

Our Lady of Beauchief & Saint Thomas of Canterbury
Meadowhead, Sheffield, S8 7UD
Telephone: 0114 274 7257
Email: olstchurch@gmail.com Website: www.olstsheffield.org.uk
Chapel of Ease: English Martyrs, Baslow Road, Totley S17 4DR
Parish Priest: Father Clement Abah

St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School
Chancet Wood Drive, Sheffield S8 7TR
Telephone: 0114 274 5597 Email: enquiries@st-tc.co.uk Website: www.st-tc.co.uk

The Month of December is devoted to the Immaculate Conception



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Gaudete Sunday) (A)
Sunday, 14th December 2025



Saturday (Totley)

5.00 p.m. People of the Parish

Sunday

9.15 a.m. Arthur and Mary Willcock

11.15 a.m. Seamus Ryan

Monday *Advent Feria*

No Mass

Tuesday (Totley) *Advent Feria*

10.00 a.m. Kathleen Connelly

Wednesday *Advent Feria*

10.00 a.m. Nancy Smith

Thursday *Advent Feria*

12.00 p.m. Requiem for Kathleen Connelly

Friday *Advent Feria*

12.00 p.m. Sue Jarman

Saturday *Advent Feria*

10.45 a.m. Susan Willcock

Next Week's Masses

Saturday - Totley

5.00 p.m. People of the Parish

Sunday - Meadowhead

9.15 a.m. Danny Grant

11.15 a.m. Soledad Ross

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday 10.00am – 10.40am

Rosary - 10.00am

Sacrament of Confession

Saturday 10.00am - 10.40am

Pray for our sick: Elizabeth Watson, Nuala Jones, Philomena McNally, Anne McPhee, Anne-Marie Fletcher, Paul Smith, Brenda Charles, Helen Aulton, Stephen Bingley, Molly Upton, Oliver Wragg, Sheila Hurst, and Sue Jarman.

Lately dead: Kathleen Connelly
Fr. David Bulmer (Leeds Diocese) **RIP**

Responsorial Psalm: Isaiah 12

R: Shout aloud and sing praise, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Offertory: Loose plate and envelopes total for 7th December 2025 is £373.46. Thank you.

Come to Mass with no cash? You can donate by card on the machines in the porch and by the side door. You can gift-aid too!

Events for the Coming Week

Monday 6.45pm SVP Meeting via Zoom

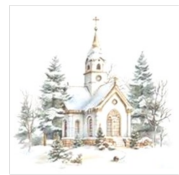
Wednesday 6.15pm Rainbow and Brownies

Registered Charity No 512021

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 Clement or Simon Jones, tel. 07808283807 know as soon as possible so that appropriate action can be taken promptly.

Times of Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve	~ 5.00pm	Children's Mass with Nativity
	~ 9.30pm	Carol Service
	~ 10.00pm	Night Mass of Christmas
Christmas Day	~ 9.00am	Totley
	~ 10.00am	Meadowhead
St Stephen's Day	~ 10.00am	Meadowhead



Christmas Eve Nativity Mass: Please come and join the Children's Liturgy Team at 5pm on Christmas Eve for a wonderful Nativity Mass to start your Christmas celebration! Children (of all ages!) are encouraged to come dressed up as a Nativity character (animal, human or divine!) and will be invited to join in with the telling of the Nativity story. With traditional carols, this will be a truly family friendly service to which all relatives, friends and visitors are very welcome. We hope you will join us! Rachel, Naomi and Josh.



There is a Christmas Music practice at Meadowhead on Monday 22 December at 5.00pm. All welcome.



Altar Servers for Christmas Masses at Meadowhead The celebration of Christmas is one of the great moments in the Church's Year. It is important that we have altar servers at each of the Masses

If you are available to serve at any of the liturgies please sign up on the list in the sacristy.

Christmas Cards: there is a wide selection of Christmas cards available for sale on the repository tables.

The Advent Wreath - This weekend we light the **rose/pink candle** which 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.

Sacrament of Reconciliation. Pre-Christmas Confessions at Meadowhead will be at the usual time, Saturdays 10.15-10.40am



As an alternative, **Confession is available at St Marie's Cathedral** from 11.30-12.15 Monday-Saturday.

Church Decorating and Cleaning at Meadowhead, will take place at 10.00am on **Tuesday, 23rd December**. If you can spare half an-hour or so to help with the preparations it would be much appreciated. The more the merrier and the quicker it all gets done!



3. Light the Advent candle three

Think of heavenly harmony
Angels singing Peace on Earth
At the Blessed Saviour birth.

Refrain

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



RCIA - Journey In Faith Programme 2025-2026

Our parish Journey in Faith programme is a course for all who wish to become a Catholic, for adult Catholics yet to receive their First Holy Communion or for Catholics who wish to learn more about their faith. There are no more meetings this year. We will resume on Thursday 8th January 2026 at 6.00pm

Funeral Arrangements - The funeral for Kathleen Connelly is this Thursday, 18 December at 12 noon at Meadowhead, followed by burial at Abbey Lane.

The new Ministries Rota comes into effect next weekend
There are some hard copies in the porch. Thank you to everyone who responded to the availability email. If you are unable to fulfil any of your allocated duties, and particularly at the Christmas liturgies, please arrange for a substitute.

