

Our Lady of Beauchief & Saint Thomas of Canterbury

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The Month of December is devoted to The Immaculate Conception

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

Sunday, 5 DECEMBER 2021 Psalter Week 2

Saturday

5.00 p.m. (Totley) People of the Parish

Sunday

9.15 a.m. Kath Jarman

11.15 a.m. Angela McKinney

Monday St Nicholas, bishop

Tuesday (Totley) St Ambrose, doctor of the church

10.00 a.m. *Advent Feria*

Wednesday **THE IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION**

10.00a.m Kath Jarman

Thursday *Advent Feria*

No Mass

Friday *Advent Feria*

10.00 a.m. Philip Robinson

Saturday St Damascus I, pope

No Mass

Next week's Masses

Saturday (Totley)

5.00 p.m. Annie & Brendan McBride

Sunday (Meadowhead)

9.15 a.m. People of the Parish

11.15 a.m. Alan & Margaret Miller

**Exposition of the
Blessed Sacrament**

Saturday 10.30am – 11.30am

Please Pray for:

Our sick: Tom Bennett, Neville Garrett, Danny Grant, Pauline Souflas, Teddy Howes, Katie Glackin, David Gage, & Edward Keefe.

Responsorial Psalm: 125

R. What marvels the Lord has worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

Gospel Acclamation: 68

Events for the Coming Week

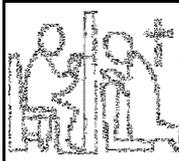
Monday SVP Parish rooms 8-9pm (Alternate weeks from 20th September)

Tuesday Exploring Faith 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Wednesday Rainbows 6.15pm

Parish Prayer Group (in church) 7.45pm

Please let me know when your group re-starts. Thank you.



Advent Penitential Service

There will be a penitential service on Wednesday, 22nd December at 7.00pm followed by an opportunity to go to confession.

As ever, everything is COVID permitting!



Memory Stars - Memory stars for the Christmas Tree will be on sale from next week. They will cost £1.00 each. Please use this opportunity to remember loved ones in prayer and help raise desperately needed funds for the Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust. Bethlehem people have suffered more than most during the pandemic. Borders were closed. Tourism and Pilgrimages stopped. Unemployment still at 80% there continues to be real need for food and healthcare. **Thank you.**



Christmas Nativity Masses - There will be a maximum of 200 at each of the 2 Masses. Seats will not be allocated but you must book a place.

Please ring the office between 11.00am - 2.00pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, or email the parish. Your name and

number of seats required will be necessary.

The children are invited to come dressed as shepherds, kings, sheep etc.

Masks are still STRONGLY recommended.

What is this Synod? Tuesday, 7 December 7:00pm-8:00pm Join in an online interactive panel discussion about the Synodal Pathway in the Catholic Church as we respond to Pope Francis' call and start to listen, reflect and discern where the Holy Spirit might be moving us. Find out how you can get involved in your parish and diocese. With Synod experts Fr Jan Nowotnik from the Catholic Bishops' Conference, Dr Pat Jones from Durham University and Francis Stewart from CAFOD. Register to join us <https://cafod.org.uk/Volunteer/Online-talks>

CAFOD's online Advent calendar 2021 of daily prayer and reflection offers an opportunity to pause, reflect, pray and take action as we prepare for Christmas. Join us as we journey through the season of Advent with our global family. Sign up for daily Advent calendar reflections straight to your inbox <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Advent-calendar>.

Parish Christmas Tree

We need some volunteers to take over the putting-up of the Christmas tree. It has been done faithfully for many years by Pam Walsh and family but they would like to go into tree-retirement! It needs 3-4 strong able people to erect. A family with would be ideal. Pam will be there this year to guide and direct. **PLEASE** consider volunteering to help or we may not have a tree!!



Contact Liz Mason at the presbytery on Tuesdays Wednesdays or Fridays. Thank you.

CAFOD 2021 Human Rights Day event Friday, 10 December 6:30pm-7:30pm

Learn about and celebrate the work of human rights defenders who are coming under attack and facing growing threats for protecting our common home. Hear their inspiring life stories and struggles first-hand and find out what concrete actions we can take from here in the UK to stand in solidarity with them. Register to join us.



