

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

24 June 2018

The Nativity of St John The Baptist



His name is John



Most of the time, this Feast will go unnoticed by the majority of Catholics. It is only those who attend daily Mass who normally encounter it! But the fact that it displaces a Sunday this year tells us of its importance. We only celebrate three birthdays in the Liturgical Year: Jesus (Christmas Day), Mary (September 8) and John the Baptist. This should tell us something! John is known in the Eastern Church as the “*Prodromos*”, the “One who runs in front”. All his life “even his time in the womb” is making the path clear for Christ. He runs before the Lord, clearing his way, so that the Promised One may come to his people. Today we celebrate that, even at his birth, John the Baptist opened human hearts to the mysteries of God, and the promise of God’s presence with his people.

Marriage Matters

Called by God in a unique Sacrament: Today’s readings highlight that John the Baptist was someone special in God’s eyes. The great challenge for us as married couples, is to hear Isaiah’s words “*You are my servant in whom I shall be glorified*” and apply them to ourselves. Never forget, God has chosen and graced the two of us to live this unique Sacrament of Marriage!

Think Vocation

John was sent to prepare the world for the coming of the Messiah. At the end of every Mass, we, too, are sent to prepare His way. May our lives follow the example of John that we may always point to Jesus.

Liturgy & Activities This Week
<i>Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 2; Divine Office Week 4</i> Sunday Missal: Page 893; Preface: page 896
Sunday 24 June 9am Mass (SJ) - With Children’s Liturgy 11am Mass (SB) - With Children’s Liturgy 2pm First Communion Mass (SJ)
Monday 25 June 9.30am Mass (SB) 7.45pm SVP (SJ)
Tuesday 26 June 7pm Mass (SJ) 7.15pm SVP (SB)
Wednesday 27 June 9.30am Mass (SJ)
Thursday 28 June - St Irenaeus 7pm Vigil Mass Ss Peter & Paul (SJ)
Friday 29 June - Ss Peter & Paul (Holy Day of Obligation) 9.15am Mass with Forward In Faith (SB) 11am Mass with Forward In Faith (SJ) 2pm Mass with Forward In Faith (SC, In School) <i>A Special Collection will be taken at Masses today for Peter’s Pence</i>
Saturday 30 June 2pm Baptism (SJ) 5pm Mass (SB)
Sunday 1 July - 9am Mass (SJ) - With Children’s Liturgy 11am Mass (SB) - With Children’s Liturgy 11am SVP Sponsored Walk (Starts and finishes at St John’s Church)

Priest: Rev Francis Parkinson

Parish Office: St John’s Presbytery, The Crescent, Bromley Cross, Bolton BL7 9JP

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Prayers Please

We pray for all the sick and housebound in our parish, and other relatives and friends.

Bernard Holder.

Lately Dead: John Carr, Beryl Duncan, Molly Eastham, Susan Lyon

Anniversaries: Vincent Heron, Geoffrey Bradshaw, Mary Kelly

Mass Intentions: John Carr, Molly Eastham, Vincent Heron, Susan Lyon, Geoffrey Bradshaw, Mary Kelly, Gerard Murphy (Birthday Remembrance), A sick person

Cycle of Prayer Part 5 (of 6): We pray especially for: a deeper understanding between Christians and Jews; those who suffer persecution, oppression and denial of human rights; Europe; human life; seafarers

Hope in the Future

In our Journey with Hope in the Future we build firm foundations through prayer.

This week let us pray for the parish community of St Chad, Cheetham Hill and the Oratorian community. We pray also for the parish of St Marie and St Joseph, Bury, with Fr Francis Wadsworth. We pray also for their parish primary schools, for St Gabriel's High School, Bury, and for the chaplaincies to North Manchester General Hospital, Fairfield Hospital and HMP Manchester.

On the Solemnity of the Birthday of St John the Baptist we pray through his intercession that we too may point others to Jesus.

Facts and Figures

Mass Attendance

16/17 June: 5pm-84; 9am-175; 11am - 124
Total-383

Offertory Collection

16/17 June: £918.08
Standing Orders (15-21 June) - £272

Cheques: Whilst we are awaiting our new bank account for the parish, please make all cheques payable to St John's. Thank you.



Congratulations: To all the children from our parish who have received or are about to receive their First Holy Communion. We pray that the Lord will guide them and stay with them on their faith journeys.

Thornleigh Tanzania Appeal: At our Masses this weekend two students from Thornleigh Sixth Form, will give a short talk and make an appeal for their forthcoming visit to Tanzania in July.

Baptism Preparation: Our next preparation session will take place on Wednesday 25 July (7pm-8.30pm) in the Harbour Room at St Brendan's. This is for parents from our parish who wish to have a child baptised in the coming months. Please contact the parish office if you wish to attend on 301927 or email office@sbsj.org.uk

The Harbour Room Book Club: The next meeting of the Harbour Room Book Club will be on Wednesday 27 June beginning at 1pm. The book for discussion is *The Yorkshire Shepherdess* by Amanda Owen. As we are honouring the *Vote 100* celebrations for the 100th Anniversary of the Women's Right to Vote, our meeting will have a Suffragette theme. Consequently, we are asking all our members to wear any of the Suffragette colours of purple, white or green representing the Suffragette principles of dignity, honesty and Hope. (Deeds Not Words!)

Please remember our Summer Book Sale after Masses at St Brendan's on 14/15 July. Donations of books are very welcome. **Please note that we can only accept paperbacks.** All proceeds go to Church funds and a named Charity. Please buy your summer reading from us! Plenty of bargains!