The Closing of the Jubilee Year: Pope Francis, in the bull *Spes non confundit*, decreed that the Jubilee Year would close on Sunday 28 December 2025, feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph at a celebration of the Eucharist at which the diocesan bishop presides in the cathedral church. Bishop Ralph will preside over the Rite of the Closing of the Jubilee Year 2025 **at St Marie's Cathedral on Saturday 27th December**. The Mass will be at 3.30pm and will be a Vigil Mass for the feast of the Holy Family. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come and give thanks to God for all he has done during this special year of prayer, pilgrimage and conversion.

Once again our Christmas Trees are to be Memory Trees. You will be able to write your message on paper stars in representation of your loved ones. The stars are now available on the small side table, so please leave your completed stars in the basket and they will be hung on the trees later. Your intentions will be remembered at all Masses throughout Christmastide. The stars are £1 and the proceeds will go **to The Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust**.

Advent Liturgy at all Saints School In preparation for Christmas, All Saints Catholic High School warmly invite you, your family and friends to attend our Advent Liturgy this Wednesday 17th December at 6.00pm. Take some time away from the busyness of your life and spend 45 minutes in reflective preparation to welcome Christ into our world. Refreshments will be available after the Liturgy. Any donations on the evening will be donated to our local charities.

Or alternatively...St. Wilfrid's Centre are holding a carol service at Mother of God Church on Abbeydale Road on the Wednesday 17th December from 6:30pm-7:30pm. All are welcome to attend. There will be a chance to purchase handcrafted Christmas goods made at the Centre. There will also be refreshments afterwards in the hall. All purchases will be **cash only**. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Lessons and Carols at St Marie's Cathedral - Friday 19th December: On the evening of Friday 19th December, starting at 6.30pm, there will be a liturgy of Lessons and Carols at St Marie's Cathedral.

St Wilfrid's Centre is looking to recruit a new Director. See our website stwilfridscentre.org for the job description, person specification and application form. Closing date: midnight Sunday 4th January 2026.

Caritas Diocese of Hallam (formerly known as Hallam Caring Services) is part of the worldwide network of organisations in the Catholic Church putting into action the social teaching of the Church to reach out to those in need and to build a world based on justice and love. Caritas provides a loving service to people within our communities, for instance thousands of hours of counselling, including supporting children and their families in our schools, referrals for domestic abuse, wellbeing courses, relationship counselling and family therapy across the Diocese. There will be a retiring collection after all Masses on 20-21 December. You can also donate by on the second collection tab on the card machine. Read about Hallam Caritas on the diocesan website <https://hallam-diocese.com/caritas/>

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.



TODAY 3rd Sunday (14th December) 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 www.benscentre.org



4th Sunday (21st December) Collection of MONEY for CARITAS HALLAM - see note above <https://hallam-diocese.com/caritas/#more-about-caritas>

Our Parish Safeguarding representatives are: Angela Holman and Claire Parsons.
Email address: safeguarding.olst@hallam-diocese.com



New Celtic Mass: Gospel Acclamation 68: Holy Holy 553: Memorial acclamation 554: Amen 555: Lamb of God 591.



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 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.

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. 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 Wednesday 17th December we enter the second half of Advent, which moves the focus from Christ’s final coming to his first coming in Bethlehem.

Thought for the week

A reflection by Pia Matthews, a member of the formation team at Allen Hall Seminary Chelsea, a lecturer for the Mater Ecclesiae College from the *Advent Wave of Hope* series <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wave-of-hope/>

“The motto of the seminary is *Vivamus in Spe* – let us live in hope. We live in hope because, after all, the battle has already been won, Jesus has conquered sin and death. But what is truly wonderful and amazing is that God, who does not need us, asks each one of us to participate in whatever way we can in his great plan of salvation.

This past year has been a truly hopeful one as we have had more men from all walks of life coming to the seminary to be formed and to conform all aspects of their life to Christ – to deepen their spiritual lives, to grow more fully as human beings, to strengthen their understanding of the faith and all that God has done for us, to develop truly pastoral hearts.

What is truly encouraging is that lay people have joined the academic programme. Working together, this is an opportunity not just for information, but for formation, so that we can all take part in mission and evangelisation.

After all, we are all workers in God’s vineyard – and there’s only one vineyard.”

Prayer for the Third Sunday of Advent

Grant, almighty God,
that looking forward in faith
to the feast of our Lord’s birth,
we may feel all the happiness our Saviour brings
and celebrate his coming with unfailing joy.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

This Week’s Readings Third Sunday of Advent (A)

First Reading: *Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10*

Responsorial Psalm: *146*

Second Reading: *James 5:7-10*

Gospel: *Matthew 11:2-11*

Next Week’s Readings Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)

First Reading: *Isaiah 7:10-14*

Responsorial Psalm: *24*

Second Reading: *Romans 1:1-7*

Gospel: *Matthew 1:18-24*

This Week’s Ministries 13/14 December 2025

Readers	5.00 p.m.	V Coomer, A Southeran
	9.15 a.m.	J Fojut, S Jones
	11.15 a.m.	M Paterson, A Willcock
Communion	5.00 p.m.	J Brook, K Durkin
	9.15 a.m.	C Parsons, N Parsons, H Grady
	11.15 a.m.	J McNally, K O’Brien, P Orkamfat

Next Week’s Ministries 20/21 December 2025

Readers	5.00 p.m.	D Fletcher, H Simmerson
	9.15 a.m.	L Grady, A Peacey
	11.15 a.m.	M Pybus, I Paterson
Communion	5.00 p.m.	K Durkin, J Brook
	9.15 a.m.	A Tucker, A Tucker, M Mahon
	11.15 a.m.	P Corkell, M Harrison, S Campos
Welcomers	9.15 a.m.	Volunteer needed
	11.15 a.m.	S Reynolds