Masses for Christmas



Christmas Eve: 3.00pm Mass with Children's Nativity (Places to be booked in advance)

5.00pm Mass with Children's Nativity (Places to be booked in advance)

10.00pm Mass of Christmas

Christmas Day: 9.00am Totley

10.00am Meadowhead

The Holy Family: 9.00am Totley

(Sunday) 9.15am Meadowhead

11.15am Meadowhead



Advent is the season when Christians make spiritual preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ at Christmas. Celebrating with an Advent wreath is a meaningful custom in many Christian traditions.

History of the Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is a circular garland of evergreen branches representing eternity. On that wreath, four or five candles are typically arranged. During the season of Advent, one candle on the wreath is lit each Sunday as a part of the Advent services. Each candle represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ.

The lighting of an Advent wreath is a custom that began in 16th-century Germany among Lutherans and Catholics. In Western Christianity, Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, or the Sunday which falls closest to November 30, and lasts through Christmas Eve, or December 24.

Symbolism of the Advent Wreath Candles

Set on the branches of the Advent wreath are four candles: three purple candles and one pink candle. A more modern tradition is to place a white candle in the centre of the wreath. As a whole, these candles represent the coming of the light of Christ into the world.

Bethlehem Candle

On the second Sunday of Advent, the second purple candle is lit. This candle typically represents love. Some traditions call this the "Bethlehem Candle," symbolizing Christ's manger: "This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:12, NIV)

Last week's Advent Collection If you bought festive food for Grace Food Bank but you couldn't get to church because of the snow, you can still bring it this week (please label it clearly, so that it doesn't get mixed up with this week's collection). Or, if you shop at Sainsbury's on Archer Road, you could leave it at the Grace collection point there – along with general food donations (they are particularly short of tinned tomatoes and jars of pasta sauce). Thank you.

Parish Outreach meeting 7.30pm
Monday 6th December. All welcome to join in the discussions. Please contact david.angela.wood@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

Advent Calendar **By Rowan Williams**



He will come like last leaf's fall.
One night when the November wind
has flayed the trees to 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.

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:



2nd Sunday (5th) BISCUITS & CHOCOLATES for SVP to distribute locally and **GIVE TO LIVE Collection** for distribution to our Outreach Partners in Sheffield and overseas.



3rd Sunday (12th) 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.

Collection for Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child.



4th Sunday (19th) 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.

Prayer for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception

(this Wednesday, 8th December)

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.

The feast and month of the Immaculate Conception

The month of December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception, with the feast being celebrated on 8th December. In 1854, Pope Pius IX's solemn declaration, Ineffabilis Deus, clarified the long-held belief of the Church that Mary was conceived free from original sin. In proclaiming the Immaculate Conception of Mary, as a dogma of the Church, the pope expressed that Mary was conceived free from the stain of original sin. This privilege of Mary's, derives from God's having chosen her as Mother of the Saviour, thus she received the benefits of salvation in Christ, from the very moment of her conception. This great gift to Mary, an ordinary human being just like us, was fitting because she was destined to be Mother of God. The purity and holiness of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a model for all Christians.

Next week's ministries for 11/12 December

Communion	9.15 a.m.	R Portaluri
	11.15 a.m.	S Campos
Readers	5.00 p.m.	V Coomer, H Simmerson
	9.15 a.m.	F Green, J Fojut
	11.15 a.m.	J McNally, A Willcock
Welcomers	9.15 a.m.	N Parsons
	11.15 a.m.	H Stones, S Campos



'The booster jabs were a surprise'

Prayer for the Second Sunday of Advent

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. 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.

This Week's Readings SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: *Baruch 5:1-9*

Responsorial Psalm: 125

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

Gospel: *Luke 3:1-6*

Next Week's Readings THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

First Reading: *Zephaniah 3:14-18*

Responsorial Psalm: 12

Second Reading: *Philippians 4:4-7*

Gospel: *Luke 3:10-18*

This week's ministries:

Communion:

9.15am: P Ashby

11.15am: P Corkell

Readers:

6.30pm: A Southeran, E Watson

9.15am: A Peacey, C Perryman

11.15am: M Richardson, F Glaze

Saint Nicholas

This Monday, 6th December, is the feast day of **Saint Nicholas**. Both Eastern and Western Churches honour him, but, historically, we know only that Nicholas was a fourth-century bishop of Myra, a city in Asia Minor. As with many of the saints, we are 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. In English-speaking countries, Saint Nicholas became, by a twist of the tongue, Santa Claus. His legendary charity inspires us to look closely at our approach to material things at Christmas and to extend (and perhaps prioritise?) our giving to those in real need.