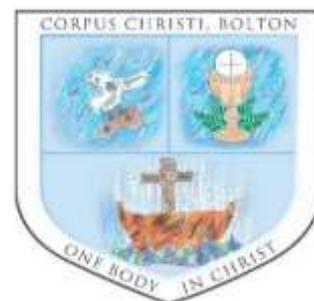


Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

8 December 2019

Second Sunday of Advent



Throughout the first three weeks of Advent our focus is very clearly on the End of Time, and the Second Coming of the Lord - not on the run up to Christmas (that only comes in the last week).

If we view Advent as a Season preparing for Christmas these readings will make little sense - and neither will the figure of John the Baptist who appears today: if it was about the preparation for Christmas, then John the Baptist, preaching after Jesus was born, becomes a confusing figure: his role is to preach to us, as he did of old, and to prepare us for the (second) coming of the Lord. Everything gets more specific today: what is being preached is not an event, but a person: Isaiah promises him, John welcomes him, Paul invites us to imitate him. We have here a thumbnail portrait of the Messiah - useful to refer to when we get to Christmas and he is revealed as a child in a manger!

Marriage Matters

Advent - a new beginning for us? Today, Isaiah talks about trust and Matthew focuses on forgiveness. Advent is the opportunity to discover new ways to help our partner to trust us and to share themselves. Our prayer can be that we drop our defences, become more vulnerable and have the courage to open ourselves to be able to really listen, to share and to change.

Think Vocation

St John the Baptist was the voice that cries in the wilderness asking people to prepare a way for the Lord and to change their ways. Like John, the voice of the Church can seem to be a voice in the wilderness of our world. It might not be a message that the world wants to hear but it needs to hear it. May others be called to serve in the Church as a voice for the Lord for his people today.

<p><i>Sunday Cycle C; Weekday Cycle 1; Divine Office Week 2 Sunday Missal: Readings page 99; Preface: Page 34</i></p>
<p>Sunday 8 December - Bible Sunday 9.30am Mass (SJ) - With Children's Liturgy 11am Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy 1pm Baptism (SJ)</p>
<p>Monday 9 December - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary 9am Exposition and Adoration (SB) 9.30am Mass (SB) 7pm Needles (Harbour Room, SB) 7.45pm SVP (SJ)</p>
<p>Tuesday 10 December 8.15am Advent Mass (SC) 6.30pm Exposition and Adoration (SJ) 7pm Mass (SJ) 7.15pm SVP (SB)</p>
<p>Wednesday 11 December 9am Exposition and Adoration (SJ) 9.30am Mass (SJ)</p>
<p>Thursday 12 December 9am Exposition & Adoration (SB) 9.30am Mass (SB)</p>
<p>Friday 13 December - St Lucy 9am Exposition & Adoration (SJ) 9.30am Mass (SJ)</p>
<p>Saturday 14 December - St John of the Cross 10.30am Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (SB) 10.45-11.15am Reconciliation (SB) 11.30am Mass (SB)</p>
<p>Sunday 15 December - Gaudete Sunday 9.30am Mass (SJ) - With Children's Liturgy 11am Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy 1pm Baptism (SJ) 1pm Baptism (SB)</p>

