

**Our Lady of Beauchief & Saint Thomas of Canterbury**

**Meadowhead, Sheffield, S8 7UD**

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**Chapel of Ease: English Martyrs, Baslow Road, Totley S17 4DR**

**Parish Priest: Father Stephen Ssekiwunga**

St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

Chancet Wood Drive, Sheffield S8 7TR

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



**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Gaudete Sunday) (C)**

**Sunday, 12 DECEMBER 2021 Psalter Week 3**



**Saturday**

5.00 p.m. (Totley) Annie & Brendan McBride

**Sunday**

9.15 a.m. People of the Parish

11.15 a.m. Alan & Margaret Miller

**Monday** St Lucy, virgin, martyr

**Tuesday (Totley)** Dead List

10.00 a.m. St John of the Cross

**Wednesday** *Advent Feria*

10.00a.m. Arthur & Mary Willcock

**Thursday** *Advent Feria*

No Mass

**Friday** *Advent Feria*

10.00 a.m. Kath Jarman

**Saturday** *Advent Feria*

No Mass

**Next week's Masses**

**Saturday (Totley)**

5.00 p.m. Angela McKinney

**Sunday (Meadowhead)**

9.15 a.m. Lucia Fojut

11.15 a.m. People of the Parish

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

Saturday 10.30am – 11.30am

***Please Pray for:***

**Our sick:** Tom Bennett, Neville Garrett, Danny Grant, Pauline Souflas, Teddy Howes, Katie Glackin, David Gage, & Edward Keefe.

**Responsorial Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6**

*R. Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.*

**Gospel Acclamation: 68**

**Events for the Coming Week**

**Monday** SVP Parish rooms 8-9pm (Alternate weeks from 20th September)

**Tuesday** Exploring Faith 7.30pm - 9.00pm

**Wednesday** Rainbows 6.15pm

Parish Prayer Group (in church) 7.45pm

**Please let me know when your group re-starts. Thank you.**

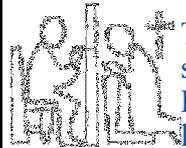
## The latest from Bishops' Conference regarding the omicron variant and our Churches:

With respect to the current situation with the omicron variant it is important to ensure the following points are followed in our churches:

- That people displaying Covid symptoms stay at home and not travel to church or participate in person.
- That hand sanitiser is used on entering and leaving church.
- That there is good ventilation and air throughout in the building; in this case, because of climatic conditions, it would be important to wrap up well in church!
- That a positive message encouraging people to get vaccinated and have the booster jab when able is delivered whenever possible.
- That people engaged in a form of pastoral ministry which involves ministry to the housebound, sick and vulnerable, take regular lateral flow tests to ensure they are safe to do so. These are free from the NHS.

Further to the above - following the recent Government announcement, with effect from last Friday, **FACE COVERINGS (NOSE AND MOUTH) ARE NOW COMPULSORY ONCE AGAIN** in places of worship Thank you for your cooperation and consideration.

### Advent Penitential Service



There will be a penitential service on Wednesday, 22nd December at 7.00pm followed by an opportunity to go to confession.

As ever, everything is COVID permitting!



**Church Decorating - The decorating of the church for Christmas** will take place after 11.15 Mass next Sunday 19th December. If you can spare half –an-hour or so to help with the preparations it would be much appreciated.



**Church Cleaning** or Christmas will take place on Monday 20th December from 11am onwards. Please come along. The more the merrier and the quicker it will all be done!



**Christmas Nativity Masses** - There will be a maximum of 200 at each of the 2 Masses. Seats will not be allocated but you must book a place. **Please ring the office between 11.00am - 2.00pm** on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, or email

the parish. Your name and number of seats required will be necessary.

**The children** are invited to come dressed as shepherds, kings, sheep etc. **Masks are STRONGLY recommended, and are COMPULSORY FOR ALL AGED 12 OR OVER.**

**Servers for Christmas** If you would like to serve at any of the Christmas Masses, could you please sign up in the sacristy this weekend.



**Memory Stars** - Memory stars for the Christmas Tree are on sale now. They cost £1.00 each. Please use this opportunity to remember loved ones and help raise much needed funds for Bethlehem Care & Hospice Trust. Bethlehem people have suffered more than most during the pandemic. Borders were closed. Tourism and Pilgrimages stopped. Unemployment still at 80% there continues to be real need for food and healthcare. **Thank you.**



## Masses for Christmas



*Christmas Eve: 3.00pm Mass with Children's Nativity (Places to be booked in advance)*

*5.00pm Mass with Children's Nativity (Places to be booked in advance)*

*10.00pm Mass of Christmas*

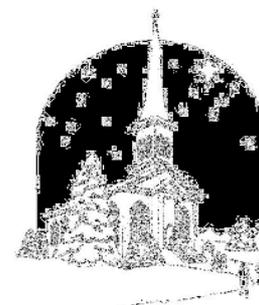
*Christmas Day: 9.00am Totley*

*10.00am Meadowhead*

*The Holy Family: 9.00am Totley*

*(Sunday) 9.15am Meadowhead*

*11.15am Meadowhead*



### St Wilfrid's Day Centre

Throughout December, the Sheffield Central Library are hosting a large exhibition about St Wilfrid's Centre in their foyer - 'Our Past, Our Present, Our Future and Our Thanks'.. There are 16 display boards of text and pictures to mark our 30th Anniversary and the contribution that individuals, staff, volunteers, clients and parishes have made. The Library is open 10-5 on Monday to Friday and 10-4 on Saturday. Please support the Centre by encouraging anyone you know to go and have a look at the exhibition. From 13th December, there will be a display case at the Millenium Gallery exhibiting pieces of pottery made by our clients to celebrate the 30th Anniversary.

#### Vacancies

We have three vacancies currently advertised on our website [www.stwilfridscentre.org/vacancies](http://www.stwilfridscentre.org/vacancies)

- ◇ Senior Administrator
- ◇ Cook and Catering Supervisor
- ◇ Cafe Manager and Volunteer Coordinator
- ◆ If you are not looking for a paid role and would be interested in volunteering at the Centre, there are currently vacancies in the cafe and kitchen. No experience is required. If you are interested, please contact [Lousie@stwilfridscentre.org](mailto:Lousie@stwilfridscentre.org)

### Shape The Future of Your Church

Pope Francis would like to hear from **YOU**. He has summoned a Synod for 2023, but before it meets, he wants every Catholic in the world prayerfully to participate in the preparation.

A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, "journeys together." Pope Francis wants us to listen to one another's stories and he has asked us to reflect on the following questions.

1. What has been your experience of living in your Catholic community been like?
2. How is this "journeying together" happening today in your local Church?
3. What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our "journeying together"?

How are you finding your journey right now?

Our parish's Synod Representatives - Anne-Marie Fletcher, Andy Blinston, Matthew Richardson, and Beth Craggs - would love to hear about your experience. Find them after any of the Sunday Masses, or email [oltsheffieldsynodreps@gmail.com](mailto:oltsheffieldsynodreps@gmail.com) to arrange a time to talk.

### The Brothers and Sisters of Our Lady & St Thomas SVP Conference

wish to thank parishioners who kindly donated biscuits and chocolates on the 2nd Sunday of Advent which will be given by members to housebound parishioners and those in care or nursing homes. Our thanks are also extended to anyone who gave a financial donation to our SVP helping us in supporting those in most need throughout the year.

*R Dickins, President*

**Online Carol Service Thursday, 16 December 7:00pm-8:00pm.** St John Rigby College & surrounding schools have been producing a CAFOD Carol Service for more than 30 years. It is a wonderful evening. Fr Philip Kehoe, Parish Priest of St Teresa's, Upholland, will welcome us. We shall hear from CAFOD's Tom Delamere, Deputy Representative for South Sudan. We hope you enjoy listening to the amazing talent of the children & young people. Register to join us.

### 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 .



**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday (12<sup>th</sup>) TOILETRIES, CLOTHING, FOOD** for ST WILFRID'S CENTRE eg Men's shower gel, roll on deodorant, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, lip salve, combs/hairbrushes, packs of tissues. Men's gloves, hats, underpants/boxers (sm-med size). Boxes/bars/sharing tubs of chocolate, biscuits, sweets, pot noodles, tinned ham, corned beef, tuna, casseroles, stews, fruit, custard, rice pudding.



**Collection for Society for the Protection** of the Unborn Child.

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday (19<sup>th</sup>) MEN'S CLOTHING** eg. new sm/med pants, vests, socks, footwear, warm hats, gloves, (no scarves) for BEN'S CENTRE for people on the streets in Sheffield.

## Thought for the Week - Gaudete Sunday

Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent, takes its name from the Latin word *gaudete*, which means *rejoice*. The priest may wear rose-coloured vestments instead of the purple/violet which is prescribed for all other non-Saints days in Advent. The readings for Gaudete Sunday focus on rejoicing in the Lord as well as the mission of St. John the Baptist.

Theologian Henri Nouwen expressed the difference between joy and happiness in these terms. While happiness is dependent on external conditions, joy is “the experience of knowing that you are unconditionally loved and that nothing - sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war, or even death - can take that love away.” Thus, joy can be present even in the midst of sadness. In his 2014 Gaudete Sunday homily, Pope Francis said that Gaudete Sunday is known as the “Sunday of joy,” and that instead of fretting about all they still haven’t done to prepare for Christmas, people should “think of all the good things life has given you.”

**This Monday**, 13<sup>th</sup> December, is the feast day of **St Lucy**. She was martyred in the year 304 in Syracuse (Sicily) - aged about 20 - one of the many Christian victims of persecution by the Roman Empire at that time. Legend has it that, having made a vow of virginity as witness to her faith, she was betrayed to the authorities by a disappointed suitor. Devotion to her soon spread throughout the Church. She is one of the seven women martyrs named in the full version of the first Eucharistic Prayer.

**Tuesday**, 14<sup>th</sup> December, is the feast day of **St John of the Cross**. Born in Old Castile in 1542, he enrolled with the Carmelite order and was ordained priest in 1567. Under the influence of Teresa of Avila, John undertook the task of reforming the Order, which ultimately resulted in his persecution and a 9-month imprisonment. In the darkness of the dungeon, his spirit came into the Light. John is unique as a mystic-poet, expressing the ecstasy of mystical union with God in the *Spiritual Canticle*. He went on to write *Ascent of Mount Carmel*, on the ascetic life in pursuit of mystical union with Christ. John’s life and his writings emphasise the gospel paradox, if you want to save your life, you must lose it.

### Pope Francis’s December Prayer Intention (for Catechists)

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit. May the presence of the Holy Spirit, through the prayers of Mary, grant the Church unprecedented enthusiasm in the catechetical work that is essential for her. Thus will she effectively carry out, at this moment of grace her inalienable and universal mission, the mission given her by her Teacher: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.”

### A Prayer / Hymn for Advent

Creator of the stars at night,  
The people’s everlasting light  
Redeemer, Saviour of us all,  
O hear your servants when they call.

As once through Mary’s flesh you came,  
To save us from our sin and shame  
So now, Redeemer, by your grace,  
Come heal again our fallen race.

And when, on that last judgement day,  
We rise to glory from decay,  
Then come again, O Saviour blest,  
And bring us to eternal rest.

*Irvine Udulutsch OFM CAP*

### This Week’s Readings THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

**First Reading:** *Zephaniah 3:14-18*

**Responsorial Psalm:** 12

**Second Reading:** *Philippians 4:4-7*

**Gospel:** *Luke 3:10-18*

### Next Week’s Readings FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**First Reading:** *Micah 5:1-4*

**Responsorial Psalm:** 79

**Second Reading:** *Hebrews 10:5-10*

**Gospel:** *Luke 1:39-45*

### This week’s ministries:

#### Communion:

**9.15am:** R Portaluri

**11.15am:** S Campos

#### Readers:

**6.30pm:** V Coomer, H Simmerson

**9.15am:** F Green, J Fojut

**11.15am:** J McNally, A Willcock

### Next week’s ministries for 18/19 December

<b>Communion</b>	9.15 a.m.	H Grady
	11.15 a.m.	M Chisholm
<b>Readers</b>	5.00 p.m.	C Nicholson, G Higgins
	9.15 a.m.	S Farragher, R Portaluri
	11.15 a.m.	F Glaze, M Richardson
<b>Welcomers</b>	9.15 a.m.	N Parsons
	11.15 a.m.	D Lewis

**Rota for Ministries - The new rota has been emailed. Hard copies are available at the back of both churches. Please ensure you arrange a substitute if you are unable to carry out your ministry.**