Annual Deanery Mass for the Deceased: This will be held at Heaton Cemetery on Wednesday 17 July at 7.30pm for all the deceased relatives and friends of those in the St Joseph's Deanery. In the event of rain, the Mass will be celebrated at St Thomas of Canterbury Church, Lonsdale Road, BL1 4PN.

SVP News

Destitution Project: The parish collection of items continues for another week. A list of items can be found on the church notice boards. Everything we are kind enough to send really does help to make a difference, and the centre is always very grateful for all that we do.

Annual Family Sponsored Walk: Takes place next Sunday (1 July). The event starts and finishes at St John's church and refreshments will be available. If you would like to help raise money for local families and people in need then please take a sponsor form and come and join in. It is a great chance for families to help families!

Deanery of St John Corpus Christi Procession:
As part of the Adoremus preparations within the deanery of St John there will be a Corpus Christi Procession on Saturday 30 June, 3pm at Wardley Cemetery Chapel, M28 2UJ. All Welcome.

You're Invited To Supper: Join Bolton Cancer Voices for a 'Songs & Supper' concert at Bolton's famous Olympus Restaurant, Great Moor Street on Friday 3 August (7pm for 7.30pm) with guest accompanist, Guy Porteous. Tickets for the event are £17.50, which includes fish & chips, dessert and tea/coffee (a licensed bar is also available. Enjoy a lovely summer's evening at this lovely venue with great food and well-known songs. Tickets are limited, so early booking is advisable. To book, contact the **Ministry Olympus Restaurant** on 01204 523887. Profits from the event will go towards the costs associated with getting the Choir to the Royal Albert Hall, London, where they are participating in the 'Festival of Brass and Voices' in November. If you are unable to join us on the night and would like to support our fundraising campaign, you can donate through our Just Giving Page: www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/bolton-cancervoices.

Training Day: At the Cathedral Centre, 3 Ford St, Salford, M3 6DP on Saturday 14 July (10.30am- 4.30pm). A day for Singers, Organists, Musicians, Musical Directors from around the Diocese and anyone interested in music. The programme starts at 10.30am (with tea and coffee) followed by 10.50am talk, 11.50am lunch, 12.30pm workshops (1) 1.30pm workshops (2) 2.30pm tea & coffee and 2.45pm is the preparation for Mass at 3.30pm. The Admission is free but please bring a packed lunch. Register by emailing: hope@dioceseofsalford.org.uk.

Come and Join us: Tea and coffee are always served after the Sunday morning Masses at St John's (9am) and St Brendan's (11am). All welcome!

Readers & Eucharistic Ministers for 30 June/1 July		
Mass	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers
5pm (SB)	S Mikolajewski	TBA
9am (SJ)	P French	T Armstrong, F Smith E Rothwell, P McArdle, M Cropper, A Rawlinson
11am (SB)	L Lamoury	P Carolan, J Murphy, K Wilkinson

This Newsletter is sponsored by
HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE
Peel House
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ELIZABETH BIRTH RELATIONS
KINDNESS EIGHTH CIRCUMCISE
ZECHARIAH FATHER MOTHER
JOHN TABLET JUDAEA



Ss Peter & Paul



On 29 June the Church celebrates the feast day of Ss Peter & Paul. As early as around the year 258, there is evidence of an already lengthy tradition of celebrating the solemnities of both Saint Peter and Saint Paul on the same day. Together, the two saints are the founders of the See of Rome, through their preaching, ministry and martyrdom there.

Peter, who was named Simon, was a fisherman of Galilee and was introduced to the Lord Jesus by his brother Andrew, also a fisherman. Jesus gave him the name Cephas (Petrus in Latin), which means 'Rock,' because he was to become the rock upon which Christ would build His Church.

Peter was a bold follower of the Lord. He was the first to recognise that Jesus was "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and eagerly pledged his fidelity until death. In his boldness, he also made many mistakes, however, such as losing faith when walking on water with Christ and betraying the Lord on the night of His passion.

Yet despite his human weaknesses, Peter was chosen to shepherd God's flock. The Acts of the Apostles illustrates his role as head of the Church after the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ. Peter led the Apostles as the first Pope and ensured that the disciples kept the true faith. St Peter spent his last years in Rome, leading the Church through persecution before being martyred.

St Paul was the Apostle of the Gentiles. His letters are included in the writings of the New Testament, and through them we learn much about his life and the faith of the early Church. Before receiving the name Paul, he was Saul, a Jewish pharisee who zealously persecuted Christians in Jerusalem. Scripture records that Saul was present at the martyrdom of St Stephen.

Saul's conversion took place as he was on his way to Damascus to persecute the Christian community there. As he was traveling along the road, he was suddenly surrounded by a great light from heaven. He was blinded and fell off his horse. He then heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He answered: "Who are you, Lord?" Christ said: "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting." Saul continued to Damascus, where he was baptized and his sight was restored. He took the name Paul and spent the remainder of his life preaching the Gospel tirelessly to the Gentiles of the Mediterranean world.

In a sermon, St Augustine of Hippo said of Ss Peter and Paul: "Both apostles share the same feast day, for these two were one; and even though they suffered on different days, they were as one. Peter went first, and Paul followed. And so we celebrate this day made holy for us by the apostles' blood. Let us embrace what they believed, their life, their labours, their sufferings, their preaching, and their confession of faith."

Grant, we pray, O Lord our God, that we may be sustained by the intercession of the blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, that, as through them you gave your Church the foundations of her heavenly office, so through them you may help her to eternal salvation. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen