

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Achile Unameh

Parish Deacon: Rev. Tony Strike.

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PARISH BULLETIN OF SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH, HILLSBOROUGH

Mass Times & Intentions

Mass Information w/c 18th December 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A

Saturday 17th December - Vigil Mass 6.30pm - Celia Stokes

Sunday 18th December - 11am - Celia Stokes

Monday - 6:00pm - Penitential Service & Confession

Tuesday - With Congregation - 10:00am School Mass (In Church)

Wednesday - with congregation - 9:00 Adoration/10: 00am Mass Alan Elliott

Thursday - without congregation

Friday - without congregation

Saturday - Carols in the Hillsborough Precinct

Mass Times Over Christmas:

Penitential Service: Monday 19th December 6pm

Christmas Eve Mass Times: 4pm (Family Mass) & 8pm (Vigil - Carols at 7:30pm)

Christmas Day Mass Time: 11am

Boxing Day (Monday 26th December): 10am

Holy Family Mass (Friday 30th December): 10am

New Year's Eve Day Vigil (Saturday): 6.30pm

New Year's Day: 11am

For the Family Christmas Eve Mass at 4pm, we welcome the children to come to church dressed up as nativity characters (e.g., shepherds, angels, Holy Family).

God bless and we look forward to celebrating Christmas together.

Updated COVID-19 Precautions:

1. If you or your family have any symptoms or indeed have cold, flu or are in any way unwell,

please do not attend.

2. The Saturday vigil Mass is quieter and allows for greater social distancing.

3. Please sanitise your hands when arriving and leaving church.

No Children's Liturgy

Children's liturgy is taking a break until the New Year. For more information and to sign-up to the family mailing list, visit: [children's liturgy webpage](#)

Confessions:

Confessions are available, please make appointment with Fr. Michael by phone or email.

Baptism:

Parents and guardians are now invited to book the baptism of the child/children. The available time slots are: **Saturdays 12 noon & Sundays 1 pm**

Prayer Intentions w/c 18th December

For the Sick:

We pray for all those who are sick, that God may grant them health and strength. We remember Barbara Beatson, Pip & Paul Carrington, Maria Coogan, Fr Michael O'Connor, Wesley, Kay Langan, Sonia Holland, Robert Ainsworth, Jacqueline Robinson, Ann Saunders, Leah, Emma, Paige, Kevin Noone, & Isaac Achemu. May God bring them healing mercies.

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For the Dead:

Please pray all who have died recently and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Stuart Bright, Fred Unsworth, Fred Ridgeway, Mary Donlon, Charlotte Neubauer, Patricia Westerman, Wilfred Murray, Albert Pickering, Dennis Neylan, Dominic D'Roza, Eileen Hutchinson, Eileen Foley, Alice Brown, Anne Leach, Marie Hodgkinson, Alan Elliot, Bill Donlon, Monica Addy, Violet Brown, Charles Coyle, Muriel Bentley, Michael Buckley, Maureen Unsworth, John Whiston and Goronwy (Trog) Evans . **May they rest in peace.**



Christmas Offertory Collection:

We know that times are difficult but we would ask you to please be as generous as you are able this year to contribute towards the Christmas collections. We are blessed in these times of priest shortage to have, not only our own Parish Priest but that the Parish Priest we have is Fr Michael! Many thanks in anticipation of your continued generosity. Please see below Bishop Ralph's message to us:

As is customary in England and Wales, each year Christmas and Easter offerings constitute a personal offering in support of the priest. The Bishop has kindly extended this generous gesture to us all this challenging year. Below is his message to us.

"All of the collections (including electronic giving) which are taken on each of the days within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord (inclusive of Sunday 2nd January, together with its contributions made by Standing Order) will constitute the personal offerings of the faithful for their priests at Christmas this year. God bless
- from Bishop Ralph"

[Click to give to Fr Michael's Christmas collection online.](#)

Offertory Collection

Baskets: 11th Dec. £200.35
 Tap to Donate: Offertory £45, Decorations £5, Heating Fund £5

Many thanks for your generosity.

Parish Community Christmas Greetings Card

See our Christmas Tree on the notice board waiting to be decorated with your greetings cards for friends and family in the parish. Make a donation for the Heating Fund for every card you put up - put cash/cheques in an envelope into the Offertory collection. Thank you.

PARISH NOTICES

Check out the new [Parish Calendar on our website](#) - you can even subscribe to it by clicking the button at the bottom of the page (events will be added automatically to your phone/computer calendar).

Parish Family Disco – Sunday 18th December 2022. The disco is now **sold out** - thanks for everyone's support!

Christmas Trees - Thank you to everyone who ordered trees to help the Parish fundraise.

