



Our Lady of Beauchief & Saint Thomas of Canterbury

Meadowhead, Sheffield, S8 7UD

Telephone: 0114 274 7257

Email: olstsheffield@btinternet.com Website: www.olstsheffield.org.uk

Chapel of Ease: English Martyrs, Baslow Road, Totley S17 4DR

Parish Priest: Father Stephen Ssekiwunga

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



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) Sunday 3rd December 2023 Psalter Week 1



Saturday (Totley)

5.00 p.m. People of the Parish

Sunday

9.15 a.m. Kath Jarman

11.15 a.m. Soledad Ross

Monday St John Damascene, priest

No Mass

Tuesday *Advent Feria*

10.00 a.m. (Totley) Dead List

Wednesday St Nicholas, bishop

10.00 a.m.

Thursday St Ambrose, bishop

No Mass

Friday **THE IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

12.00 p.m. Michael Robinson

Saturday St John Diego Cuahatlatoatzin

No Mass

Next week's Masses

Saturday - Totley

5.00 p.m. People of the Parish

Sunday - Meadowhead

9.15 a.m. Fred Sherwood

11.15 a.m. Dead List

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Saturday 10.30am – 11.30am

Please Pray for:

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

Lately dead: Mgr Peter Kirkham RIP

Responsorial Psalm: 79

R: *God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.*

Offertory: Loose plate and envelopes total for 26th November is £381.51. 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.

Events for the Coming Week

Monday SVP Parish Rooms 6.45pm 11th December

Friday Lunch Club after midday Mass

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 Stephen or Simon Jones know as soon as possible so that appropriate action can be taken promptly.





Taize service - TODAY, 3rd December at Our Lady and St Thomas there will be a Taize service for peace from 4pm-5pm. A time to pray, reflect and sing for peace in Ukraine and the Holy Land and all other places where there is war and unrest. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Ministers and Readers - PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE will you respond to your availability dates email? Several of you have not yet returned your availability. The result of no replies has 2 outcomes. One, if you do not answer, you will be considered available for EVERY service for the Sunday, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. Secondly, if this happens and you are allocated a Mass you can't do, it will leave us short. So please, return NO LATER than Monday, 4th December. The rota will be sent out on Tuesday, 5th. Thank you.


Friday, 15th December - St Thomas of Canterbury School are holding their Christmas Warmer at 1.30pm in church. This is especially for parishioners - all are invited and encouraged to attend. If you can, please take the time to see the children perform for you.

CHRISTMAS WREATH WORKSHOP
at English Martyrs TOTLEY, TUESDAY
5th December From 11 am (after Mass) 'til 1pm
£10 (includes tea/coffee and mince pies)
Make your own Christmas wreath to take home
To book text Barbara on 07725 023708
ONLY 3 PLACES LEFT!



Leaflets and posters. Please do not leave leaflets or posters at the back of church without first speaking to Liz Mason or the sacristans. Items left without permission will be thrown away.

Parish Outreach meeting 7.30pm Monday 4th December.
All welcome. Please contact david.angela.wood@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

 This Sunday the war has 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 weighs 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.



This will be sung during the lighting of the Advent Wreath
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 winter night
Candle, candle burning bright
Fill our hearts with Christmas.
light.

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.

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.



Our Parish Safeguarding representatives are:
Angela Holman Email address: safeguarding1olst@hallam-diocese.com
Claire Parsons Email address : safeguarding2olst@hallam-diocese.com

Find us on Facebook - Our Lady of Beauchief & St Thomas of Canterbury and English Martyrs Parish





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 a wonderful £920.50 in ticket sales plus £285 in donations and a further £840.02 was raised on the day for our Parish Partners at home and overseas. Thank you all for your great generosity.

Winners!

Christmas Cake – Patrick Or Kam Fat; Jelly babies - Nathaniel; Choc raisins – Turner-Wood Family; and many more! See the notice at the back of church for the complete list.

Message From the Parish Council

As many of you will know, in September we had the Parish picnic which went really well and was attended by around 50 parishioners. We had a great discussion with those present and gathered many views and ideas on how we can revitalise our community.

We would like to say a massive congratulations to Josh, Rachel and Naomi who have done such a fantastic job of getting the children's liturgy started again. Already there is a noticeable change in the enthusiasm of the children that attend Mass and the dancing and singing last Sunday was great.

