

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

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The Month of December is devoted to The Immaculate Conception



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - *Gaudete Sunday*

13 December 2020 Psalter 3



Saturday

5.00 p.m. Pat Kirk

Sunday

9.15 a.m. John Walton

11.15 a.m. People of the Parish

Monday St John of the Cross

12.00 p.m. Bridie Packenham

Tuesday *Advent Feria*

12.00 p.m. Dead List

Wednesday *Advent Feria*

9.45 a.m. Requiem for Margaret Miller
(No public Mass)

Thursday *Advent Feria*

10.00 a.m. Yorkshire Brethren

Friday *Advent Feria*

10.00 a.m. Carmel Sweeney

Next Week's Masses

Saturday (Meadowhead)

5.00 p.m. People of the Parish

Sunday (Meadowhead)

9.15 a.m. Margaret Miller

11.15 a.m. Catherine Mary Tetzlaff

Please Pray for:

Our sick: Teddy Howes, Rosalie Travis, Anne Brown, Rae Goodlad, Marie Lennox, Sr Emma Bechold, Katie Glackin, Neville Garratt, Pauline Souflas, Lucia Fojut, Michael Goodfellow, Pauline Collins, Sheila Ryan, Linda Costello, and Edward Keefe.

Lately dead: Margaret Miller and Pat Kirk
RIP

And let us remember in our prayers
Zisimos Souflas who is missing.

Weekly Offertories – If you would like to make a bank transfer for your weekly offering instead of the loose plate or your weekly envelope you may do so using the following details.

Sort Code: 40-41-07 Account Number: 01095153

Please put Offertory in the Reference box. Please include your name also if it is to replace your envelope or for gift aid.

Anyone wishing to set up a Standing Order, the account name you should use is: ***Diocese of Hallam Woodseats RC Parish.***

Sunday Collections

Please remember, you can pay your weekly contributions directly into the parish account. The details are below.

If you are paying by cheque and sending the money to the presbytery, please remember cheques **MUST** be made payable to:

'Woodseats R C Parish Account'. The bank will not accept any variation.



Mass Times for Christmas
Book early to avoid disappointment!



Booking has started. Please ring or email to book your seats. Please try and keep to office hours. If the phone goes to answer, please leave your name, number of seats required and a contact number. **Please note, 5pm Christmas Eve is fully booked!**

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass - 9.00pm	Christmas Day	Feast of St Stephen	The Holy Family
	Early Morning - 8.00am	Mass - 10.00am	Mass - 9.15am
Christmas Eve Night Mass - 10.00pm	Morning Mass - 9.15am	Holy Family Vigil - 5.00pm	Mass - 11.15am
	Mass - 10.30am		

Seating Arrangements - Of the available rows, there will be either 2x2 or 3+1 on each row, OR a maximum of 6 from one household. Please bear this in mind when you ring to book your place. Seats will be allocated like a theatre booking and you will be told where you're sitting at the time of booking. PLEASE DO NOT sit in any other seat as it'll mess up the entire booking system! The organ loft will also be in use, so if you have an aversion to heights let me know when booking!

Booking for Mass - Now Masses have resumed please remember you need to book for weekend Masses. Remember, masks MUST be worn throughout Mass and a 2 metre distance must be maintained at all times.

Schools from Kent to Glasgow, (including Our own Parish school) are supporting this years Schools for Bethlehem Appeal – to establish the first hospice in Bethlehem.. The present restrictions have prevented schools organising Crib exhibitions etc and the limitations imposed on those who can enter schools has meant that a very restricted appeal is only possible. To help schools support Bethlehem and the schools community to support the school a JustGiving campaign page has been set up. For those who want to help the link is: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/schoolsforbethlehem>
Help your school to help Bethlehem.

Christmas Eve Mass - If you booked for 5 people at 5pm on Christmas Eve, could you please contact me at the presbytery or at home on 255 21493? Many thanks!

RESTORED LIVES - ONLINE COURSE FOR THE DIVORCED AND SEPARATED
 Recovering from relationship breakdown? The Restored Lives course supports and helps people to move forward from divorce and separation, or the breakdown of any serious relationship, to live a full life, free from past issues.
 A six session ZOOM course commences Wednesday February 3rd. 6pm - 8pm
 £20 including handbook (unwaged free of charge)
 Booking essential - see booking form (available on the website - olstsheffield.org.uk)
 Or contact stym@hallam-diocese.com 0114 2566407

The family of Pat Kirk would like to thank everyone in the parish for their kind words, Mass cards and donations to Outreach. It is very much appreciated.



Health and Safety - Just before the first lockdown (all that time ago back in March!), Fr Gus appointed **Maria Mahon and Tom Henderson** as the official Health and Safety (H&S) Reps for the parish. Both are fully qualified in H&S. Since then our lives have changed beyond imagination. Now we're trying to get back to some sort of normality, Fr Stephen has confirmed he would like to keep to this arrangement. We are coming out of the second lockdown and Maria and Tom will be doing regular checks and ensuring we are fully compliant in all things to do with H&S in the church, parish rooms and all other church property. If you have any concerns or notice something you think may need attention please let them, or Father Stephen know. You can contact Maria at maria@verdiswaste.com or 07904499610.

Safeguarding - Please note that **Frances Glaze** is the Safeguarding Rep for the parish, and any concerns you may have should be made to her, including any H&S issues in direct relation to Safeguarding. Frances may be contacted on 07753 132433.

COVID-19 Guidelines when attending Mass - Please remember you must NOT stop and chat to others on the way in or out of church. The 2 metre rule MUST be adhered to at all times whilst in church. It is important you not congregate.

CAFOD on-line events

- ◆ [CAFOD Advent Prayer - A Journey To The Manger](#) Every Sunday from NOW to 6 January, 6pm-6:30pm
Join us for some simple and peaceful prayer and reflection as we share our journey of Advent together. We will gather around a candle and be gently led in a short time of prayer. No need for a computer camera or microphone or worrying about what to say. Just register then click the link on Sundays through Advent and on to Epiphany, the 6th of January. All are welcome to join in this journey. [Register](#) to the series.
[Browse all past online talks](#)
- ◆ [CAFOD Upcoming talks](#)
Register for our virtual children's liturgy Advent Mass online **Wednesday 16 December, 6pm-7pm**
You are invited to join us to celebrate the coming of Christ at Christmas with a special Mass streamed live online. This Advent, as we continue to experience the terrible impact of the coronavirus pandemic, we will come together in solidarity and prayer. We will bring together our prayers, from and for our communities and partners and our families and friends across the world, into the presence of our loving God. Register to join us.
- ◆ [CAFOD Carol Service - St John Rigby College Thursday 17 December, 7:30pm-9pm](#)
St John Rigby College, partner schools and the community this year are going virtual! We are proud to share the gifts and talents of students, pupils and the community in our CAFOD Carol Service 2020 where we will hear from a guest speaker about the work completed in South America. Register to join us.
- ◆ [How to have a green Christmas with World Gifts](#) Christmas is the time for giving and receiving, of sharing good food with the people we love and of showing our gratitude for the year we've had. On the other hand, it inevitably becomes a time of great waste. Most of us end up buying so much food we can't eat it all and a host of gifts remain unopened and unused by the receiver. World Gifts is a way of giving waste-free gifts! The optimum choice is to send an e-card, your money goes to those who need it and no trees are harmed in the giving of your gift! But even if you choose to print your gift card at home, or receive it in the post, World Gifts is the gift choice which will always be waste free. Each gift bought goes to help those living in poverty, so there is no fear of the gift being thrown away unused, or unnecessary packaging that makes even the most appreciated gift bad for our planet.
- ◆ **The facts: Still not convinced?** In the UK, one billion Christmas cards go in the bin when they could be recycled. 227,000 miles of wrapping paper is thrown away each year, that's from here to the moon! Each year the UK is said to spend over £700 million on unwanted presents.
- ◆ **Go green this Christmas**
By choosing a charity gift this Christmas you are ensuring you will not only provide a loved one with a gift they love, but you are changing the lives of those living in poverty.
If you choose to send an ecard, avoiding waste all together then you can! It looks just the same as our printed card, with a beautiful nativity scene on the front. It's then animated to open the card and reveal a case study, explanation of the gift you've chosen and your personalised message inside.



ADVENT OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS – may be a bit different from usual this year but the needs are still here in our local community and we know parishioners value this opportunity as part of the preparations for Christmas to focus on what helps to spread the real message of Good News. So, here's the list of needs for over the 4 weeks, though there are more ways for you to deliver items because of restrictions. (Alternatively you can send financial donations via Outreach. Details on the parish website.)



4th Sunday - 20th December for Ben's Centre (*needed by 20th*)
Men's new medium underwear- pants & vests, hats & gloves (no scarves please) and new or second-hand CLEAN sleeping bags for outdoor use.

Donations can be made directly to Ben's or to OLST.

*Donations can be left in the church porch on Monday, Wednesday, Saturday or Sunday, from 9.45 -11.30am., Meadowhead ONLY

PLEASE LABEL your gifts with the name of the charity. THANK YOU.

Gaudete Sunday, pronounced *gow-day-tay*, is the third Sunday of Advent. The day takes its name from the Latin word *gaudete*, which means *rejoice*. One of the candles in the Advent wreath is rose-coloured for Gaudete Sunday or Joy Sunday. The priest wears rose vestments instead of purple/violet, which is otherwise prescribed for all other non-Saints days in the season of Advent. The readings for Gaudete Sunday focus on rejoicing in the Lord — Christian joy — as well as the mission of St. John the Baptist.

Theologian Henri Nouwen described the difference between joy and happiness. 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.”

1st Corinthians 13 (A Christmas Version)

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights, and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away on the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata, but do not focus on those I love most, I have missed the point.

. . . In other words,

Love stops the cooking to hug a child

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the spouse.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust.

But the gift of love will endure.

Prayer for the Week

Let our prayers rise like incense before you, Lord,
so that we may come in humility and purity of heart
to celebrate the great mystery of your Son's incarnation.

We make our prayer
through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son,
who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen

This Week's Readings Third Sunday of Advent (B)

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

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

Second Reading: *1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

Gospel: *John 1:608, 19-28*

Next Week's Readings Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Reading: *2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14-16*

Responsorial Psalm: 88

Second Reading: *Romans 16:25-27*

Gospel: *Lune 1:26-38*

People of hope

In this season of Advent,
inspire us to be people of hope.
Encourage us not to be greedy
for material possessions,
but for justice and truth.
Enflame us with a love for others,
which crosses boundaries of race,
religion and nationality.
Stir within us a desire to fight
for the integrity of creation and
appreciate the immense beauty of the earth.
Be with us, Lord, at this time,
that we may be a people of hope.
Amen.

Susy Brouard/CAFOD