Parish Priest: Rev David Chinnery

Assistant Priest: Rev Alfred Rebello

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

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Website: www.sbsj.org.uk

Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity - 250037

Diocesan website: www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Prayers Please
We pray for all the sick and housebound in our parish, and other relatives and friends. Bernard Holder, Jackie Harte, Moya Fau-Goodwin, Matthew Harvey, Margaret Russell, Anne Hurst, Kenneth Martin, Vernon Holt
Lately Dead: Harold Jones, Bill Wheeler, Sandra Stones, Jean Gorse,
Anniversaries: Michael McDonagh, Lilian Wood, Herbert Hustwit, Gerard Dobson, Robert & Hilda Healey
Mass Intentions: Michael McDonagh, Lilian Wood and family, Herbert Hustwit, Gerard Dobson, Andrew Hayes (Birthday Remembrance), Robert & Hilda Healey, For someone's 90 th Birthday, Bill Wheeler
Cycle of Prayer Part 1 (of 6)
We pray especially for: openness to the Word of God; migrants and refugees; expectant mothers
Hope in the Future
Let us pray for the people of the parish of St Cuthbert, Halliwell, Heaton and Montserrat, Bolton, and for Fr Chris Gorton, their parish priest. We pray for their parish primary schools.
Facts and Figures for 30 Nov/1 December
Offertory Collection: £980.58
Standing Orders (29 Nov - 5 Dec): £748
Mass Attendance
5pm-121; 9am-205; 11am-139; Total-465
Cheques: Please make all cheques payable to <i>Corpus Christi</i>. Thank you.

Congratulations: To Alexia Lily Grace Derbyshire who was baptized last weekend. We pray that she and her family may continue to grow in faith.

Baptism Preparation: If you are seeking Baptism for your child, please contact the Parish Office. Tel: 01204 301927 or email office@sbsj.org.uk

Christmas Poinsettias: If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia plant in memory of a loved one, please complete a form (at the back of each church) and state which church you would like your memorial to be displayed in. All requests can be placed in the boxes provided

Hymn Books: The supplementary sheet of hymns has now been added to each hymn book, as an extra leaf, so that the hymns are in numerical order with 900 to 906 appearing after the hymns numbered in the eight hundreds. The hymns are no longer on a loose sheet. The choir would like to extend their thanks to the parishioner who sorted this out for the congregation.

Fair Trade: The Fair Trade stall will be available at each service this weekend. At St Brendan's it will be in the Harbour Room and at St John's it will be placed in the Patmos Room. Thank you for your continuing support

Hope in the Future - Stage Three

This weekend there will be another short Pastoral message from the Bishop together with a worksheet "Meeting Jesus in our Welcome" for us to begin our reflection.

Living the Sunday Eucharist: Second Instalment

During Stage 3 of Hope in the Future, we are considering four particular "moments" in our celebration of the Sunday Eucharist. Our participation in the Mass binds us together as disciples, strengthens us and prepares us for our mission. During Stage 3 of our Pastoral Programme we are reflecting on how we encounter Jesus in four key parts of the Mass: Our Welcome, Our Listening, Our Offering and Our Mission. This week, as we enter the Season of Advent, we concentrate on meeting Jesus in our Welcome. This Welcome is expressed in various ways. We arrive at church and welcome one another as members together of our parish community and be sure that visitors feel welcomed as our guests. We have come from our busy lives to celebrate the family of our parish. We bring with us our intentions for ourselves, family and friends and our hopes and concerns. When we arrive at Church, we encounter Jesus in one another, the Body of Christ. We are also welcomed, in the opening prayers of our Mass, by Jesus himself who greets us with forgiveness and reconciliation. As we prepare to welcome Jesus anew this Christmas let us pray that each of us personally, and our parish community, may 'prepare a way for the Lord' in our lives. (Matthew 3:3).

Lourdes at Home: Throughout the year Salford Lourdes Pilgrimage have 'Lourdes at Home' events to bring volunteers together and give those who can't join us on the pilgrimage a chance to get involved and experience a little bit of the atmosphere of Lourdes. The first 'Lourdes at Home' offering, for this year, is for our youth volunteers and pilgrims and is an evening of Adoration and Reflection, led by Fr Mark Paver. It will be next Friday 13 December at 7.30pm at St Luke's Church, Salford.

Fortalice Christmas Toy Collection: As in previous years, we have been asked if parishioners would kindly donate a newly purchased gift or voucher for children at Fortalice. These will be collected at Masses on 14/15 December. Thank you for your continued support.

Advent & Christmas

Advent Series at Wardley Hall: 10.30am - 12.30pm at Wardley Hall.

