



## Our Lady of Beauchief & Saint Thomas of Canterbury

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Parish Priest: Father Stephen Ssekiwunga

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**The Month of December is devoted to The Immaculate Conception**



## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) Sunday 10th December 2023 Psalter Week 2



### Saturday (Totley)

5.00 p.m. People of the Parish

### Sunday

9.15 a.m. Fred Sherwood

11.15 a.m. Dead List

**Monday** St Damasus I, pope

No Mass

**Tuesday** Our Lady of Guadalupe

10.00 a.m. (Totley)

**Wednesday** **St Lucy, virgin, martyr**

10.00 a.m. Agnes Eccles

**Thursday** St John of God, priest

No Mass

**Friday** *Advent Feria*

12.00 p.m. Doreen Dorrell

**Saturday** *Advent Feria*

No Mass

### Next week's Masses

**Saturday - Totley**

5.00 p.m. People of the Parish

**Sunday - Meadowhead**

9.15 a.m. Arthur Willcock

11.15 a.m. Emmanwel Ross

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**  
Saturday 10.30am – 11.30am

### *Please Pray for:*

**Our sick:** Anne Grayson, David Gage, Anne McPhee, Stephen Bingley, Pauline Souflas, Fred Sherwood, Teddy Howes, and Fr Michael O'Connor.

### **Responsorial Psalm: 84**

**R:** Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

**Offertory:** Loose plate and envelopes total for 3rd December is £137.51. Thank you.

**Come to Mass with no cash?** You can make weekly donations by card on the machines in the porch or at the side door table. You can gift-aid too! Please make use of this service if you can.

### Events for the Coming Week

**Monday** SVP Parish Rooms 6.45pm 11th December

**Friday** Lunch Club after midday Mass

**If you notice anything on or around the church premises which has the potential to cause harm or requires repair please let Liz Mason, Fr Stephen or Simon Jones know as soon as possible so that appropriate action can be taken promptly.**

Registered Charity No 512021





**Repository** - There are Christmas cards including some from Kirk Edge, available at the repository table. A bit later than usual! All cards are priced. You can either leave payment in cash or use the card machine and choose repository as the option. Thank you!

**This Friday, 15 December, St Thomas of Canterbury School are holding their Christmas Winter Warmer at 2.00pm in church** This is especially for parishioners - all are invited and encouraged to attend. If you can, please take the time to see the children perform for you.



**Church cleaning and decorating** will take place on Friday 22nd at 10.00am (this time to be confirmed next weekend). Please come along if you can spare an hour or two. The more the merrier and the quicker it will be done.



**This will be sung during the lighting of the Advent Wreath**

2. Light the Advent candle two  
Think of humble shepherds who  
Filled with wonder at the sight  
Of the child on Christmas night.

**Refrain**

Candle, candle burning bright  
Shining in the cold winter night  
Candle, candle burning bright  
Fill our hearts with Christmas light.

**Music for Christmas** - There will be a practice on Thursday 21 December 7 pm at Our Lady and Saint Thomas for the music for the 10 pm Mass on Christmas Eve. If you would like to join us please come along. The more the merrier.



**Mass Intentions** - There are now Mass Intention envelopes at all the doors of both churches. Please use these to request a Mass intention. You will see on the back of the envelope there is an opportunity to gift aid your donation if you are a tax payer.



Last Sunday the war resumed and its effects are deeply felt by all in The Occupied Palestinian Territories. (OPT). Bethlehem sees no active conflict, yet the repercussions of war weighs heavily on its residents. The security lockdown means that hotels stand empty; café's, restaurants and tourist sites have all shuttered their doors resulting in employee layoffs and wide unemployment. They will remain unemployed until hostilities end and the lockdown is lifted. This is not likely to be anytime soon.

In these circumstances there has already begun an exodus of Christians in search of work, security and a better life. The sick and the elderly cannot leave. They must endure. In the midst of movement and travel constraints our dedicated nurses persist in their work of providing care and comfort to individuals in their own homes. These nurses, daily confront concerns for their personal safety as they attend the most critically ill.

**As in previous years our Christmas tree stars and donations to the Christmas Crib will help them in their work.**

*Times of Masses for Christmas*

*Sunday Masses*

*Saturday, 23rd December*

*5.00pm*

*Totley*

*Sunday, 24th December*

*10.00am*

*Meadowhead*



*Christmas Masses*

*Sunday, 24th December*

*5.00pm*

*Mass with Children's Nativity, M/Head*

*Carols and Readings*

*9.30pm*

*Sunday, 24th December*

*10.00pm*

*Night Mass of Christmas, M/Head*

*Monday, 25th December*

*9.00am*

*Totley*

*Monday, 25th December*

*10.00am*

*Meadowhead*

*Tuesday, St Stephen's Day*

*10.00am*

*Meadowhead*

*Wednesday, St John, Apostle*

*10.00am*

*Meadowhead*

*Thursday, Holy Innocents*

*10.00am*

*Totley*

*Friday, St Thomas Becket,*

*10.00am*

*Meadowhead*





## The Advent Wreath

Last weekend's heavy snow sadly prevented many of us from being present at the solemn blessing of our Advent Wreath by Fr Stephen at the 9.15 Mass. The wreath - containing four candles, one more of which is lit each Sunday in Advent - is created out of evergreen foliage, symbolising everlasting life in the midst of winter and death. Some wreaths have a fifth candle which is placed in the middle of the wreath and is lit on Christmas Day.

