



PARISH OF CHRIST THE REDEEMER

RC churches of St Ethelbert & St William of York, Bolton

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Sunday 20th December 2020 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Introduction

It is easy when we read the accounts of the emerging Monarchy of Israel under the leadership of David, to assume that Israel was a powerful nation in the land where they settled. In fact the opposite was true. The people of Israel had originally asked for, 'Judges' to lead them because they were jealous of the great kingdom's that surrounded them with proper Kings and Queens. They were asking, "How can we be accounted a great nation when we do not have the same temporal and powerful leadership?"

Israel was surrounded by economically and militarily superior nation states. There was Egypt in the south, the Assyrian empire to the north and the Babylonian powerhouse to the east. Israel was often caught in the middle of these warring kingdoms and was never seen as a threat by any of them, only a people to be conquered and enslaved.

The belief in a powerful God who would lead them to equality and even superiority among the nations, and the introduction of a line of 'proper' monarchs, gave Israel that self-belief that would see them outliving many of the more powerful neighbouring empires. Israel's belief in 'one' God unlike its neighbours, was what would truly set Israel apart and on the road to a sense of nationhood, unity and self-belief.

God bless,

Fr Morrourh

	St Williams	St Ethelbert's
Monday 21 st December	9.30am	
Tuesday 22 nd December		9.30am
Wednesday 23 rd December	7.00pm Vigil Mass	
Thursday 24 th December	12.00 noon Christmas Eve	7.00pm Christmas Eve
Friday 25 th December		10.00am Christmas Day
Saturday 26 th December	12.00 noon Boxing Day	
Sunday 27 th December	9.30am	11.30am, 7pm

with the Stewards when they are trying to get people into church and seated safely, to guide you during the distribution of Holy Communion and to help you leave after Mass safely as well.

I'm still hearing accounts of some people being quite rude to our Stewards and saying things like, "I'll sit where I like" or "I'm not moving" etc. To those people can I just say, that this is a totally unacceptable way to behave during a pandemic. It also goes against our belief as Christians that we must not be selfish and must do whatever is needed to protect the safety of all our brothers and

Christmas Masses and our Stewards

This is my last opportunity before Christmas to ask you to please cooperate

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sisters in our community. If people become ill following our Masses, then it will most likely be due to your behaviour. I know it's a cliché, but just ask yourselves, what would Jesus do?



Mass Intentions: Ethel & Family Intentions, Simon Moisawe intentions, Nene Makwakala (S), Lionel Pinto (LD), Philip & Marie Derbyshire, Lesley Doyle, Anne Doyle, Maxine Doyle, Libby Hadley-Doyle, Eileen Deffley, Ben Shuttleworth, Anne Unsworth (B), Mark Hadley (A), John Doyle (A), John Deffley (A), Claire & Bill Rothwell RIP, Kenneth Leigh RIP, Liam D'Arcy (A)
Lately dead, A: Anniversary, BA: Birthday Anniversary, B: Birthday, S: Sick, M: Memorial, WA: Wedding Anniversary

Memorial Mass - 31st December
On Thursday 31st December 2020 at 2pm Bishop John will celebrate a Memorial Mass, livestreamed from Salford Cathedral, to remember all of the lives that have been lost this year.

St Ethelbert's Book of Remembrance: The Book of Remembrance will be update on 21st December, if anyone wishes to add a relative/friend at a cost of £10 per entry, please complete one of the forms available in the Sacristy by 20th December.

Christmas hamper raffle. The draw for the Christmas Hampers took place last week and the lucky winners are:
St Williams: Una Trenbath (Red edge ticket 926-930) & Agnes Lloyd-Holt (Red edge ticket 681-685)

St Ethelbert's: David Jolley (blue ticket 926-930) & Maureen Morley (Pink ticket 126-130)
A huge Thank You to everyone who generously donated the prizes and bought and sold tickets. We have raised a remarkable £566.00 for the parish.

Ladies Group: Thank you very much to the Ladies Group who have kindly donated £50.00 to the Parish.

God is with Us - Christmas at Home Resource: The Department for Formation have created a resource pack similar to the Advent at Home resource for the Christmas Season.

[A PDF of 'God is with Us - Christmas at Home' can be downloaded by clicking here](#)

You can find more information and resources here.

<https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/covid19/christmas-at-home/>

Christ the Redeemer Parish Collections: Donations from both churches this week £647.61. The bank statement at the end of November showed £726.00 Gift Aided donations and £737.00.00 in other donations and during Oct/Nov we received £302.00 in Web Donations. Thank you for your generosity.

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