

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

7 December 2025

The Second Sunday of Advent





Advent is a time of wonder. We are preparing for the birth of the Son of God. Is there anything more wondrous than this event; Love is born again for us on Christmas morning as the promise of our Creator God is fulfilled in the shape of a small innocent babe. One figure dominates chapter three of the Gospel of Matthew; he is the last of the prophets, John the Baptist. In the passage from the Old Testament Isaiah describes a heroic figure; one with all the qualities we see in an outstanding human being; someone to measure ourselves against. A man on who rests a spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, Knowledge and fear of the Lord. This man will "stand as a signal for the peoples". Is this John the Baptist?

When Matthew tells the story of John he paints a very vivid picture of a very independent man; someone who does not compromise, who speaks his truth forcefully and is not frightened of authority. John calls to us across the centuries to repentance. He reminds us that we need to be cleansed of our sins as we prepare to receive into our world the Christ child. He speaks of someone who is coming, someone who is far greater than he is, one who will bringing justice to the world.

Paul writes to us from a world which has seen John and experienced Christ. He speaks to us about hope, how we should never give up and how that hope will lead to tolerance of each other. We are approaching the gift of Christmas; during these days we should be preparing to receive the Christ child into our hearts. Let us pray that our hearts are ready and open to receive Him.

Come Lord Jesus

Come and be born in our hearts

Masses & Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle C

Sunday 7 December

9.30am Mass (SJ) - With Children's Liturgy 11am Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy 4pm Festive Tractor Run - (SB)

Monday 8 December - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary 12noon Mass (SB) - This Week only

Tuesday 9 December

10am Mass (SB) - with Yr1

Wednesday 10 December 9.30am Adoration (SJ)

10am Mass (SJ)

Thursday 11 December

10am Mass (SB)

Friday 12 December

12noon Mass (SB)

Saturday 13 December - St Lucy

No Morning Mass Today

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

Sunday 14 December - Gaudete - Third Sunday in Advent

9.30am Mass (SJ) - With Children's Liturgy followed by Gaelic Coffee

11am Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy followed by Christmas Hamper Raffle

Early Notice for Christmas Masses

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

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, 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, Rita Margiotta, Pauline Dobson, Winifred Goodwin, Barbara Owen

Lately Dead: Alice Leggatt

Anniversaries: Bert Hustwit, Ronald Hailwood, Ann & James Davies, Gerard Dobson, Annie McGrath

Mass Intentions: A Special Intention, Ann & James Davies, Alfie Morrison (Birthday Remembrance), Tony & Ruth Pieczonka (In thanks for their Intentions), Ronald Hailwood, Gerard Dobson, Annie McGrath, Andrew Hayes (Birthday Remembrance)

We are asked to pray for these intentions: Migrants & Refugees, Expectant Mothers

We pray for all the people who have fallen victim to the devastating floods in Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Thailand. Let us send a message of hope as the communities come to terms with their losses.

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



Congratulations: To Margot Catherine Garland who was baptised last weekend. We pray that both she and her family continue to grow in faith.



Turton Tractor Run: This Sunday, (7 December) St Brendan's Church will be holding a festive fun gathering with Pizza, mulled wine and hot

chocolate ready for the Turton Tractors to roll by. The event starts at 4pm and all are most welcome. Any profits will go towards parish funds.

Caritas Morning Star Men's Hostel: Are appealing for some essential items. If anyone can donate toiletry items, socks or underwear(new) over the next few weeks, they would be very welcome. Please leave at the back of each church and they will be delivered before Christmas. Thank you.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation: During Advent, Confession is an ideal way of preparing for the coming of Christ into our hearts, that is, allowing Him to draw us into deeper conversion. We hold Confession every Saturday morning at St John's Church, and Fr Alf would like to remind everyone you are welcome to have Confession by appointment at either Church.

Christian Meditation: From 2026 the sessions will be held fortnightly at St John's Church (7.30pm).

The dates are as follows:

January: 6th; 20th
February: 3rd; 17th
March: 3rd; 24th
April: 7th; 21st; 28th
May: 12th; 26th
June: 9th; 23rd
July: 14th

There will be no sessions during August

200 Club Winners for November:

1st Prize (£50) E Openshaw 2nd Prize (£25) P McArdle 3rd Prize (£15) C Brooks

Other News from Around the Diocese

Relics of St Carlo Acutis to Visit Diocese of Salford: In January, the relics of St Carlo Acutis will be hosted at two of our churches over five days, during which time the Diocese will welcome schools, parishioners and people from all over for veneration. Carlo is the first millennial saint and is celebrated for his profound faith and his use of the internet to log Eucharistic miracles from around the world. He was passionate about spreading the teachings of the Catholic Church up until his death from leukaemia at the age of 15. The relics will be presented at St Mary's Church, Burnley from 28-29 January 2026 before they travel to St Patrick's Church, Collyhurst from 30 January to 1 February 2026. More information will be shared soon

Laudato Si' Centre Volunteer Call-out: Retired Educators: The Diocese of Salford's Environment Team is inviting retired education staff to volunteer at the Centre to assist with their successful programme of school visits. Volunteers would support sessions with children from nursery age to Year11 with activities including arts & crafts, games, and foraging. Email laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk.

B&B Stays At Castlerigg Manor: Castlerigg Manor is a Catholic retreat centre in the Lake District owned by the Diocese of Lancaster. They work with more than 3,000 young people a year from around the north and beyond. When the building is empty, they offer B&B stays to individuals, families and small private groups and the money raised supports their mission with young people. Some B&B dates have opened this January and February, specifically, January 5-7th, February 9-11th, and February 16-18th. It's very affordable to book and a great chance to spend a few days in the Lakes. Visithttps://castleriggmanor.com/stay-with-us/

Readers 13/14 December 2025			
5pm	Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
L La	amoury	S May	F Doloroso
Eucharistic Ministers 9.30am (SJ) 14 December			
V & A Rawlinson			