The **first** purple candle - which was lit by one of our junior parishioners after the blessing of the wreath last Sunday - symbolises hope, and is called the "**Prophets' Candle**". The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, waited in hope for the Messiah's arrival.

The **second** purple candle represents faith - some traditions say it also represents love - and is called the "**Bethlehem Candle**". Micah had foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, also the birthplace of King David.

The **third** candle symbolises joy and is called the "**Shepherds' Candle**". To the shepherds' great joy, the angels announced that Christ came for humble, unimportant people like them, too. In the liturgy, the colour rose signifies joy, and this candle is that colour to represent rejoicing.

The **fourth** candle represents peace and is called the "**Angels' Candle**". The angels announced that the Messiah came to bring peace. He came to bring people close to God and to each other again.

The optional **fifth** candle represents light and purity and is called "**Christ's Candle**". It is placed in the middle and is lit on Christmas Day. This candle is white to represent pure light and victory.

**Any help tidying up the gardens for Christmas** would be much appreciated. Please help! Thank you!



In preparation for Christmas, **All Saints Catholic High School** warmly invite you, your family and friends to attend our Advent Liturgy on Wednesday 20 December at 6.30pm. Take some time away from the busyness of your life and spend 45 minutes in reflective preparation to welcome Christ into our world. Any donations on the evening will be divided between the Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust and St Wilfrid's Centre.

**St Wilfrid's Christmas Concert, this Wednesday, 13 December at 7pm at Mother of God Church.** There will be a mixture of Christmas carols for everyone to join in with and a number of songs to listen to, performed by Sheffield Folk Chorale. Refreshments will be served at the interval.

Tickets can be purchased from [www.stwilfridscentre.org](http://www.stwilfridscentre.org) or at the Centre, 524 Queens Road, tel: 0114 2555720

### Give to Live 100 Club winners for November

- 1st Angela Wood
- 2nd Anne Hurley
- 3rd Charles Perryman

### Advent Offertory Collections

As usual we are invited to make additional practical offerings as part of our preparations for Christmas for those in need in our area at this time.



**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday (10<sup>th</sup>) BISCUITS & CHOCOLATES** for SVP to distribute locally.



**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday (17<sup>th</sup>) MEN'S NEW SM/MED PANTS, VESTS, SOCKS, FOOTWEAR, WARM HATS, GLOVES, (NO SCARVES)** for BEN'S CENTRE for people on the streets in Sheffield.



**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday (24<sup>th</sup>) Advent Collection** of Money for SOCIETY for the PROTECTION of UNBORN CHILDREN





**HYMNBOOK NUMBERS**  
**Mass of St Columba**  
**Gospel Acclamation 68**



**Pope Francis's Prayer for December**  
**For people with disabilities**

*We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that organisations may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.*

Heavenly Father, You have taught us that every person is wonderfully made in your image.

We come before you today with hearts full of gratitude for each of the unique and beautiful lives you have created, especially in those living with disabilities. We ask that your loving presence surround and uplift all those who face the challenges of disability.

*'Creating a fully accessible parish requires... helping parishioners to develop attitudes and acts of solidarity and service towards persons with disabilities and their families.*

*Our aim should be to speak no longer about "them", but rather about "us".' – Pope Francis*

**Prayer: The Gift of Peace**

May God give wisdom and courage to those who work for peace. We pray that their efforts may be blessed, that they may bring an end to violence and solace and stability to suffering peoples.

May the gift of peace permeate all troubled souls, convert all who live by violence and comfort all children who live in menacing situations, that the freedom to enjoy life and grow in safety may be theirs.

And may each one of us know peace of mind and heart, peace of body and spirit, peace of community and world.

Holy Spirit of Peace, grant our prayer. **Amen.**

*Sr Bridgetta Rooney/CAFOD*

***Thought for the Week***



***It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness.***

***(Chinese proverb)***



**Prayer for the Second Sunday of Advent**

God of power and mercy,  
 open our hearts in welcome.  
 Remove the things that hinder us  
 from receiving Christ with joy,  
 so that we may share his wisdom,  
 and become one with him when he comes in glory,  
 for he lives and reigns with you  
 and the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

**This Week's Readings**  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)**

**First Reading:** *Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11*

**Responsorial Psalm:** *84*

**Second Reading:** *2 Peter 3:8-14*

**Gospel:** *Mark 1:1-8*

**Next Week's Readings**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)**

**First Reading:** *Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11*

**Responsorial Psalm:** *Luke 1:46-50, 53-54*

**Second Reading:** *1 Thessalonians 16-24*

**Gospel:** *John 1:6-8, 19-28*

**This Week's Ministries for 9/10 December**

<b>Readers</b>	5.00p.m.	E Watson, A Southern
	9.15a.m.	J Bourne, S Farragher
	11.15a.m.	M Richardson, A Willcock
<b>Communion</b>	5.00p.m.	P Durkin, V Coomer
	9.15a.m.	M Mahon, A Tucker, A Tucker
	11.15a.m.	P Corkell, K O'Brien, H Stones

**Next week's ministries for 16/17 December**

<b>Readers</b>	5.00p.m.	G Higgins, H Simmerson
	9.15a.m.	R Portaluri, C Faragher
	11.15a.m.	D Lewis, J-J Carter
<b>Communion</b>	5.00p.m.	S Davey, J Brook
	9.15a.m.	S Portaluri, J Tucker, P Ashby
	11.15a.m.	J McNally, S Campos, M Chisholm
<b>Welcomers</b>	9.15 a.m.	S Jones
	11.15a.m.	D Lewis