Premises Update - the beginning of Advent marks a year since the heated seats were installed in church. In addition to this a number of works have been completed both in church and the presbytery during the course of 2022. You can read about what we have been doing to improve and maintain [the church, presbytery and grounds here](#).

Mass Books Year A - this Advent will see the return in the Liturgical Calendar to Year A which means that the Mass Books that were purchased 3 years ago will be back in full use!

FLAME 2023 - 14-23 Join us on Saturday 4th March 2023 at Wembley Arena for the largest Catholic gathering of young people in England and Wales. Passes cost just £30 including entrance and travel (a subsidised cost from £62). for more information email: youth@hallam-diocese.com

The Universe Catholic Weekly

Is true to its mission of being "a light to guide the world, and a mirror to reflect it" Keeping Catholics informed about their faith and bringing them ever closer to God. In order to keep our high standard going and maintain a strong weekly Catholic voice at a time when it is much needed in the world, please consider taking out a subscription. We have an excellent website full of trustworthy articles and an online shop with all subscribers receiving a 10% discount.

Order **your Digital** 4 weeks **FREE introductory offer** by calling Michelle on 0743 661 7650 or email: michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk

We invite you to submit articles/news and celebrations about your local parish activities

SVP - if you are sick, elderly, lonely and you would like to be visited by a member of the SVP, please contact Fr Michael or Chris Ashton via the Presbytery Number: 01142343580

Carmel Care Centre welcomes new members

The Carmel Care Centre welcomes all members of the community to join us weekly on a Tuesday and Wednesday for lunch and activities, we are a caring and welcoming group with plenty of space

for new members. To find out more please contact Janet Kent on 07927 657462 or email Janet at jkent@hallam-diocese.com. The centre is based at 172 Dykes Hall Rd, Sheffield S6 4GS.

WORLD YOUTH DAY, Lisbon, August 2023 Hallam Diocese is taking 35 young people aged 17 - 30 to WYD next year. This is a great experience of Church where young people from every continent gather to celebrate their Catholic Faith in the presence of the Pope. If you would like to join us or want more information email Sue, our Hallam Youth Ministry Director for an information pack: smcdonald@hallam-diocese.com

Teas & Coffees

Each Sunday after the 11am Mass there is an opportunity to get together with other parishioners over a cup of coffee or tea. This is an important way of building and strengthening the parish community, so please join us, whether you are a regular member of the congregation or a visitor. Refreshments are served in the Parish Hall, and we look forward to getting to know you better – all welcome!

Church Heating Donations: If you would like to make any donation towards the cost of replacing the church heating system, please either pass it directly to Fr Michael, or put it in the Offertory basket at Mass. PLEASE mark any donations 'FOR THE HEATING FUND' that will ensure that the Diocese will allow these dedicated donations to be separate from our normal collection. Please include your name and address, so we can claim Gift Aid. Many thanks to all those who have already made generous donations and gratitude in anticipation of further offerings.



'Hallam Bridge' is a new venture of the Diocese which replaces the old 'Hallam News'. The Hallam Bridge provides a link between the Diocese and all the parishes and brings you articles, items dealing with the way in which people are journeying together in faith throughout Hallam, news items and up-coming events.

The Hallam Bridge will be available from this Sunday through the Diocesan website either via the link on the Home page or directly at <https://hallam-diocese.com/bridge/>



SACRED HEART FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2023

Catholic children in Year 3 are invited to take part in the parish-based programme of preparation for the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist, leading up to their First Confession and First Holy Communion. Children from non-Catholic schools are very welcome, and encouraged, to join the programme.

If you are interested in your child joining the programme, please join us for a parents meeting in Sacred Heart Parish/School Hall before Mass on **Sunday 11th December 2022 at 10:15am.**

Further information, what to expect, key dates and how to register are provided in an invitation letter – **[click here to download](#)**. **Please read this information and check that you will be available for the session dates.** You can check the eligibility and key information on the [First Holy Communion web pages](#) - [click here](#). You can also check the session dates on the [parish calendar](#) – [click here](#).

Preparation for Confirmation 2023

Bishop Ralph Heskett will come to Sacred Heart Church to confirm candidates on **Saturday 13 May 2023** during the 6.30pm Mass. We would very much like to offer our young people in Year 9 and 10 the opportunity to prepare for this sacrament. Sessions are scheduled to start on **22 February 2023 in the Church.**

Please contact Petra Klompenhouwer, one of the catechists on youthshc@gmail.com for an information letter and a schedule of sessions or contact Fr. Michael at the presbytery by phone 0114 234 3580 or email: info@sacredheartsheffield.co.uk.

Parish Accounts

Parish Annual Accounts 2021 - showing income and expenditure for the year [are available to view here](#). Hard copies will be available at the back of church.

