John the Baptist as the messenger of the Lord; he speaks of the Lord suddenly entering his temple, a Lord born in poverty to a Jewish couple from Nazareth, he a local carpenter, she a housewife and mother. Malachi's message is that this child will come with power and his teaching will change the hearts of the people of Israel and bring them back to God.

The letter from Hebrews reminds us that Jesus is our brother. He is one of us, born of woman as we are. He is the one who will lead us like a loving, older brother showing us the way, keeping us safe, turning us away from temptation and sin. He will give his life for us and so defeat death and the devil forever. Through his sacrifice he will make us free. In the Gospel passage we meet Simeon and Anna. It is Simeon who breaks the silence of prophesy as he recognises Jesus as the Christ of the Lord. In his simple prayer, in Latin the "Nunc Dimittis", he speaks of a "light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel". Simeon announces that the light of the world has come so that all the people on earth can walk in the light of faith.

David Frank

Masses & Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle C

Sunday 2 February

9.30am Mass (SJ) - With Children's Liturgy
11am Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy
1pm Baptism (SJ)

Monday 3 February

6pm Mass (SJ)

Tuesday 4 February

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

Wednesday 5 February - St Agatha

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

Thursday 6 February - St Paul Miki & Companions

10am Mass (SB)

Friday 7 February

No Mass Today

Saturday 8 February - St Josephine Bakhita

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

Sunday 9 February

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

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

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HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

Peel House
638 Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton.
BL1 7AL
01204 309609





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: Marjory Moffat

Anniversaries: Lew Brown, Betty & Frank Finn

Mass Intentions: Lew Brown, Marjory Moffat, Betty & Frank Finn

We are asked to pray for these intentions: Peace on Earth; Openness to the Word of God; Christian Unity; The sick & those who care for them; Victims of trafficking and those who work to combat it; the Unemployed

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

SVP Coffee Morning: Will be held on Wednesday 5 February after the 9.30am Mass at St John's. The proceeds this month will go to the Prisoners Project. All welcome for tea, coffee, toasted tea cakes, raffle and a good chat!

Corpus Christi 200 Club Winners (January)

1st Prize £50 - M Armstrong

2nd Prize £25 - A Grundy

3rd Prize £15 - C Brooks

Feast of St Josephine Bakhita: The feast day of St Josephine Bakhita, the patron saint of victims of human trafficking and modern slavery, takes place on February 8. There are 50 million victims of human trafficking across the world and as many as 130,000 in the UK. Charities across the UK and our diocese are working hard to raise awareness of what Pope Francis describes as "a crime against humanity" and has produced a range of resources to help you learn more. Resources can be found by visiting santamartagroup.org/resources

Pilgrim's Passport: Create new family traditions this Jubilee year by picking up our family-friendly guide to Jubilee churches in the Diocese of Salford. With fast facts, thought-provoking questions, and different activities, our Pilgrim's Passport is the ideal companion to help families pray and journey together this Jubilee Year. Find out more at <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/pilgrims-passport/> or visit one of our Designated churches to begin.

Young Adults Pilgrimage to Rome: Young adults across the diocese are invited to join our Diocesan Youth Ministry Team for a rare pilgrimage to Rome this summer. Pope Francis has announced a special Jubilee of Youth in celebration of the 2025 Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee, which also coincides with the canonisation of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati. To find out more about this remarkable opportunity and to register your interest, please visit <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/jubilee-of-youth-rome/>

Jubilee for Communications: In celebration of the Holy Year, we are having a Jubilee of Jubilees to shine a light on a number of different themes represented in our diocese. We begin with our Jubilee for Communications, in which we explore this month's Gospels to reflect on how we can share the Good News in our world today. Access the resources now at <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/jubilee-2025/calendar/>

Thought for the Week...

"Always know in your heart that God is by your side. Let us never lose hope."

Pope Francis



Readers for 8/9 February 2025		
5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
N Bunting	L Fakanule	F Evans
Eucharistic Minister's 9.30am (SJ) 9 February		
M Speed & P Partington		