

**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**

**Telephone: 0114 274 5597 Email: [enquiries@st-tc.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@st-tc.co.uk) Website: [www.st-tc.co.uk](http://www.st-tc.co.uk)**

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



**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Sunday 1st December 2024 (C)**



**Saturday (Totley)**

5.00 p.m. People of the Parish

**Sunday**

9.15 a.m. Parents and deceased members  
of the Gasser Family

11.15 a.m. Anne Moisey

**Monday** *Advent Feria*

No Mass

**Tuesday (Totley)** *St Francis Xavier*

10.00 a.m.

**Wednesday** *St John Damascene, priest, doctor*

10.00 a.m.

**Thursday** *Advent Feria*

No Mass

**Friday** *St Nicholas, bishop*

12.00 p.m.

**Saturday** St Ambrose, bishop, doctor

10.45 a.m.

**Next week's Masses**

**Totley**

5.00 p.m. People of the Parish

**Meadowhead**

9.15 a.m. Parents and relatives of  
Maureen Gasser

11.15 a.m. Anne Moisey

**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: 24**

**R:** *To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.*

**Events for the Coming Week**

**Friday** SVP Parish Rooms

**Friday** Lunch Club after Midday Mass

**Offertory:** Loose plate and envelopes total for 24th November 2024 is £254.62 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!

**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.**

**Ministries covering Christmas** - Ministers who have not replied to the rota Unavailability Dates Email you need to let me know asap of your availability. If you don't receive the request by email it is important you still tell me when you are available. Please note - anyone who does not respond will be considered available for every duty throughout the rota period.

**St Thomas of Canterbury School Carols** - The children at St Thomas of Canterbury School will be putting on a performance of traditional Christmas carols at Our Lady & St Thomas at 1.30pm on Friday 13th December, and parishioners are warmly invited to join us. Please come and support our school and our children. Remember, they are the future of our church and faith. We should all encourage them as much as we can! We hope to see you there!

**The Advent Wreath** - This weekend's Masses Fr Clement will bless our Advent Wreaths and the first candle will be lit. The wreath - containing four candles, one more of which is lit each Sunday in Advent - is created out of evergreen foliage, symbolising everlasting life in the midst of winter and death. Some wreaths have a fifth candle which is placed in the middle of the wreath and is lighted on Christmas Day. The first purple candle symbolises hope, and is called the "Prophets' Candle". The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, waited in hope for the Messiah's arrival. The second candle represents faith - some traditions say it also represents love - and is called the "Bethlehem Candle". Micah had foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, also the birthplace of King David. The third candle 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. The fourth candle represents peace and is called the "Angels' Candle". The angels announced that the Messiah came to bring peace. He came to bring people close to God and to each other again. The optional fifth candle represents light and purity and is called "Christ's Candle". It is placed in the middle and is lighted on Christmas Day. This candle is white to represent pure light and victory.

**New Lectionary** The new edition of the Lectionary, the book which contains the readings which are proclaimed at Mass, comes into use in England and Wales this weekend. The new edition uses the English Standard Version- Catholic Edition - of the Bible for the readings and the Abbey Psalms and Canticles for the Responsorial Psalms. But though the Scripture translations we will find in the readings are different from before, the content of the readings - "book, chapter and verses" for each Sunday and weekday remains unchanged.

**Bethlehem Ball - A HUGE thank you** to everyone who supported the Bethlehem Ball, whether by attending the event, buying tickets, donating raffle items or donating in the auction. Our parish was very well represented with approximately 50 parishioners attending. The event was a great success and we'll be able to give you a total figure of the amount raised next week. Thanks again.

**Jubilee Year 2025** - On Saturday, 28th December 2024, at 12.30pm, the solemn opening of the Jubilee Year 2025 will be celebrated at the Cathedral. 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.

