

**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**

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



**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE SUNDAY)**

**Sunday 17th December 2023 Psalter Week 3**



**Saturday (Totley)**

5.00 p.m. People of the Parish

**Sunday**

9.15 a.m. Arthur Willcock

11.15 a.m. Emmanwel Ross

**Monday** *Advent Feria*

No Mass

**Tuesday** *Advent Feria*

10.00 a.m. (Totley)

**7.30 p.m. Penitential Service**

**Wednesday** *Advent Feria*

10.00 a.m.

**Thursday**

No Mass St Peter Canisius

**Friday** *Advent Feria*

**10.00 a.m.**

**Saturday** *Advent Feria*

No Mass

**Next week's Masses**

**Saturday - Totley**

5.00 p.m. People of the Parish

**Sunday - Meadowhead**

10.00 a.m. Danny Grant



**THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS**



*Christmas Eve*

*Mass with Children's Nativity*

5.00 p.m. Muriel Coverley

9.30 p.m. Readings and Carols

10.00 p.m. Susan & Mary Willcock

*Christmas Day*

9.00 a.m. Totley People of the Parish

10.00 a.m. John Phelan Jnr

Tuesday Totley Feast of St Stephen

10.00 a.m.

Wednesday St John, Apostle

10.00 a.m. James Moffett

**Please Pray for:**

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

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

**R:** My soul rejoices in my God.

**Offertory:** Loose plate and envelopes total for 10th December is £310.55. 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.

Registered Charity No 512021



Please note Mass on Friday, 22nd will be at 10.00am as Lunch Club has now finished until next year.



**Church cleaning and decorating. CHANGE OF DAY!!**  
Sorry, due to unforeseen circumstances cleaning and decorating will no longer take place on 22nd. It will now take place on **Saturday 23rd at 10.00am.**  
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**  
3. Light the Advent candle three  
Think of heavenly harmony  
Angels singing "Peace on Earth"  
At the Blessed Saviour's birth.  
**Refrain**  
Candle, candle burning bright  
Shining in the cold winter night  
Candle, candle burning bright  
Fill our hearts with Christmas light.

**Next week there will be the annual White Flower Appeal for SPUC.**

**Please note there will be a penitential service this Tuesday, 19th December at 7.30. Followed by confessions.**



**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.



**PLEASE DON'T FORGET** to buy your Christmas Tree stars in memory of those we love and have died. We decorate the tree with them and we need plenty!



**Fr Stephen and the parish council** (Andy Tucker, David Fletcher, Judith Wilde, Julie Bourne, Michelle Ayanleke and Tim Craggs) would like to ensure all parishioners have the opportunity to feed into council discussions. If there is anything of which you would like to inform the parish council, you can do this in a variety of ways: in person to any member, via email to the parish office, or via the comments boxes which will be situated at the back of church.



**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 weigh 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





“During advent as part of our preparation for Christmas some of our thoughts turn towards gifts. Reflecting on the parish and the blessings and gifts we have, we should take the time to acknowledge and be thankful for the wonderful work that goes on, often relatively unnoticed, day in and day out. The lunch club is a weekly meeting of parishioners which touches the lives of all those that are involved. It is only possible because of the selfless and wonderful people who come together and give their gifts to benefit others. It truly is a wonderful opportunity to meet, connect and simply enjoy each others company.

So, to all the team leaders, to the soup makers, the cake bakers, the tea pourers and the washer uppers. To those that help with transport and to those that attend and make it such a special time - a big thank you, Happy Christmas and we hope this group continues to go from strength to strength in 2024.

*Fr Stephen and the Parish Council*

Next year, **2024 is Lepra's Centenary** and all parishioners are invited to our Holy Mass at Westminster Cathedral offered to give thanks and celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. If any parishioners are able to attend you are most welcome.

**Children's Liturgy during the festive period:**

**Sunday 17th** - Session as usual today.

**Sunday 24th** - 10am Mass - No session because we will be busy getting ready for the...

5pm Christmas Eve Nativity Mass

**Please come and join us for this** wonderful celebration to start your Christmas festivities! **Children (of all ages!) are encouraged** to come dressed up as animals, shepherds or angels and will be invited to join in with the telling of the Nativity story. With joyful carols (and probably just a little bit of beautiful chaos) this is a truly family friendly service to get your Christmas off to a cracking start.

**Sunday 31st** December - No Children's Liturgy session

**Sunday 7th** January (Epiphany) - Children's Liturgy sessions resume at the 9.15am Mass.

Wishing you a joyful festive season, from the Children's Liturgy Team - Naomi, Rachel and Josh.



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.

**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.

**CHRISTMAS OFFERTORY ENVELOPES**

You will see Christmas Offertory Envelopes attached to the newsletter (and some extras in the porch). This goes directly to the clergy as a thank you to them for their work in the past year.



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



**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 (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**



**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 Week**

Almighty and merciful God,  
 let neither our daily work nor the cares of this life  
 prevent us from hastening to meet your Son.  
 Enlighten us with your wisdom,  
 and lead us into his company.  
 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 ministries for 16/17 December**

**Readers**

5.00p.m. G Higgins, H Simmerson  
 9.15a.m. R Portaluri, C Farragher  
 11.15a.m. D Lewis, J-J Carter

**Communion**

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

**Next Week’s Ministries for 23/24 December**

<b>Readers</b>	5.00p.m.	H Simmerson, D Fletcher
	10.00a.m.	J Bourne, J-J Carter
<b>Communion</b>	5.00p.m.	V Coomer, C Udall
	10.00a.m.	E Williamson, S Jones, P Corkell
<b>Welcomers</b>	10.00a.m.	S Campos, H Stones



*The Season of Christmas*



*Ministries for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day*

<i>Readers</i>	<i>5.00p.m.</i>	<i>H Simmerson, C Farragher</i>
	<i>10.00p.m.</i>	<i>J Fojut, J-J Carter</i>
	<i>9.00a.m. Totley</i>	<i>D Fletcher, V Coomer</i>
	<i>10.00a.m.</i>	<i>K Corker, S Corker</i>
<i>Communion</i>	<i>5.00p.m.</i>	<i>R Gasser, J Brook, K O’Brien</i>
	<i>10.00p.m.</i>	<i>S Jones, H Grady, P Or Kam Fat</i>
	<i>9.00a.m. Totley</i>	<i>K Durkin, J Brook</i>
	<i>10.00a.m.</i>	<i>C Parsons, M Richardson, N Parsons</i>
<i>Welcomers</i>	<i>5.00p.m.</i>	<i>H Stones</i>
	<i>10.00p.m.</i>	<i>S Jones</i>
	<i>10.00a.m.</i>	<i>N Parsons</i>

