

SACRED HEART CHURCH, HILLSBOROUGH

Priest-in-Charge: Fr. Michael Achile Umameh

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Telephone: (0114) 2343580

Parish Deacon: Rev. Tony Strike

Parish Priest and Dean: Fr. John Cooke

Parish website: www.sacredheartsheffield.co.uk

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Sunday 9th December 2018 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 8th December, Vigil, 2nd Sunday of Advent	6.30pm	Peter and Michaela & Aberilda Cade
Sunday 9th December, 2nd Sunday of Advent	11.00am	November Dead List
Monday <i>in the church</i> <i>St John Roberts</i>	9.00am	Walter Addy
Tuesday <i>in the church</i> <i>St Damasus</i>	9.00am	No Mass. Prayer of the Church
Wednesday <i>in the church</i> <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	9.00am	November Dead List
Thursday <i>in the church</i> <i>St Lucy</i>	9.00am	November Dead List
Friday <i>in the church</i> <i>St John of the Cross</i>	11.30am	
Saturday <i>in the church</i>	9.00am	Tom and Bridie Kinsella & Brian Moore
Saturday 15th December, Vigil, 3rd Sunday of Advent	6.30pm	Stuart and Bridget Bright
Sunday 16th December, 3rd Sunday of Advent	11.00am	November Dead List
Sunday 16th December 3rd Sunday of Advent	2.00pm	African Mass

Mass at Kirk Edge Monastery each day at 8am. Wednesdays: Rosary & Novena, 7.00pm in the Church.

Saturdays: 8.45am Morning Prayer, 9am Mass, 10am to 11am Confessions & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Please pray for all those who have died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: John Jones, Celia Burgan, William Crawshaw, Tom Stevenson, Agnes Beatson, Ivy Palmer, Sylvia O'Connell, William Donlon, Catherine Winks, Kitty Firth, Doreen Dore, Nellie McNamara, Emma Wilmott, Julia Mary Flynn, Catherine Delaney, Lorraine McVeigh, Bridget Woodhams, Ann Hunt, Joan Greenhough, Thomas Nicholson, Pauline Taylor, John Edward Parker, Bryan Butcher, Eladia Shepherd and Bridie Kinsella. May they rest in peace. Please also, pray for all those unwell at home or in hospital.

Thank you for last week's collection of £ 432.11, plus your regular standing orders of £ 417.00 per week.

The retiring collection for the Catholic Youth Service raised 102.82. *Thank you.*

Mass information for 15th & 16th December 3rd Sunday of Advent

Announcers: Clarissa Mswaka (Saturday) Gerard Strain (Sunday). **Readers:** Christine Trebicka, Pauline McConnon, Malcolm Fleet (Saturday). Jayne Kirwan, John Brennan, Darren McDonnell (Sunday)

Eucharistic Ministers: Malcolm Fleet*, Jayne Kirwan, Enrica Castellino. (Saturday). Rita Kaye, Chris Hibberd,* Hilary Green, Sheila McDonnell, Stephen Marlow (Sunday).

Gratitude to St. Michael's Club for the generous donations to the Sacred Heart Parish, SVP and Carmel Care. These charities have all received £7,500 each. We are very grateful to the members and for their kindness.

Xmas Fayre: There are still some prizes in the sacristy. to be collected. These claimed be had after Mass. Please see the list of prize winners on the notice board.

Sunday Readers & Announcers: The rota effective from 30th December, is on the notice board. Copies in the sacristy.

Sacred Heart Choir will be carol singing in Hillsborough Exchange (Precinct) **on Saturday, 15th December, 11am till 12 noon.**

Africans' Christmas Party: Sunday, 16th December, begins with Mass at 2pm in the Church and Christmas party and love feast afterwards in the hall. You are all invited.

Holy Communion Visits at home. If you know of anyone who needs to receive Holy Communion at home, please ring the Parish on 2343580 . Patient in hospital: Ring the voicemail on 2714999.

Church Cleaning: Sat. 8th December, 11am: Group 4: D&R Kaye, M Mirando, A Purdy, A Windle, MA Todd, R Gillott

St Vincent de Paul: Mondays at 7.30pm. Contact Chris Ashton

Choir Rehearsals: Next rehearsal: **Tuesday 4th December 7.30pm:** contact Barbara Hartley

Art Class: Wednesdays 10am in the sacristy: contact Barbara Beatson

Contact Club: Wednesdays 1.30pm. **5th & 12th December: Rawson Spring.** Then none till New Year, date TBA.

Youth Friendship: Years 6,7 & 8. Please contact Fran Shiel

Parish Safeguarding Representatives: Fiona O'Farrell. For non-urgent matters, please contact Fiona on 07955 234602, or in church after Mass on Sunday. For urgent matters go to the Hallam Safeguarding Team on 2566453.

Bereavement Support: If you would like support at either Sacred Heart or St Marie's, please call the presbytery on 2343580 and your request will be passed to Sr Maire or Janina Klapas.

Diocesan Job Vacancies are on the screen notice board at the back of church and also the Diocesan website.

Please consider making your offertory donations to the Parish via Standing Order.

THE EVIDENCE OF GRACE

(Fr. Michael's Homily)

Prepare a Way for the Lord

“If Christianity is true, then it does not have a point other than to point to God who is the point of everything” (Richard Foster). Why do the claims we make for our faith often seem to be unconvincing and even boring?

Today John calls us to ask whether our path is taking us closer to God as well as opening up for others the way to God. Each of us as a member of Christ's Body shares in the missionary command given to the Church. Each of us during Advent should consider who we should be inviting to share in the riches that we may have in our lives. As the journey of Advent continues, and we prepare to celebrate the nativity of Christ, John the Baptist's call to conversion becomes timely. It is a pressing invitation to open our hearts and to welcome the Son of God who comes among us to make divine judgement manifest. The 'voice' of the great prophet asks us to prepare the way for the coming Lord in the deserts of today, thirsting for the water of life which is Christ. Only Christ can bring the eternal freshness that our hearts seeks.

The path God asks us to make straight is not made on the land but in our hearts. Have we complicated our life with the habit of sin? Have we tied up our lives in the self-made prisons of pride, selfishness, hypocrisy and superficiality of every sort? John does not burden us with insurmountable demands but calls us to respond to the power of grace available for renewal, for reforming our lives and for sincere repentance.

John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus, we too are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives the coming of the Lord, as John did. And may all come to know the Goodnews of Christ through our love, our prayers and our deeds.

Please join us for refreshments in the hall after Mass

FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gift Aid: The tax the parish can reclaim from HMRC is an important source of income and we would like to encourage any taxpayers who do not currently make their offering under Gift Aid to consider doing so. It is the best way of increasing

your offering without it costing you more, since currently, the government will increase each £1 of your personal offering by a further 25p. For the parish to reclaim the tax on your offering, you, the taxpayer, need to make a Gift Aid declaration and we, the parish, need to have a record of the date and amount of your offerings. Offerings can be by standing order, cheque or cash in a numbered offertory envelope. Your Gift Aid Declaration will cover all donations recorded by the parish, including for the Food Pantry. You will find Gift Aid declaration forms at the back of church near the hymn books. When you have completed the form, please hand it either to the presbytery or drop it through the letterbox. Please be assured that the administration of Gift Aid is completely confidential. If you have any questions about Gift Aid, please call Janina Klapas on 2343580. If you are considering making a gift to the Church in your will, information can be obtained by contacting the presbytery. Thank you for your continuing support. It is very much appreciated. Offertory envelopes are at the back of church. If you want to start using envelopes, please let us know.
