

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

**1 December 2024**

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

Please remember in your prayers all the sick and housebound, especially: Karen Andrew, Martin Tasker, Terry George, Mary Broomhead, Sonia Prince, Jade Goodinson, Alan Charlesworth, Harley Bond, Eileen McManus, Pauline Sheppard, Jackie Whelan, Ann Parkinson, Lol Hodges, Joyce McGowan, Heidi Howson, Audrey Rodgers, Sylvia Hayden, Janette Taylor, Reece Wilson, Jason Barron, Liz Moran, Elizabeth Dodson, Eunice Mannion, Sue & Frank Rodgers, Andy Mitchell, Marie Montgomery, Rita & Vin Todd, Georgina Shirt, Maria Tarnowski, 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.*

Our **UCM Advent appeal for Baby Basics Sheffield** ([babybasics.org.uk](http://babybasics.org.uk)) begins this week. Items needed to fill our Moses Basket in the weeks before Christmas 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

On the **Saturdays of Advent** (beginning next Saturday, **7 December**) there will be **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions** from 9.30am to 10.30am, with Benediction at 10.25am.

**Bambinelli Blessing:** On Gaudete Sunday, **14 & 15 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 **14 & 15 December**, **towards** the cost of **the Christmas tree and flowers** that will adorn our beautiful church for the celebration of the Christmas season.

There will **also** be **Confessions available** from **3.15pm to 4.00pm** on Monday & Tuesday, **16 & 17 December**. Hopefully, this will be of help to parents and children at school.

**St Joseph's School Readings & Carols Service** will be on Tuesday, **17 December**, at **2.00pm** in church. All are welcome.

Christmas falling on a Wednesday this year means that **help with** some of **the Christmas decorations** after the 10.00am Mass on Sunday, **22 December**, would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

## **THE CHRISTMAS MASSES AT ST JOSEPH'S**

### **Tuesday, 24 December, Christmas Eve**

3.30 - 3.55pm *Carols before Mass*

**4.00pm** Vigil Mass

6.30 - 6.55pm *Carols before Mass*

**7.00pm** Mass during the Night

### **Wednesday, 25 December, Christmas Day**

**10.00am** Mass of Christmas Day

## **A Reverse Advent Calendar for St Wilfrid's 2024**

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 2 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 & cuppa-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.

### **The Advent Wreath**

- The first candle (purple) symbolises hope and it is called the “Prophets’ Candle.’ The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, waited in hope for the Messiah’s arrival.
- The second candle (purple) represents faith and it is called the ‘Bethlehem Candle.’ Micah had foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem which was also the birthplace of King David.
- The third candle (rose) symbolises joy and it 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 so this candle represents rejoicing.
- The fourth candle (purple) represents peace and it is called the ‘Angels’ Candle.’ The angels announced that the Messiah came to bring peace. He came to reconcile people with God and to bring us closer to each other.
- The fifth candle (white) represents light and purity and it is called ‘Christ’s Candle.’ It is placed in the middle of the wreath and it is lit on Christmas Day. This candle is white to represent the Lord’s pure light and victory.

**THE SACRED LITURGY**

<b>Sunday 1 December</b> <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	<b>8.45am</b> Ian Selwood <b>10.00am</b> For the people
<b>Monday 2 December</b> <i>Advent weekday</i>	<b>9.00am</b> Special Intention (EH)
<b>Tuesday 3 December</b> <i>St Francis Xavier</i>	<b>10.00am</b> Vincent Tierney
<b>Wednesday 4 December</b> <i>Advent weekday</i>	November Memorial List
<b>Thursday 5 December</b> <i>Advent weekday</i>	<b>9.00am</b> Maire Redmond
<b>Friday 6 December</b> <i>St Nicholas</i>	<b>9.00 – 9.55am</b> Exposition <b>10.00am</b> Monica Varney
<b>Saturday 7 December</b> <i>St Ambrose</i>  <i>Vigil Mass of the Sunday</i>	<b>9.30 - 10.30am</b> Exposition & Confessions  <b>4.00 – 4.30pm</b> Confessions <b>5.00pm</b> Colm, Timothy & Sheila Flaherty
<b>Sunday 8 December</b> <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	<b>8.45am</b> For the people <b>10.00am</b> Steve George

**Last week's collection was £612.72** (£356.50 in offertory envelopes, £256.22 in loose). Many thanks for your continuing support.

**Please pray for all who have died recently & for those whose anniversaries occur around this time.**

The **Piety Stall** is usually open before and after Mass on Saturdays and after the Sunday 8.45am Mass until the 10.00am Mass. The Piety Stall also **has Christmas cards and other festive items for sale.**

There is a **new Cleaning Rota** available at the back of the church. Thank you to all our cleaners! More volunteers are always welcome, especially if there is a group of you who want to form a new team.