13 December: The Voice of Matthew

To book your place, please contact: Marie Sartini, Bishop's PA, 0161 794 2825, marie.sartini@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Solemn Mass for Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception: On Monday 9 December at 5.30pm there will be a Solemn Mass and Blessing of the new great west window. This will take place at The Manchester Oratory, St Chad's Church, Cheetham Hill Road, Manchester, M4 4EX. There will be Mozart, and Coronation Mass with orchestra. All are welcome. Find out more: www.manchesteroratory.org

A Holy Night Amidst the Christmas Chaos
A quiet time away on the 13/14 of December to prepare for the Christmas mystery. For booking and full details, please visit: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/event/advent-recollection/>

Music and Readings for Advent and Christmas
6.30pm, 15 December, St John's Cathedral, Chapel St, Salford, M3 5LE. Organised jointly between Caritas Diocese of Salford, and Salford Loaves and Fishes. Tickets are £5 by phone or you can register your tickets on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/music-and-readings-for-advent-and-christmas-tickets-79136388067>

Christmas Services and Mass Times
Reconciliation Service
Thursday 19 December
6.30pm (St Brendan's)

Christmas Eve
5pm St Brendan's
6pm St John's

Christmas Day
9.30am St John's
11am St Brendan's

Readers & Eucharistic Ministers For next weekend 14/15 December		
Mass	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers
5pm (SB)	J O'Connor	TBA
9am (SJ)	M Roe	P McArdle, L Rule, M Speed, J Carroll, T Armstrong, A Gracie
11am (SB)	K Denton	C Owen, P Brennan

Caritas seeking Befriending Service Volunteers:
Caritas is looking for friendly, welcoming volunteers who can join our dedicated team to help in the provision of support for lonely and socially isolated older people. Providing a befriending service and transport to shopping and various appointments i.e. doctor and hospital. You will provide a listening ear and support to clients which may include social occasions and organised events. We would like our volunteers to have regular commitment, such as weekly or fortnightly. If you feel that you can engage with older people and can make an impact on their lives, then we would be delighted to hear from you. A full driving licence with use of a car is necessary. To apply, please visit our website www.caritassalford.org.uk or contact Rebecca Anderson 0161 817 2264 or email r.anderson@caritassalford.org.uk

Diocese of Salford Cathedral Director of Music Vacancy

Appointment Type: Permanent, full-time.
Working hours: 35 hours per week Flexible working including evenings and weekends is essential.

Location: Salford Cathedral, 250 Chapel Street, Salford, M3 5LE

Salary: £35,000-40,000 per annum depending upon experience.

The Diocese of Salford is seeking to recruit a talented and versatile musician with outstanding abilities to help create and deliver the vision for our new Song School located in the heart of Salford. The successful candidate will have a professionally recognised music qualification equivalent to at least degree level. They will be a first-class choral director and competent keyboard-player who will be committed to the Church's liturgical vision as set out in the Second Vatican Council.

Closing date for applications: 12noon, Monday 6 January 2020. To find out more visit: www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/vacancies

Or to request an application pack or for more information on this post please contact:

Hannah Howard
Human Resources Manager
Department for Human Resources
Cathedral Centre, 3 Ford Street, Salford, M3 6DP. Telephone: 0161-817-2222
Email: HR@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

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An Advent Examination

Edward Hays, *A Pilgrim's Almanac*



Advent is the perfect time to clear and prepare the Way. Advent is a winter training camp for those who desire peace. By reflection and prayer, by reading and meditation, we can make our hearts a place where a blessing of peace would desire to abide and where the birth of the Prince of Peace might take place.

Daily we can make an Advent examination. Are there any feelings of discrimination toward race, sex, or religion? Is there a lingering resentment, an unforgiven injury living in our hearts? Do we look down upon others of lesser social standing or educational achievement? Are we generous with the gifts that have been given to us, seeing ourselves as their stewards and not their owners? Are we reverent of others, their ideas and needs, and of creation? These and other questions become Advent lights by which we may search the deep, dark corners of our hearts.

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- JOHN
- PREACHED
- WILDERNESS
- MESSAGE
- REPENT
- VOICE
- PREPARE
- BELT
- LOCUSTS
- HONEY
- SANDALS
- RIVER

