

DIocese of SALFORD
Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton
 St John, the Evangelist, Bromley Cross, St Columba's, Tonge Moor
 and St Brendan's, Harwood



30 November 2025

The First Sunday of Advent



How often have you spent time waiting for something to happen and when it does, or doesn't, you feel a great sense of disappointment. Waiting can be a waste of time. We seem to spend our lives waiting; waiting to be born, to go to school, to start work, to retire, and, while we are waiting, our lives go on, in joy and sorrow, and the waiting never stops. Advent is about waiting, but when we wait in Advent we wait with purpose, Advent is a time of anticipation, of longing, of hope. Each Advent our thoughts turn to the coming of the Lord. The Feast of Christmas and the birth of the Christ Child grow ever closer, but so too, at lifetimes own pace, the coming of the Risen Christ at the end of time.

We begin the season of Advent with three passages, many years apart. The readings reflect the faith of the people at the time the events they speak of were taking place. Isaiah speaks of a vision of the latter days; he speaks of the House of God standing on a high mountain, and of all the nations flowing towards it. A God who will teach all people His ways, "so that we may walk in his paths". His vision is of a God of Peace who will bring justice and security to the nations of the world.

Paul senses the immediacy of the day of the Lord. He looked back to Isaiah and saw the world in a different light; after all, if Jesus was the Messiah, and Paul certainly believed he was, then all was fulfilled and all he waited for was the second coming in glory. So, he urges the people, be patient in your waiting, be ready, don't lose it all now after all we have been through, keep going. "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ".

The Apostles were waiting; their impatience showed at times. When Lord? was often on their lips, when the Kingdom? when the glory? when will we be free? Jesus tells them; be ready, always be ready; "Stay awake for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming". This idea that we should always be ready is good advice because our lives are fragile; we do not know when this life will come to an end. **David Frank**

Masses & Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle C

Sunday 30 November

9.30am Mass (SJ) - with Children's Liturgy
 11am Mass (SB) - *with presentation of Children on Sacramental Programme*
 1pm Baptism (SJ)

Monday 1 December

9.15am Whole School Mass (SC School)
 12noon Requiem Mass for Vernon Holt (SB)

Tuesday 2 December

9.15am Yr5 & Yr6 Class Mass in St John's School
 10am Mass (SB) - With Yr 2
 7.30pm Christian Meditation (SB)

Wednesday 3 December - St Francis Xavier

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

Thursday 4 December

9.15am Whole School Advent Mass (SB)

Friday 5 December

12noon Mass (SB)

Saturday 6 December

10.45am Confession & Adoration (SJ)
 11.30am Mass (SJ)
 5pm Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy

Sunday 7 December - *Second Sunday in Advent*

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

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

Lately Dead: Alice Leggatt, Irene O'Connor, Pat Warren, May Enright, Vernon Holt, Arnold Banks

Mass Intentions: Alice Leggatt, In thanksgiving for favours received, Tony Edwards (Birthday Remembrance), Denis O'Kane (Birthday Remembrance)

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

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



Congratulations: To Riley Horrocks, Pollyanna Barlow and Lottie Grace Dearden who were baptised last weekend. We pray that both they and their families continue to grow in faith.



Turton Tractor Run: On 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.

Mary's Meals: In response to our summer collection of old/foreign coins, our parish raised £279.52! This is excellent news. The money raised from this initiative will help Mary's Meals bring hope to more desperately hungry children across the globe. Every 10p is enough to provide a hungry child with a nutritious meal in school. Mary's Meals would like to thank you for your continuous support & prayers.

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

Christmas Hamper Raffle: At St Brendan's Church on Sunday 14 December. If anyone could donate the following (unopened): Toiletries, Chocolates, Wine, Spirits or other Christmas type gifts, we would be most grateful. Please leave any items at the back of St Brendan's Church.

SVP News

SVP Coffee Morning: Thank you to all who came along on Wednesday to our coffee morning. We raised a fantastic £153.85 which will be used to help families this Christmas.

Christmas Dinner on Jesus: Thank you to everyone who donated jars of cranberry sauce, we have reached our target, and these will be taken to the Urban outreach collection centre.

Christmas Poinsettia Memorials: There is still time 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

The Sacrament of Reconciliation



As we enter 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.

Other News from Around the Diocese

Laudato Si' Centre Volunteer Call-out: Retired Educators: The Diocese of Salford's Environment Team is inviting retired education staff to volunteer at the Laudato Si' Centre to assist with their successful programme of school visits. Volunteers would be supporting sessions with children from nursery age to Year 11 with activities including arts and crafts, games, and foraging. To find out more, please email laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk.

December Carol Services: Diocese of Salford Schools' Singing Programme: The Diocese of Salford Schools' Singing Programme will be hosting a series of free carol services in churches across the diocese this December. Each service begins at 6.30pm and includes traditional carols and readings as part of a one-hour programme. Find your nearest service at

<https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/whats-on/>

Readers 6/7 December 2025

5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
N Bunting	A Hayes	M Day
Eucharistic Ministers 9.30am (SJ) 7 December		
J Carroll & S May		