

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 Clement Abah

St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

Chancet Wood Drive, Sheffield S8 7TR

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The Month of December is dedicated to The Immaculate Conception



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gaudete Sunday

Sunday 15th December 2024 (C)



Saturday (Totley)

5.00 p.m. People of the Parish

Sunday

9.15 a.m. Arthur and Mary Willcock

11.15 a.m. Peggy McGloin

Monday *Advent Feria*

No Mass

Tuesday (Totley) *Late Advent Feria*

10.00 a.m. Nicole Richardson

Wednesday *Late Advent Feria*

10.00 a.m. Ian Richardson

7.30 p.m. Penitential Service

Thursday *Late Advent Feria*

No Mass

Friday St Eugene

12.00 p.m. Craig Richardson

Saturday St Peter Canisius, priest, doctor

10.45 a.m.

Next week's Masses

Totley

5.00 p.m. People of the Parish

Meadowhead

9.15 a.m. Danny Grant

11.15 a.m. Anne & Robert Brown

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: Pat Durkin, Brenda Charles, Theresa Greensmith, Stephen Bingley, Philomena McNally, Sue Jarman, Anne-Marie Fletcher, Molly Upton, Pauline Souflas, Patricia McGuone, Helen Aulton, Sheila Hurst, Teddy Howes and Paul Smith.

Responsorial Psalm: Isaiah 12

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

Events for the Coming Week

Monday SVP Parish Rooms 13th January 6.45pm

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 know as soon as possible so that appropriate action can be taken promptly.

Offertory: Loose plate and envelopes total for 8th December 2024 is £319.94. Thank you.

Come to Mass with no cash? You can make donations by card on the machines in the porch or at the side door table. You can gift-aid too!

Times of Christmas Masses



Christmas Eve - 5pm with Nativity - Meadowhead
Christmas Eve - 9.30pm Carols and Readings
Christmas Eve - 10pm - 'Midnight' Mass - Meadowhead
Christmas Day - 8.30am Toley
Christmas Day - 10.00am Meadowhead



Penitential Service - There will be a penitential Service at OLST on Wednesday, at 7.30pm. Please come along. Confessions will be available afterwards.

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.



Church Decorating and Cleaning at Meadowhead, will take place at 10.00am on **Monday, 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!



Ministries over Christmas

The new rota has been sent which covers Christmas. Please ensure you check to see if you've been put on the rota and that you are there to fulfil your duty. If you are not able to attend, it is **VERY IMPORTANT** you arrange a substitute. Please do not assume there will be someone to step in.

Local traditional Sheffield Carols 7.30 – 9pm at the Abbey Hotel, Mondays 16th & 23rd, and Boxing Day 4.30-6pm. Come and share the joy of the Good News.



Friday Lunch Club - Please note that the last Friday Lunch Club for this year will be on 13th December and we will reconvene on 10th January 2025.

Many thanks to all the people who answered our plea for helpers and soup/cake makers. The club wouldn't run without all your support and that of the existing team members.

We hope that you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing all the team members and our lovely customers in the new year.



Christmas Memory Tree - Once again our Christmas Trees are to be Memory Trees. You will be able to write your message on the stars in representation of your memories of loved ones. Next week, stars will be available, so please leave them in the appropriate basket and they will then be hung on the tree later. Your intentions will be remembered at all Masses throughout Christmastide. The stars are available for £1 and the proceeds will go to The Bethlehem Care & Hospice Trust.

Mass for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing A "signed" Mass has been arranged by Caritas at St Marie's Cathedral Sheffield for Sunday December 15th at 3pm. This will be fully signed by Jennifer Harris (BSL interpreter) along with one of the priests of the parish. Prior to Covid, there was a well attended Mass for this group of people and we are hoping to schedule a number of such Masses throughout the Diocese. All are invited.

USE OF PARISH ROOMS

The parish rooms are being left in a mess after use. All groups using the rooms are responsible for leaving them clean and tidy. **This includes after coffee on Sunday mornings.**

Tables and chairs should be put away - not left out - and the carpets should be hoovered. Please ensure this is done.

In preparation for Christmas, All Saints Catholic High School warmly invite you, your family and friends to attend our Advent Liturgy on Tuesday 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.

Extended Advent Confessions at St Marie's Cathedral: There will be two Priests hearing Confessions at St Marie's Cathedral from Thursday 19th–Saturday 21st December and Monday 23rd – Tuesday 24th December, starting at the usual time of 11.30am.

Christmas Day Evening Mass at St Marie's Cathedral: There will be a 6.30pm evening Mass on Christmas Day (Wednesday 25 December) at St Marie's Cathedral.

