

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

23 November 2025

Christ The King



Today is the last Sunday in the church year; we have, once again, come full circle and now we prepare to begin again that journey with Jesus from birth, through death to eternal life. We come to this day, every year, changed by the passage of time, but whatever has befallen us in the past twelve months we must not lose sight of what really matters. Today's passage from Luke reminds us of the virtues that will carry us through the coming year: faith, hope and repentance. The cross is a sign of God's love for us, let us hold onto that love as we face the coming year.

Luke brings together, today, a collection of characters to represent the world in miniature. He skilfully blends the unspoken thoughts, the uttered words, and the dialogue between those crucified and those who stand and watch, until we can almost feel the atmosphere and become witnesses, in our time, to the timeless scene on the hill of Calvary.

We stand there, with the people, watching Jesus; we are captured in the scene as silent onlookers, unable to affect the events unfolding before our eyes. We are held between Hell and Heaven; this is our future, our relationship with God, that is being played out before us, and we are powerless to intervene. The rulers mock Him; "*He saved others let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the chosen one*" they speak for the world; that doubting, sneering, unbelieving world in which we live each day; the voice of hate disguised by the carefully crafted words of insincerity which seem so plausible but twist our faith in God into something which is mistaken, almost pagan.

"*The soldiers also mocked him*", the power is held in the hands of those who rule, who govern, who seek to impose their will on the people. The Roman Empire represents all those whose misuse of power affects the lives of millions of our brothers and sisters throughout the world. How painful can it be to imagine that Jesus must spend his final moments of life between two criminals; one speaks in the devil's temptation whisper "*Save yourself and us*", the other echoes our silent prayer "*Jesus, Remember me when you come into your kingdom*" Jesus speaks, and we hear those final words of love and consolation "*Truly I say you, today you will be with me in paradise*" **David Frank**

Masses & Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle C

Sunday 23 November

9.30am Mass (SJ) - with Children's Liturgy
11am Mass (SB) With Children's Liturgy
12.30pm Baptism (SB)
3pm Baptism (SJ)

Monday 24 November - Ss Andrew Dung Lac & Companions

9.15am Celebration of the Word (SC School)
12noon Mass (SB)

Tuesday 25 November

9.15am Yr4 & Yr1 Class Mass in School - St John's
10am Mass (SB) with Yr 2
7.30pm Christian Meditation (SJ)

Wednesday 26 November

9.30am Adoration (SJ)
10am Mass (SJ)

Thursday 27 November

12noon Requiem Mass for Arnold Banks (SB)

Friday 28 November

10am Requiem Mass for May Enright (SB)
12noon Mass (SB)

Saturday 29 November

10.45am Confession & Adoration (SJ)
11.30am Mass (SJ)
12.30am Baptism (SJ)
5pm Mass (SB) - *With presentation of Children on Sacramental Programme*

Sunday 30 November - *First Sunday in Advent*

9.30am Mass (SJ) *With presentation of Children on Sacramental Programme*
11am Mass (SB) *With presentation of on Sacramental Programme*
1pm Baptism (SJ)

Parish Contact Details

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HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

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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, Frances Skemp, Edwin Rankin, Pat McDowell, Richard Crichton, Michael Latham, Kathryn Browning, Frank Vickers, Frederick Parkinson, Eileen Fitzgerald, Peter Reilly, Terry Scott, Margaret Kay, Tony Martin, Annie O'Brien, Margaret O'Brien, Kevin Knowles, Pat Howarth, Bernard Earp, Michael Kitching, Jane Manuel, Alice Leggett, Rita Margiotta, Pauline Dobson, Winifred Goodwin, Barbara Owen

Lately Dead: Pat Warren, May Enright, Vernon Holt, Arnold Banks

Mass Intentions: Pat Warren, Ronaldo Villa (Birthday Remembrance)

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 and 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

Harbour Room Book Club Notices: Next meeting is on Wednesday 26 November to discuss *Pompeii* by Robert Harris. Meetings begin at 1pm and finish about 2.30pm. All welcome. **December meeting** is on the 17th. *Diary of a Provincial Lady* by E.M. Delafield (Book1)

Walk With Me: Booklets and calendars are available for you to take this weekend.

A Message from Fr Alf: You will have noticed that we are currently advertising for the post of Parish Assistant. Catherine has decided, after 13 years working in our Parish office assisting Canon Cooke, Fr Chinnery and myself, as well as curates Fr Joe Gee, Fr Sean O'Brien, and Fr Frank Parkinson, that it is now time to take her retirement. Catherine will be finishing her employment at Christmas, and I'd like to thank her for her support, her friendship and kind assistance over my 6 years here. Catherine will be missed, but as a Parish, we wish her, and her husband Mark, a long a happy retirement. With every blessing Fr Alf

Early Notice for Christmas Masses:

Christmas Eve: 4.30pm (SB); 6.30pm (SJ) Christmas Day: 9.30am (SJ); 11am (SB)

Christmas Hamper Raffle: At St Brendan's Church after 11am Mass on Sunday 14 December. We kindly ask if anyone would donate any of the following (unopened) during November: Toiletries, Chocolates, Wine, Spirits or other Christmas type gifts. Please leave any items at the back of St Brendan's Church. Raffle tickets will be on sale from the end of November. *Thank you.*

Job Opportunity: Parish Administrator - Corpus Christi, Bolton

Appointment Type: Part-time, permanent

Working Hours: 12 hours per week to be worked between Monday-Friday, though some flexibility will be required and can be offered. Working pattern to be discussed and agreed with Parish Priest.

Location: St John the Evangelist Church, The Crescent, Bromley Cross, Bolton BL79JP

Salary: on request, 60 hours holiday (equates to 5 weeks), plus bank holidays and 5 diocesan closure days (subject to pro rata)

Apply using the application form on the Diocese of Salford Website or contact HR@dioceseofsalford.org.uk Closing date: 24th November 2025

SVP News

Christmas Dinner on Jesus: We are continuing to collect jars of Cranberry Sauce (200g size) until next weekend (30/11/25). Thank you, as always for your continued support.

Christmas Poinsettia Memorials: If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia (in memory of a loved one), request slips, cards & envelopes are available. These can be placed, with donation (minimum £7), in the baskets provided. The deadline for your request is Sunday 7 December. *Thank you*

Gaelic Coffee Morning: Sunday 14 December after 9.30am Mass. We will have some wonderful raffle prizes on offer including some special prizes for children.

Other News from Around the Diocese

Sustainable Wreath Making Workshops at Laudato Si' Centre: If you are interested in learning how to make your own Advent decorations using sustainable materials, why not sign up for one of the Laudato Si' Centre's upcoming wreath making workshops? The workshops are taking place on the below dates:

Friday 28 November from 1pm - 3pm

Friday 5 December from 10am - 12pm

For pricing, further information, and to book your place! Please email:

laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Readers 29/30 November 2025

5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
C Molyneux	A Grundy	C Bridge
Eucharistic Ministers 9.30am (SJ) 30 November P McArdle & J Summerton		