**Opportunities for Spiritual Development** - The Formation and Mission Team is planning a number of events to help people to develop their spirituality. These will begin with an online week of Guided Prayer from 1-7 December led by the Jesuit Institute. If you would like to find out more contact the Formation & Mission Team. [formation-mission@hallam-diocese.com](mailto:formation-mission@hallam-diocese.com)

**St Thomas of Canterbury School** have two job vacancies - one for a cleaner and one for a caretaker. For further details see the notices at the back of church.

### Times of Christmas Masses



Christmas Eve - 5pm with Nativity - Meadowhead  
Christmas Eve - 10pm - 'Midnight' Mass - Meadowhead  
Christmas Day - 8.30am Totley  
Christmas Day - 10.00am Meadowhead



**Coffee, Cakes & Crafts** and Raffle. Many thanks to all who have supported our Outreach Autumn Fundraising with cash, goods, time and consumption! The Raffle alone raised £839.70 and a further £828 was raised on the day for our Parish Partners at home and overseas. Thank you all for joining together socially as a Parish and for your great generosity.



**Parish Outreach meeting 7.30pm Monday 2nd** - December. All welcome to help with decisions for distribution of the proceeds of CCC etc. Please contact david.angela.wood@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

**Kairos Sheffield** welcomes the Amos Trust's Christmas tour - **A REQUIEM FOR GAZA** on Thursday 5th December 12.30 - 2.30pm at the Philadelphia Conference Centre 110 Portland Street Sheffield S6 3HD Please join us as we welcome friends from Gaza, Hala Hanina (PhD researcher and activist for social and political justice) and Ahmed Alnaouq (co-founder of "We Are Not Numbers"), with Amos Trust's Chris Rose and the Sheffield Tadhamon choir for music, film, poetry and conversation. A light Palestinian lunch will be provided and therefore booking is essential. Book [HERE](#) There is no charge but contributions to Amos Trust and towards the cost of the event are welcome. Contact Richard and Christine Watts richardandchristine@gmail.com

**Friends of the Holy Land** [office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk](mailto:office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk) - As the devastating fighting in the Holy Land continues Friends of the Holy Land are appealing for funds to help ease the suffering so many are going through. If you'd like to donate please go to their website.

**The Arrival of Hope**

In the hush of winter's grip,  
a whisper travels on the wind,  
Advent is here, it softly sighs,  
a season of waiting begins.  
Bare trees shiver, their branches bare,  
longing for spring's tender touch,  
But in the cold and the quiet,  
we find a hope that means so much.

**2. Candlelight Promise**

A single flame flickers,  
in the heart of the longest night.  
Advent's first candle lit,  
its glow warm and bright.  
It's not just wax and wick,  
or the match's fiery kiss,  
but a promise made long ago,  
of a love we'll never miss.

**3. Joy's Advent Song**

Joy dances in the air,  
like snowflakes twirling free.  
Advent has arrived,  
in silent majesty.  
Listen to the laughter,  
that bubbles from within,  
It's the song of Advent,  
let the celebration begin.

**4. The Gift of Peace**

In the gentle hush of Advent,  
peace descends like a dove.  
A gift wrapped not in paper,  
but in unconditional love.  
It's not found in bustling stores,  
or beneath a twinkling tree,  
but in the quiet moments,  
when our hearts are still and free.

**5. Love's Advent Call**

Love calls out in Advent,  
with a voice both strong and clear.  
Inviting all to come and see,  
the reason we hold dear.  
It's not about the presents,  
or the festive feasts we make,  
but the love that was born in  
Bethlehem,  
for every heart's sake.

**Local traditional Sheffield Carols**

7.30 – 9pm at the Abbey Hotel,  
Monday 2nd, Wednesday 11th,  
Mondays 16th &  
23rd, and Boxing  
Day 4.30-6pm.



Come and share the  
joy of the Good News.

**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 – starting **THIS** weekend:



**1st Sunday (1st): 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. See also their Reverse Advent Calendar at [www.stwilfridscentre.org](http://www.stwilfridscentre.org) ...and GIVE TO LIVE Collection for distribution to our Outreach Partners in Sheffield & overseas.