Opening of the Jubilee Year 2025 - Saturday 28th December, 12.30pm

The rite of the Opening of the Jubilee Year will take place on Saturday 28th December, at which Bishop Ralph will preside. The celebration will start at the Sheffield Anglican Cathedral at 12.30pm, from which there will be a procession to St Marie's Cathedral for the opening Mass. All from across the Diocese are encouraged to come and celebrate the beginning of this special year, in which all are invited "to an intense experience of the love of God" and "a lively experience of grace and hope" (Francis, *Spes non confundit*, 6)!

The Eucharistic celebration will take the form of a stational Mass. A stational Mass of the Diocesan Bishop, also known as a Pontifical Mass, where all the Priests concelebrate with the Bishop; with the Deacons and the other Ministers carrying out their proper service.

Pilgrim Passports with all details of all celebrations throughout the year will be available shortly.

THANKYOU FROM THE PARISH OUTREACH GROUP: Christmas is the time for gifts, but our parishioners seem willing to give to Outreach all year round! Thanks to your generosity we have raised a magnificent total of £56,110 since 2017. This has come from the monthly "Give to Live" cash collection, the 100 Club, events such as the parish raffle and Coffee, Cakes and Crafts and individual donations and bequests.

Your donations have meant that we have been able to provide financial support on your behalf to our local and overseas partners. Examples of this include Mind the Gap (Zimbabwe) - £9950 since 2017, Reaching the Unreached (Southern India) - £4050, ASSIST (support for asylum seekers) - £5250, Ben's Centre for Vulnerable Adults – £4200, Sheffield Samaritans - £4250 and SVP Furniture Store - £3800. Partners such as the Kwakakulu Community Project (Kenya) have now become self-supporting thanks to our help.

OUTREACH - These disbursements have just been made following the autumn fundraising! £750 to Reaching the Unreached, £700 each to Ascend and SVP Furniture Store, and £350 to Caritas Hallam.

A happy Christmas and many thanks from the Outreach group for your generosity. Please continue to support us in 2025.

Retiring Collection - Caritas Hallam. Caritas provides a loving service to those within our communities, for instance 10,000 hours of counselling was delivered last year which included supporting children and their families in 24 of our schools, 100 referrals for domestic abuse, 15 wellbeing courses, relationship counselling and family therapy across the whole of the Diocese.

There will be a retiring collection after all Masses on 22nd December. You can also donate by using the card machine or the QR code on the poster at the back of church.



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;



3rd Sunday (15th) 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



4th Sunday (22nd) Collection of MONEY for Caritas Hallam.



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.”

**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 (C)**

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

Responsorial Psalm: *Isaiah 12*

Second Reading: *Philippians 4:4-7*

Gospel: *Luke 3:10-18*

**Prayer and suggestion from the Catholic Bishops Conference
website <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/advent>**

Lord of Joy, fill our hearts with Your Spirit this Advent. Help us to rejoice in Your presence and share the joy of Your love with those we meet. May we become signs of Your joy in the world. Amen.

Think of someone who may be struggling to feel joyful this season. Reach out to them with a note, a call, a helping hand or a small gift to brighten their day.

**Next Week’s Readings
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)**

First Reading: *Micah 5:2-5*

Responsorial Psalm: *80*

Second Reading: *Hebrews 10:5-10*

Gospel: *Luke 1:39-45*

**Advent Calendar
By Rowan Williams**

He will come like last leaf’s fall.
 One night when the November wind
 has flayed the trees to the bone, and earth
 wakes choking on the mould,
 the soft shroud’s folding.
 He will come like frost.
 One morning when the shrinking earth
 opens on mist, to find itself
 arrested in the net
 of alien, sword-set beauty.
 He will come like dark.
 One evening when the bursting red
 December sun draws up the sheet
 and penny-masks its eye to yield
 the star-snowed fields of sky.
 He will come, will come,
 will come like crying in the night,
 like blood, like breaking,
 as the earth writhes to toss him free.
 He will come like child.

This Week’s Ministries 14/15 December 2024

Readers	5.00 p.m.	D Fletcher +1
	9.15 a.m.	R Portaluri, C Perryman
	11.15 a.m.	M Richardson + 1
Communion	5.00 p.m.	J Brook, S Davey
	9.15 a.m.	M Ayanleke, C Farragher, M Mahon
	11.15 a.m.	J McNally, P Orkamfat, M Harrison

Next Week’s Ministries 21/22 December 2024

Readers	5.00 p.m.	H Simmerson, D Fletcher
	9.15 a.m.	L Grady, J Bourne
	11.15 a.m.	J McNally, A Willcock
Communion	5.00 p.m.	K Durkin, V Coomer
	9.15 a.m.	H Grady, R Portaluri, R Gasser
	11.15 a.m.	M Richardson, K O’Brien, P Corkell
Welcomers	9.15 a.m.	S Jones
	11.15 a.m.	S Reynolds