

**The Parish of St Joseph &
The Parish of St Charles Borromeo, Sheffield**
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Fourth Sunday of Advent (C)

19 December 2021

Rev Fr Mark McManus *Parish Priest* Rev Mr Simon Hegarty *Deacon* stjosephsdcn@outlook.com

Please remember in your prayers all the sick and housebound, especially: Sheila Armstrong, Reece Wilson, Jason Barron, Fr Frank Flynn, Liz Moran, Elizabeth Dodson, Pat Collett, Eunice Mannion, Madge Wolstenholme, Sue & Frank Rodgers, Jonathan Dempsey, Andy Mitchell, Eileen Valance, Marie Montgomery, John Carroll, Lol Hodges, Sheila Habershon, Rita & Vin Todd, Georgina Shirt, Maria Tarnowski, Elizabeth Barron, Jimmy Cahill, Martin Humphreys, Susan De Couto, Jacqueline Wagland, Sr. Teresa Paschal, Tom Bryant. *If you would like anyone included on this list, and the individual concerned or a family member has consented to it, simply write the person's name down and hand it to one of the clergy or in at the office.*

We wish you and your families a happy and holy Christmas! We pray you and your loved ones may enjoy the blessings of good health in the coming New Year and that the peace of Christ reign in your hearts and homes.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the 'regular' life of our community in what has been a decidedly irregular year. As ever, many activities have continued quietly unseen such as work in the sacristy, laundering the church linens or recording the collections and gift-aid. For these and all such works, such as the Piety Stall, we are thankful. Particular thanks go to our deacon, Simon, who has completed his first year in the sacred ministry in difficult circumstances, and to our parish secretary Marie who, despite being unable to work in the office for most of the year, has given so much of her time to the parish, particularly, along with others, in the cemetery.

The vital and necessary work of our church cleaners, without whom we could not publically function, has been especially appreciated as too have been our stewards who have quietly assisted us in our gatherings. Meanwhile, the presence of our organist and readers has signalled a return to some further liturgical normality and our online connectivity has continued to be facilitated by our website and Facebook administrators. We thank them for their unstinting efforts in faithfully enriching our worship and keeping us all together and informed.

Finally, thank you to everyone! Your steadfast witness and devotion to the place of the holy sacrifice of the Mass in your lives, along with your and participation in our Christian communion through prayer, is a source of encouragement to all. Let us give thanks for the countless acts of faith, hope and charity, many simple or unwitnessed, that have been undertaken by all since the beginning of this pandemic. Fr M

A reverse Advent Calendar for St Wilfrid's Centre 2021

You can deliver the bag to St Wilfrid's after 4 January when they reopen **or bring them to church next weekend, 1 & 2 January**, (*any volunteers please to help deliver them?*). For more info: tel. 255 5720 or ask helen@stwilfridscentre.org or see www.stwilfridscentre.org

Our Crib Offerings will be donated to **help the Homeless.**

Remember, that in the absence of any obligation you can consider making any day of the Christmas Octave, up to 1 January, your Christmas Mass should you so wish.

Face coverings are mandatory unless you have an exemption.

You **MUST NOT** come to church if you are unwell or somebody in your household has coronavirus symptoms, for example a cough or high temperature.

Prayer of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen. *St Alphonsus Ligouri*

From *Christmas* by Sir John Betjeman

And is it true? And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me?

And is it true? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissueed fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent
And hideous tie so kindly meant,
No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare -
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.

The Christmas Prayer of Pope John XXIII

O sweet Child of Bethlehem, grant that we may share with all our hearts in this profound mystery of Christmas. Put into the hearts of men and women this peace for which they sometimes seek so desperately and which you alone can give to them. Help them to know one another better, and to live as brothers and sisters, children of the same Father. Reveal to them also your beauty, holiness and purity. Awaken in their hearts love and gratitude for your infinite goodness. Join them all together in your love. And give us your heavenly peace. Amen.

<i>Mass Intentions</i>	
Sunday 19 December <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	8.45am For the People 10.00am Stan & Sheila Anderson
Monday 20 December <i>Advent weekday</i>	Vicky Kennedy
Tuesday 21 December <i>Advent weekday</i>	10.00am Evelyn Tuffy
Wednesday 22 December <i>Advent weekday</i>	November Memorial Dead List
Thursday 23 December <i>Advent weekday</i>	Joan Gerstel
Friday 24 December <i>Christmas Eve</i> <i>Vigil Mass of Christmas</i> <i>Christmas Night Mass</i>	4.30pm John Dakin 7.00pm Intentions of Christine Hynes
Saturday 25 December <i>Christmas Day</i> <i>The Nativity of the Lord</i>	8.45am For the People 10.00am Carol Phillips
Sunday 26 December <i>The Holy Family</i>	8.45am For the People 10.00am The Keenan, Rice & Vaughan Families

This week St Joseph's Sanctuary Lamp burns for:

Children who suffer cruelty and abuse

This week St Charles' Sanctuary Lamp burns for:

The Homeless

Please pray for Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Martyn Haughton, Ian Selwood & Pauline West *RIP*, for all who have died recently & for those whose anniversaries occur around this time.

Last week's collection was £582.76 (£431.30 in offertory envelopes, £151.46 in loose). Many thanks for your continuing support!

Last weekend's retiring collection towards the cost of the Christmas tree and flowers raised £366.33. Thank you for your generosity.