**2nd Sunday (8th) BISCUITS & CHOCOLATES** for SVP to distribute locally.



**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.



**The Season of Advent and the Gospel of Luke**

This weekend we begin the first part of Advent, which continues until 16 th December. The focus is on the “Parousia”, the end times, the final coming of Christ. The second part, from 17th to the 24th, focuses on the first coming of Christ on Bethlehem.

The season of Advent marks the start of a new liturgical year for the Church. The readings for Sunday Mass are arranged on a three-year cycle. Each year features a different Gospel - Matthew, Mark, or Luke. Readings from the Gospel of John are interspersed throughout all three years. Today we begin Cycle C of the Lectionary, and the Gospel of Luke.

Luke was a companion of Saint Paul, and wrote his Gospel in accordance with Paul’s teaching. As a Greek, he takes care to explain to Gentile readers Jewish customs and the meaning of Hebrew words.

His Gospel was probably written between 70 and 85 A.D. Luke’s Gospel is very warm and human, concentrating on Jesus’ mercy and forgiveness, his call especially to the poor and underprivileged, inviting both Jews and Gentiles to salvation.

**This Tuesday**, 3 December, is the feast of St Francis Xavier. Born in Spain in 1506 he became a teacher of philosophy in Paris. Under the influence of his friend and mentor Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Society of Jesus, he studied for the priesthood, being ordained in 1537. In 1541 he went to the East where for ten years he preached the Gospel in India and Japan. From Japan he had dreams of going to China, but before reaching the mainland, he died on the island of Shangchwan in December 1552. His remains are enshrined in the Church of Good Jesus in Goa.

**This Friday**, 6 December, is the feast day of St Nicholas. Both Eastern and Western Churches honour him, but, historically, we know only that Nicholas was a fourth-century bishop of Myra in Asia Minor. As with many of the saints, we can perhaps best capture the relationship which Nicholas had with God through the stories told about him. The best-known concerns his charity towards a poor man who couldn’t provide dowries for his three daughters. Nicholas secretly tossed a bag of gold through the poor man’s window on three separate occasions. Over time, this legend evolved into the custom of gift-giving on the saint’s feast.

**Thought for the Week**

~  
*Jesus Christ  
 is the same  
 yesterday,  
 today and  
 forever.*  
 ~

**Prayer for the First Sunday  
of Advent**

Grant, almighty Father,  
 that when Christ comes again  
 we may go out to meet him  
 bearing the harvest of good works  
 achieved by your grace.  
 We pray that he will receive us  
 into the company of the saints  
 and call us into the kingdom of heaven.  
 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  
 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)**

**First Reading:** *Jeremiah 33:14-16*

**Responsorial Psalm:** *24*

**Second Reading:** *1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2*

**Gospel:** *Luke 21:25-28, 34-36*

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

**First Reading:** *Baruch 5:1-9*

**Responsorial Psalm:** *126*

**Second Reading:** *Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11*

**Gospel:** *Luke 3:1-6*

**This Week’s Ministries 30 November/1 December 2024**

<b>Readers</b>	5.00 p.m.	D Fletcher + 1
	9.15 a.m.	K Corker, S Corker
	11.15 a.m.	I Paterson, A Willcock
<b>Communion</b>	5.00 p.m.	S Brook, J Davey
	9.15 a.m.	C Parsons, N Parsons, B Ayanleke
	11.15 a.m.	K O’Brien, M Richardson +1

**Next Week’s Ministries 7/8 December 2024**

<b>Readers</b>	5.00 p.m.	A Southeran, H Simmerson
	9.15 a.m.	F Green, C Farragher
	11.15 a.m.	A Willcock, M Pybus
<b>Communion</b>	5.00 p.m.	V Coomer, K Durkin
	9.15 a.m.	A Tucker, A Tucker, P Ashby
	11.15 a.m.	S Campos, H Stones, P Corkell
<b>Welcomers</b>	9.15 a.m.	Volunteers needed
	11.15 a.m.	S Campos, H Stones