

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 November is devoted to the Holy Souls



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)
Sunday, 30th November 2025



Saturday (Totley)

5.00 p.m. People of the Parish
Sunday
9.15 a.m. Steph Irons
11.15 a.m. James and Irene Styring

Monday

Advent Feria

No Mass

Tuesday (Totley)

Advent Feria

10.00 a.m. November Dead List

Wednesday

St Francis Xavier, priest,
missionary

10.00 a.m. Pauline Souflas

Thursday

St John Damascene, priest,
doctor

No Mass

Friday

Advent Feria

12.00 p.m. Luke Souflas

Saturday

St Nicholas, bishop

10.45 a.m. Kathleen Murphy RIP

Next Week's Masses

Saturday - Totley

5.00 p.m. People of the Parish

Sunday - Meadowhead

9.15 a.m. Carole Moynihan

11.15 a.m. Michael Robinson

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 (wife of Patrick Connelly), Fr. David Bulmer (Leeds Diocese) **RIP**

Responsorial Psalm: 122

R: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord

Offertory: Loose plate and envelopes total for 23rd November 2025 is £310.61. 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 Rainbows

7.15pm Brownies

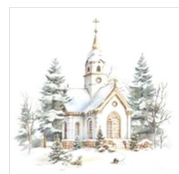
Friday 12.30pm Lunch Club follows Mass

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



The Funeral Service for Robert Meldrum (Kath Corker's brother) will be this coming Thursday, 4th December, at 3.30pm at Hutcliffe Wood Crematorium.

The Bethlehem Ball - Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to the Bethlehem Ball. Whether it was by attending, buying and selling raffle tickets or donating prizes. It is very much appreciated. As always, we had excellent representation from this parish on the night and hope it will continue! The evening was a wonderful occasion in beautiful surroundings and was a huge success. The amount raised this year was an amazing £12,640 - our best ever total. Next year's event is booked for the same weekend, and is on Saturday, 14th November. Put the date in your diaries and make sure you keep it free!!

1. Light the Advent candle one
Now the waiting has begun
We have started on our way
Time to think of Christmas day.
Refrain
Candle, candle burning bright
Shining in the cold winter night
Candle, candle burning bright
Fill our hearts with Christmas light.
2. Light the Advent candle two
Think of humble shepherds who
Filled with wonder at the sight
Of the child on Christmas night.
3. Light the Advent candle three
Think of heavenly harmony
Angels singing Peace on Earth
At the Blessed Saviour birth.
4. Light the Advent candle four
Think of Joy forever more
Christ child in a stable born
Gift of love that Christmas morn.



RCIA - Journey In Faith Programme
2025-2026 Thursdays 6.00pm
(note corrected day)

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. Please come along.

First Holy Communion 2026 - Please note forms must be completed and returned by **TODAY**, Sunday 30th November. The preparation course will commence in January. If you have not registered your intentions to take part by 30th January, you will not be able to take part next year.

The Advent Wreath

This weekend 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.

URGENT: Ministries covering Christmas - Ministers who have not replied to the rota Unavailability Dates Email you need to let me know of your availability by this coming Tuesday. 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.

Coffee, Cakes and Crafts and Raffle: Many thanks to everyone who supported Outreach's Coffee, Cakes and Crafts event on 23rd November; the stall-holders, Outreach members and volunteers who helped in any way, not forgetting those who came and spent money! The Raffle alone raised a wonderful £940 and a further £785 was raised on the day. This event is one of our two major fund-raisers, and all the money raised goes to benefit our parish partners' projects, in Sheffield and across the world.