Thank you to everyone who has used the Tap to Donate machine in church or the online Tap to Donate. If you haven't yet tried it out, why not give it a go this weekend?

Card/online payments cut down on the cash that needs to be counted and banked by volunteers each week.

For details of the many ways that you can give time or funds to support the Parish, please visit: <https://www.sacredheartsheffield.co.uk/support/>

In whatever way you support and donate, thank you very much. God bless you.

Tap to Donate

THE EVIDENCE OF GRACE

(Fr. Michael's Homily)



THE EVIDENCE OF GRACE (Fr. Michael's Homily)

Joseph: Model of Faithful Witness and Servant of God's Plan

St. Joseph's loving, responsive obedience to God, as modelled of the Christian life. the central This is the theme of today's readings, with special emphasis on the Virgin Birth of Jesus.

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah gives a sign from God to King Ahaz of Judah: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (Is 7:14). Matthew considers this prophecy as one of the most descriptive and definite prophecies foretelling the future Messianic King, the Christ, who is to be born as a descendant of David.

Today's Gospel, focuses on the person and role of Joseph. For Jesus to fulfill the Messianic prophecy given by Isaiah, Joseph had to, and freely did, accept Jesus as his son, making Jesus a legal descendant of David because Joseph was a descendant of David. Hence, Matthew makes it clear that Jesus was not the biological child of Joseph. But because Joseph was the husband of Mary at the time Jesus was born, Jesus was legally the son of Joseph and thus a descendant of David. Joseph is a model of faith for us. He is a faithful witness and servant of God's unfolding plan of redemption. Are you ready to believe in the promises of God, even when faced with perplexing circumstances and what seems like insurmountable problems? God has not left us alone, but has brought us his only begotten Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Let us celebrate Christmas, the feast of the Incarnation, with joyful hearts and let us renew our faith and hope in God and in his redeeming work.

Like Joseph, we need to trust in God, listen to Him and be faithful. Although we may face financial problems, job insecurity, tensions in the family, and health concerns, let us try to be like St. Joseph, trusting and faithful. Instead of relying on our own schemes to get us through life, let us trust in God and be strengthened by talking to Him in fervent prayer and by listening to Him speaking through the Bible.

Do we have any gift for our "Birthday Boy?" Let us check to see if Jesus is on our list this Christmas and if we have a special gift in mind for him. A heart filled with love for God and our fellow-human beings is the birthday gift which Jesus really wants from us. Hence, let us prepare our heart for Jesus, filling it with love, mercy, compassion, and forgiveness on this Christmas and every day of our lives.

Let us be a Christmas gift to others: The greatest gift we can give to those we love, is to have faith in them, believe in their dreams and try to help them realize them. We need to believe in the dreams of our husband, wife, children, parents, heroes, leaders, and friends, then try our best to help them realize those dreams.

Lord Jesus, you came to save us from sin and the power of death. May I always rejoice in your salvation and trust in your divine plan for my life.

Amen



If you are a taxpayer, you can increase your donations to Sacred Heart by 25%, simply by completing a Gift Aid Declaration. Through the Gift Aid scheme, the government gives the church 25p for every £1 you donate.

What the church receives is tax you have already paid. **It costs you no more.**

There are blank Gift Aid Declarations at the back of church, and you can complete one using the screen on the Tap to Donate. For more details visit: <https://www.sacredheartsheffield.co.uk/gift-aid/>

We still need to pay for our new pew heating. If you would like to make any donation towards the cost please either pass it directly to Fr Michael or put it in the Offertory basket at Mass.

PLEASE mark any donations '**FOR THE HEATING FUND**' - please include your name and address, so we can claim Gift Aid. You can also donate **online** by clicking the button below.

Many thanks to all those who have already made generous donations and gratitude in anticipation of further offerings.

[Click Here to Donate](#)



The Prayer Group will be meeting for prayer & reflection throughout Advent.

Join us for the next meeting on **Thursday 15th December starting at 7.30pm.**

[Click Here to Join](#)

LINK: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9210301020?pwd=MVF0dThLcHYwLzRSVUwK2IybjZHUT09>

Meeting ID: 921 030 1020

Passcode: LjPd8p

If you wish to dial in using your phone please use one of the numbers below and use the **Meeting ID: 921 030 1020**: +44 208 080 6592; +44 330 088 5830; +44 131 460 1196

Perhaps you would like to consider leading a prayer meeting? Please get in touch! [e-mail us](#)

Prayer Resources for Download

A number of resources are available for download. Please click on the buttons below.

Parish Community Prayer Booklet

December is the month of The Divine Infancy

O Mary Immaculate, inflame our hearts with one ray of the burning love of thy pure heart

Pray the Holy Rosary

For services throughout the week we strongly recommend Church Services TV. The link is below:

Church Services TV

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage your subscription](#)

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