

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

17 December 2023

Gaudete Sunday - Third Sunday of Advent



Today is Gaudete Sunday, it is a time of joy, a day to relax in the midst of this busy Advent season and to reflect on the Journey so far. If you have planned the journey well, the cards have all been written, distribution has begun, the presents are almost complete and the plan for Christmas Day has been agreed. Now is the time to prepare yourself for the coming of Christ; let earthly things fade, let the season take you on the sacred journey to Bethlehem and pray that all will be well, and all manner of things will be well.

Our thoughts turn to those who travel with us, our human family, Isaiah speaks of bringing Good News; to the poor and downhearted, to those whose hearts are broken, and for those who are captive or in prison, justice and freedom. He paints a picture of Joy abounding in the land and in our hearts. There is an image of our lives becoming a harvest of good things, of raising us to new life in the Lord.

Paul ends his first letter to the Thessalonians with advice and a blessing. He speaks of rejoicing, of being happy at all times, he reminds us to pray for ourselves and for others constantly. He urges us to think before acting and hold on to everything that is good, to avoid evil. What a difference following Paul's words would make in our troubled world if everyone would take this to heart and build a kingdom of love on earth. He ends with a very special blessing and a reminder to each of us, "God has called you and he will not fail you."

Last week Mark's Gospel heralded the appearing of John the Baptist. Now John, in his own lyrical style, speaks of that same man, a witness to speak for the light. In John's Gospel there is a constant undercurrent of strife with the Jewish authorities and so it is today. They question John about his motives, trying to catch him in an indiscretion, seeking blasphemy, but John is wise to them. He speaks for the One who is to follow, the One filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. The One who is the reason for our joy, our happiness, our faith in a better world, where all can live in justice and freedom. *David Frank*

Masses & Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 2
Divine Office Week 3; Roman Missal: p 110.
Readings: p113

Sunday 17 December

9.30am Mass (SJ) - *With Children's Liturgy*
Followed by Gaelic Coffee Morning - All Welcome
11am Mass (SB)

Monday 18 December

12noon Mass (SJ)
6.30pm KS2 Carol Service (SJ)

Tuesday 19 December

10am Requiem Mass for Mary Cummings (SB)
1.30pm St Brendan's Nativity (SB)

Wednesday 20 December

9.30am Whole School Mass (SJ)
10am Whole School Mass for St Columba's (SB)

Thursday 21 December

10am Mass (SB)

Friday 22 December

10am Mass (SJ)

Saturday 23 December

No Morning Mass
5pm Vigil Mass (SB)

Sunday 24 December - 4th Sunday of Advent

9.30am Mass (SJ)
11am Mass (SB)
Christmas Masses:
4pm Christmas Eve Mass (SB)
6pm Christmas Eve Mass (SJ)

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, Philip Anderson, Vincent Hopkinson, Irene Clappison, Dorothy Killoran, Pat McDowell, Richard Crichton, Michael Latham, Irene Sheridan, Thomas Baker, Kathryn Browning, Rachel Edge, Fr Leo Heakin, Frank Vickers, Frederick Parkinson, Eileen Fitzgerald, Helen Fraser, Peter Reilly, Terry Scott, Michael O'Connor, Joyce Strickleton, Christine Gardner, Margaret Doreen Kay, Tony Martin, Annie O'Brien, Joan Turner, Dr Allan Needham

Lately Dead: Margaret Roscoe, Edna Baker, Jamie Brown, Joan Page, Eric Hoare, Jean Hoare, Mary Cummings

Anniversaries: Ann Davies, James Davies, Carmelita Hoare, Audrey Healey, Roy Connolly, Kathleen Banks, James McGrath

Mass Intentions: Ann Davies, James Davies, Joan Page, Eric Hoare, Carmelita Hoare, Jean Hoare, Mary Cummings, For a child, Jamie Brown, The Brown Family, Audrey Healey, Roy Connolly, Kathleen Banks, James McGrath, A special intention for a premature baby. Edna Baker, Margaret Roscoe

During Advent and Christmastide, we are asked to pray for these intentions: Migrants and Refugees, Expectant Mothers.

We pray for healing, a peaceful solution and restoration to the conflict in Gaza and Israel.

We continue to pray for peace and an end to the conflict in Ukraine.

This week let us pray for the people of the parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St John Bosco with Fr Clement Kafor and Fr Emmanuel Ugwuoke, of the Vincentian fathers. We pray for the Sisters of the Cross and Passion, for the Xaverian Missionaries and for the parish primary schools

Offertory: We are always extremely grateful for all you do to help us financially.

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

Fortalice Christmas Toy Collection: Gifts will be collected at Masses this week. Thank you.

Children's Liturgy: Will finish for the Christmas break on Sunday 17 December and return on Sunday 14th January.

Christmas Flower Demonstration: We would like to say Thank you to Margaret Fazackerley for her time and talent last Saturday. We would also like to thank all those who helped and supported this event which raised £363 for the Destitution Project.

'The Big Listen' - Over the Christmas period we often have the opportunity to engage with members of our parish, family and friends who may no longer practice their Faith or attend Mass. If the opportunity arises, you may wish to ask them informally about their hopes and concerns and about what they sense the role of the Catholic Church is in this time and place. As we come together in our Diocesan Synod to ask what God is asking of His Church in our diocese, this is a group of people who we can listen to and who we should ask to join us our journey. Do you want to help shape the future of our diocese? Would you like to help us better understand what God is asking of our Church? We want to hear from you as we continue with The Big Listen for our diocesan Synod. You can share your thoughts with us online by visiting www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/faith/synod/ **We will be holding our third and final meeting on 15 January at 1.30pm at St John's Church.**

CAFOD Crisis In the Holy Land: As the conflict continues we are now also asking all parishes to do what they can to support our [Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal](http://www.israeli-palestinian-crisis-appeal.org/). We also invite your parish to join us in [calling for a lasting peace](http://www.calling-for-a-lasting-peace.org/) by writing to the Foreign Secretary. Thank you to the over 6,500 supporters and volunteers who already have. All information on the above, including signing the petition, and how to donate, can be made via the CAFOD website <https://action.cafod.org.uk> We join with the Bishops Conference in praying that *'... Christ the Prince of Peace will guide all devastated by this conflict into the ways of truth, reconciliation, and respectful co-existence'*.

Christmas Masses.	
4 th Sunday of Advent	5pm (Vigil) - St Brendan's 9.30am - St John's 11am - St Brendan's
Christmas Eve	4pm - St Brendan's 6pm - St John's
Christmas Day	9.30am - (St John's) 11am - (St Brendan's)

Readers For 23/24 December 2023		
5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
G Drabble	P Partington	C Grundy
Readers for Christmas Masses 24/25 Dec		
4pm & 6pm TBA	M Roe	P Brennan
Eucharistic Minister's 9.30am (SJ) 4 th Advent		
V & A Rawlinson		