

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

21 December 2025

Fourth Sunday in Advent





Advent is a time for welcoming. Each year around this time we welcome family and friends into our homes and into our hearts; sometimes the visit is brief, sometimes only a card sending best wishes for Christmas and sometimes they join with us to celebrate with a feast on Christmas day. These days are special.

I heard a sermon the other day and the priest spoke to us about two Christmases': one the birth of Christ and the other the feast we celebrate this year. It is important to remind ourselves of the separate nature of these two events. The first Christmas was a single event in time, a momentous event which can never be repeated for God became man on that day over two thousand years ago and changed humanity forever. Next week we celebrate that event, but we do so in our own time and place. Sometimes we confuse the birth of our Lord with all the hype of a modern Christmas: however, we cannot make the birth of Christ come alive unless we bring it into our homes on Christmas day.

When Jesus was born the world was very different; most of the known world was ruled by the Roman Empire. There was no mass media, no earth encompassing technology. People struggled to find out what was happening in the next village never mind somewhere on the far side of the world. Today all manner of things are within our grasp. We cannot see Christmas and miss the suffering in our world; we cannot pretend there is peace on earth when it is not so. We must celebrate the love that Jesus revealed to us by his birth, life, death and resurrection but with modern eyes mindful of the needs of his world today.

The message of each of today's readings is summed up by Isaiah:

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and shall call his name Emmanuel"- a name which means "God is with us".

It is important to remember that Mary's son, Jesus Christ, the Son of God is with us every day and in a special way this week when we celebrate his birth. Let us pray that He will guide us on the path to peace and justice for all his creation. *David Frank*

Masses & Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle A Readings: Page 90 of Mass Book

Sunday 21 December

9.30am Mass (SJ) - With Children's Liturgy 11am Mass (SB)

1pm Baptism (SJ)

Monday 22 December

12noon Mass (SJ)

Tuesday 23 December

10am Mass (SB)

The Nativity of the Lord



Christmas Eve: 4.30pm (SB) (Carols from 4pm); 6.30pm (SJ)

Christmas Day: 9.30am (SJ); 11am (SB)

Friday 26 December - St Stephen 12noon Mass (SJ)

Saturday 27 December - St John the Evangelist

10.45am Adoration & Confession (SJ)

11.30am Mass (SJ)

5pm Mass (SB)

Sunday 28 December - The Holy Family

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

Parish Contact Details Parish Priest: Fr Alfred Rebello

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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 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

Lately Dead: Irene O'Connor, Jean Lenihan, Joyce Heywood, Steve Cromarty

Anniversaries: Oswald Kenyon, David Walton, Peter McGowan, Dorothy Kirton, Harry & Phyllis Hamilton, Roy Shepherd, Pam Hunt, Sheila Hayes, James McGrath, Anna Mikolajewski, Kathleen Taylor

Christmas Remembrances: The Hayes & Heyes Families, George Brooks, Margaret Gibson, Margaret Jordan, Barbara Grimes, William & Kathleen Grimes and family in Ireland, Elizabeth Kerlin, The Carey Family, Rose & Vincent Heron, The Barrett Family Mass Intentions: James McGrath, Anna Mikolajewski, Sheila Hayes, Pam Hunt, Roy Shepherd, Oswald Kenyon, Harry & Phyllis Hamilton, Dorothy Mary Kirton, Kathleen Taylor, Peter McGowan, A Mass for the Intentions of the parish, Steve Cromarty, Jean

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

Lenihan

We Pray for the victims and the families of those who suffered in the recent attack at Bondi Beach. We ask for hope, healing and peace during their time of grief

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

A Little Note of Thanks: I would like to thank Fr Alf and Fr Freddie and all the parishioners who offered prayers for me. My operation was successful and I am home now. Thank you all so much. Barbara Owen.

Parish Christmas Coffee: Gaelic Coffee Morning: Thank you to everyone who came along to the coffee morning on Sunday. The amount raised came to over £400 which will be used for families in need this Christmas. We have some "unclaimed prizes" waiting collection in the Patmos Room, please bring your raffle tickets along with you this weekend.

St Brendan's Raffle: Thank you to all who supported the Christmas raffle. Along with the sale of Rosary beads, a total of £445 pounds was raised for the parish. Many thanks to those who organised

28 December 2025

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph Masses & Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle A Readings: Page 106 of Mass Book

Sunday 28 December

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

Monday 29 December - St Thomas Becket

12noon Mass (SJ)

Tuesday 30 December

10am Mass (SB)

Wednesday 31 December

12noon Mass (SJ)

Thursday 1 January - *Mary, The Holy Mother of God*

12noon Mass (SB)

Friday 2 January - Ss Basil & Gregory Nazianzen 12noon Mass (SB)

Saturday 3 January

10.45am Confession and Adoration (SJ)

11.30 Mass (SJ)

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

Sunday 4 January - Second Sunday of Christmas 9.30am Mass (SJ) - With Children's Liturgy 11am Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy

Date for your Diaries: We will be holding a Parish social event on Friday 27 February 2026 at Dunscar Conservative Club, Bromley Cross featuring The Flat Cappers, Irish Band. Tickets will be £10 (including Pastie Supper) and will be on sale soon. Hope you can make it!

Thank you: As I come to the end of my last week working in the Parish Office, I just wanted to say thank you to parishioners for your kind words and good wishes. I have been really fortunate to have had the opportunity to support our Parish over the years, and to have worked alongside some lovely friends, but I am now looking forward to spending time with Mark and my family on new adventures. I have had a Mass said for the intentions of our parish and I wish you all a very peaceful Christmas and may the New Year be filled with every happiness. *Catherine*

200 Club Christmas Winners:

£100 A Scott £80 A Heyes Earp £60 C Grundy £40 S May £20 L Haworth

Readers 27/28 December 2025		
5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
G Kearns	P Partington	C Owen
Eucharistic Ministers 9.30am (SJ) 28 December		
M Cropper & P Partington		