

**The Parish of St Joseph &
The Parish of St Charles Borromeo, Sheffield**
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The First Sunday of Advent

3 December 2023

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: Harley Bond, Eileen McManus, Pauline Sheppard, Jackie & Brian Whelan, Ann Parkinson, Joanne Marklew, Lol Hodges, Margaret Dakin, Madge Wolstenholme, Tom & Joyce McGowan, Heidi Howson, Audrey Rodgers, Sylvia Hayden, Janette Taylor, Sonia Prince, Reece Wilson, Jason Barron, Liz Moran, Elizabeth Dodson, Pat Collett, Eunice Mannion, Sue & Frank Rodgers, Jonathan Dempsey, Andy Mitchell, Marie Montgomery, Rita & Vin Todd, Georgina Shirt, Maria Tarnowski, Elizabeth Barron, 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 in. Thank you.*

THE CHRISTMAS MASSES AT ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH

Sunday, 24 December, Christmas Eve

4.00 pm Vigil Mass

6.00 - 6.55pm *Carols before Mass during the Night*

7.00 pm Mass during the Night

Monday, 25 December, Christmas Day

8.45am Mass at Dawn

10.00 am Mass during the Day

Please note that **THERE WILL BE NO 8.45AM MASS ON SUNDAY, 24 DECEMBER**, the Fourth Sunday of Advent. There will be a Mass at 10.00am as usual.

On the **Saturdays of Advent** (9, 16 & 23 December) there will be **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions** from **10.00am to 11.00am**, with Benediction at 10.50am.

There will **also** be **Confessions** available **from 3.15pm until they are finished** on **Monday & Tuesday, 18 & 19 December**. Hopefully, this will be of help to parents and children at school.

Bambinelli Blessing: On *Gaudete Sunday*, **16 & 17 December**, you are invited to bring the 'Baby Jesus' from your crib to be blessed at the end of Mass (you can bring the whole lot if you want).

There will be a **retiring collection** on the weekend of **16 & 17 December**, towards the cost of the **Christmas tree and flowers** that will adorn our beautiful church for the celebration of the Christmas season.

Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday this year means that **help with** some of the **Christmas decorations after the 10.00am Mass** on Sunday, **17 December**, would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

St Joseph's School Readings & Carols Service will be on Tuesday, **19 December**, at 2.00pm in church. All are welcome.

St Wilfrid's Centre Christmas Concert, Wednesday 13 December, 7.00pm at the Mother of God church, Sheffield: an evening of Christmas Carols and songs performed by Sheffield Folk Chorale. Tickets are available at stwilfridscentre.org or 0114 2555720.

Our **UCM Advent appeal for Baby Basics Sheffield** (baby-basics.org.uk) requests donations to fill our Moses Basket in the weeks before Christmas. Items needed are:

- *(New items in unopened packets only from this category please)*

Maternity pads, Sanitary towels, Hand soap, Baby soap, Baby shampoo, Mum shampoo, Newborn nappies, Baby wipes

- *(Good condition second hand items are acceptable from this category)*

Moses baskets, Newborn clothing, Bedding, Towels

A Reverse Advent Calendar for St Wilfrid's 2023

Give rather than receive each day in Advent. All you need to do is: 1. Get a bag 2. Add an item into the bag from the list below each day 3. Deliver the bag to St Wilfrid's - after 4 January - or leave them at the back of the church (Any volunteers please to help deliver them?). Items are used throughout the year. You can drop off items at the Centre, (Mon-Fri 9am – 5pm) and you can telephone 255 5720 for more information.

The centre has a 7 to 3 ratio of male to female clients, and the items that are needed include: Toiletries: soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, deodorant, incl. toothbrushes, combs, hairbrushes, Clothing, incl. men's underwear (boxer shorts M/L/XL), women's pants - all sizes, hats, gloves, scarves, Food: boxes/tins of individually wrapped chocolates. Other items useful throughout the year include: tinned meat & fish: tuna, casserole, stewing steak, tinned vegetables: potatoes, peas & carrots, tomatoes, tinned rice pudding & custard, jars of pickles, Drinks: cordials, hot chocolate, Store cupboard items: brown sauce, salad cream (not glass), pot noodles & cupa-soups. **Alternatively**, people might like to donate locally to the **Handsworth Food Bank**. Parcels can be brought to church each week and the UCM will deliver to the Food Bank or you can use the collection points in the local supermarkets.

Advent Prayers

Father, all-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to heart the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Dear Lord, please allow me to embrace Advent in the way the Church intends: as a way to prepare for Your arrival. May everything I do – every gift I send, every party I attend and every meal I share – remind me to prepare space in my heart for You. Amen.

THE SACRED LITURGY

Sunday 3 December <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	8.45am For the People 10.00am Vincent Tierney
Monday 4 December <i>Advent weekday</i>	10.00am Intentions of Marie O’Hara
Tuesday 5 December <i>Advent weekday</i>	10.00am Kathleen Horton
Wednesday 6 December <i>Advent weekday</i>	November Memorial Dead List
Thursday 7 December <i>St Ambrose</i>	10.00am Max Thicket
Friday 8 December <i>Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	9.00 - 9.55am Exposition 10.00am John Carroll
Saturday 9 December <i>Advent weekday</i> <i>Vigil Mass of Sunday</i>	10 to 10.50am Exposition & Confessions 10.50am Benediction 5.00pm For the People
Sunday 10 December <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	8.45am Ian Selwood 10.00am Steve George

Please pray for Mgr Peter Kirkham & Helena Šukevič RIP; for all who have died recently & for those whose anniversaries occur around this time.

Last week’s collection was £651.44 (£338.50 in offertory envelopes, £312.94 in loose). Many thanks for your continuing support.

Last weekend’s retiring collection for the Sick & Retired Clergy Fund was £280.82. Many thanks.

The **Piety Stall** has **Christmas cards and other festive items** for sale.

Tea, coffee and refreshments will be served in the undercroft after the 10am Mass **today, 3 December.**