The winners of the three small raffles on the day were:

Christmas Cake – Anna Portaluri: Quilt - Alice Batty: Penguin - Apollo Gabriel

2025 Parish Outreach Raffle - Prize Winners

1. £100 - Mr & Mrs Mitchell; 2. Hamper - Luke Grady; 3. Convector Heater - Anna; 4. 1Ltr Bottle Gin - Raymond Kinsella; 5. DIY Tool Belt - B Gambe; 6. Rag doll & Box Biscuits - Beth Craggs; 7. Fragrant Candle & Chocolate Truffles - Raymond Kinsella; 8. Silk Scarf & Tin of Shortbread - Tony Willcock; 9. Wellness Cosmetics & Digital Clock- Janet Brook; 10. Fuzzy Duck Shower Hat & Balloon Light - B Gambe; 11. Cherry Liqueurs & Tub of Heroes - Tony Willcock; 12. Bluey Toys & Pamper Kit Cosmetics - Liz Grant; 13. LED Lamp & Bottle of Red Wine - Kath Young; 14. La Maison Cosmetics & Celebration - Meri Middleton; 15. Picnic Rucksack - Beth Craggs.

Friday Lunch Club

Please note that the Friday Lunch Club will finish on 12th December 2025. We will reopen on 9th January 2026. Don't forget that all are welcome! Thank you for your support.

Local Sheffield Carols this year will be at The Hammer and Pincers pub, Ringinglow Road, Bents Green. Informal singing with organ accompaniment. All abilities welcome. Word sheets and books available. Admission free. 7.30 – 9.00 pm Wednesday 3rd, 10th, & 17th December. Final sing: Boxing day 4.30-6pm. More info from ToWood: ale.house.carols@gmail.com



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:**



Today - 1st Sunday (30th November): 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, corned beef, tuna, casseroles, stews, veg, fruit, custard, rice pudding. See also their Reverse Advent Calendar at www.stwilfridscentre.org ...



2nd Sunday (7th December) BISCUITS & CHOCOLATES for SVP to distribute locally. and GIVE TO LIVE Collection for distribution to our Outreach Partners in Sheffield & overseas.



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. <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.



The Season of Advent and the Gospel of Matthew

This weekend we begin the first part of Advent, which continues until 16th 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.

(On their Living Space / Sacred Space website, <https://livingspace.sacredspace.ie/aa011/> the Irish Jesuits suggest that there is a third kind of coming we need to be aware of, namely, when God enters our lives every day. Every single experience can be an opportunity to make contact with God.)

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 A of the Lectionary, and the Gospel of Matthew.

Matthew's Gospel was written for the early Judaeo-Christian community. Only Mark's Gospel is considered to be more ancient. It contains some of the most important passages for Christianity including the Sermon on the Mount, the Lord's Prayer and the great commission to go out and evangelise all nations.

This Wednesday, 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 Saturday is the feast day of **St Nicholas**. Historically, we know only that Nicholas was a fourth-century bishop of Myra in Asia Minor. We can perhaps best capture Nicholas's character through the stories told about him. In the best-known one Nicholas secretly tossed a bag of gold through a poor man's window on three occasions to provide dowries for his daughters. Over time, this legend evolved into the custom of gift-giving on the saint's feast.

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 (A)

First Reading: *Isaiah 2:1-5*

Responsorial Psalm: 98

Second Reading: *Romans 13:11-14a*

Gospel: *Matthew 24:37-44*

Next Week's Readings Second Sunday of Advent (A)

First Reading: *2 Samuel 5:1-3*

Responsorial Psalm: 46

Second Reading: *Colossians 1:12-20*

Gospel: *Luke 23:35-43*

This Week's Ministries 29/30 November 2025

Readers	5.00 p.m.	A Southeran, H Simmerson
	9.15 a.m.	D Winter, C Perryman
	11.15 a.m.	I Paterson, M Paterson
Communion	5.00 p.m.	V Coomer, K Durkin
	9.15 a.m.	M Mahon, A Tucker, A Tucker
	11.15 a.m.	M Harrison, P Orkamfat, J McNally

Next Week's Ministries 6/7 December 2025

Readers	5.00 p.m.	H Simmerson, D Fletcher
	9.15 a.m.	F Green, J Bourne
	11.15 a.m.	A Willcock, I Paterson
Communion	5.00 p.m.	C Udall, S Davey
	9.15 a.m.	D Winter, R Gasser, J Tucker
	11.15 a.m.	S Campos, H Stones, P Corkell
Welcomers	9.15 a.m.	L Hanaghan
	11.15 a.m.	S Campos, H Stones