The bake-off and quiz organised by other individuals have also been a great ways to get the community together. The parish council group will be meeting soon to look at some of the ideas raised in September. If anyone has any other thoughts about activities that we could encourage to take place, especially events that would bring in non-regulars, please drop a note to Fr Stephen.

Dore Male Voice Choir's Christmas Concert is on Thursday 7th, Friday 8th and Saturday 9th December at St John's Church, Abbeydale at 7pm. (**NOTE** it is not at Dore Parish Church due to renovations) Tickets £12.50 from Simon Jones on 07808 283807.

In preparation for Christmas, All Saints Catholic High School warmly invite you, your family and friends to attend our Advent Liturgy on Wednesday 20th 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 Day Centre'.

CAFOD, coffee, cake and catch up for all CAFOD supporters at the volunteer centre at St Williams, S11 8TL, on Tuesday 5th December at 10.30 am. (after 10am Mass) Email: apowell@cafod.org.uk to let us know you are coming along if possible ... but come anyway!

Pastoral Letter - There are copies of the bishop's pastoral letter available at the back of both churches. Please take a copy if you would like one.

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 **TODAY**.



1st Sunday (3rd): TOILETRIES, CLOTHING, FOOD for ST WILFRID'S CENTRE eg Men's

roll on deodorant, soap, lip salve, combs/hairbrushes, packs of tissues, gloves, underpants/boxers (sm-med size), boxes/bars/sharing tubs of chocolate, biscuits, sweets, Tins of ham, corned beef, tuna, casseroles, stews, potatoes, veg, fruit, custard, rice pudding, pot noodles See also their Reverse Advent Calendar at www.stwilfridscentre.org & GIVE TO LIVE Collection for distribution to our Outreach Partners in Sheffield & overseas.



2nd Sunday (10th) BISCUITS & CHOCOLATES for SVP to distribute locally.



3rd Sunday (17th) 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.



4th Sunday (24th) Advent Collection of Money for SOCIETY for the PROTECTION of UNBORN CHILDREN





HYMNBOOK NUMBERS
Mass of St Columba
Gospel Acclamation 68



The Gospel of Mark

The season of Advent marks the start of a new liturgical year. The Sunday Mass readings 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 B of the Lectionary, which focuses on the Gospel of Mark.

A sometime companion of both St Peter and St Paul, scholars believe Mark's Gospel was written around the time of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70. Mark's audience was made up of Christians who were living in times of turmoil, conflict and persecution. It was reassuring for them to be reminded that Jesus had foretold such difficulties. Early Christian communities took courage from Jesus' warning to remain alert and watchful, and they found in his words a way to persevere through suffering.

This week and next week, our readings from Mark's Gospel look forward to the Lord's second coming, reminding us that Advent is about more than our preparation for the celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas. It is also about preparing ourselves for Christ's return in glory at the end of time. Like the disciples and the faithful in Mark's community, we also must stay alert and watchful and be faithful to God through both good and difficult times.

Prayer for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Father, we rejoice in the privilege of Our Lady's Immaculate Conception, which preserved her from the stain of sin by the power of Christ's redeeming death, and prepared her to be the Mother Of God. Grant that through her prayers we ourselves may come to you, cleansed from all sin. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Saint Nicholas

This Wednesday, 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.

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 (B)

First Reading: *Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1, 3-8*

Responsorial Psalm: 79

Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 1:3-9*

Gospel: *Mark 13:33-37*

Next Week's Readings

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

First Reading: *Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11*

Responsorial Psalm: 84

Second Reading: *2 Peter 3:8-14*

Gospel: *Mark 1:1-8*

This week's ministries for 2/3 December

Readers	5.00p.m.	D Fletcher, H Simmerson
	9.15a.m.	S Jones, C Perryman
	11.15a.m.	J-J Carter, M Pybus
Communion	5.00p.m.	J Brook, K Durkin
	9.15a.m.	C Farragher, R Portaluri, H Grady
	11.15a.m.	S Campos, H Stones, J McNally

Next Week's Ministries for 9/10 December

Readers	5.00p.m.	E Watson, A Southern
	9.15a.m.	J Bourne, S Farragher
	11.15a.m.	M Richardson, A Willcock
Communion	5.00p.m.	P Durkin, V Coomer
	9.15a.m.	M Mahon, A Tucker, A Tucker
	11.15a.m.	P Corkell, K O'Brien, H Stones
Welcomers	9.15a.m.	N Parsons,
	11.15a.m.	A Willcock

