
Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Achile Umameh

Parish Deacon: Rev. Tony Strike.

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PARISH BULLETIN OF SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH, HILLSBOROUGH

Mass Times & Intentions

Mass Information w/c 25th December 2022

Christmas Day - The Nativity of the Lord

Saturday 24th December - Family Mass 4pm, Vigil Mass at 8:00pm (carols from 7:30pm) - For the People of the Parish

Christmas Day - 11am - Andrew & Annie Kirwan

Boxing Day (Monday 26th December): 10am - P & J McConnon's 35th Wedding Anniv.

Tuesday - 8am at KIRKEDGE - Mary & Tom Green

Wednesday - 10am - Elizabeth Varrella

Thursday - without congregation

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

New Year's Eve Vigil (Saturday 31st Dec): 6.30pm

New Year's Day (1st Jan): **11am**

Updated COVID-19 Precautions:

The Government's Chief Medical Officer has requested that anyone with symptoms of COVID remain at home over the festive period. Whilst it is appreciated that the Church is cold, we will continue to ensure that there is adequate ventilation to minimise any chance of infection. Thank you for your understanding

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 25th 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 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: Teresa Szurko, Mary Maloney, Cyril Knott, Kathleen Marr, Marilena Ferrari, Fr Lawrence Thompson, Annie Kirwan, Ken Collis, Arthur Horner, Mila Ellen Watkinson, Marguerite O'Neill, Graham Butterell, Margaret Eborall, Arthur Askham, Gabriel Angelo, Thomas James Green, Ian Sharrock, Teresa Walker, Joshua Kelly, Peter Hartley, Joyce Thorpe, Maureen Fleet, Norma Goodhand, Gerald Martin, Chris Clegg, Chinnamma George, Kathleen Boxall, Tony Brock, Ernest Slack, Marie Hayward, William Schuck, Michael Faulkner, Madelaine Roche, Robert Hinshelwood, John Gibson, Winifred Fagan, Agnes Burley **and Paul Carrington who died during the week.**
May they rest in peace.

The Book of Remembrance:

Will on display next weekend for us all to add and include any family or friends recently deceased.

**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 18th December

Baskets: £TBC

Tap to Donate: Offertory £100, Decorations £5, Heating Fund £112, Fr Michael Christmas Offering £95

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 – Thank you to everyone who came to the disco, this was a wonderful celebration - we hoped you enjoyed it too. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped with preparation, crafts and running things on the night. **We also raised £218 for the church heating fund - thanks for everyone's support!**

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



'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.

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)

Christmas Feast of The Gift of the Gift-Giver

Christmas is the Feast of God's sending us a Saviour: God undertook the Incarnation of Jesus as True God and true man to save us from the bondage of sin. "God incarnates to restore righteousness in the world whenever there is a large-scale erosion of moral values." But the Christian Scriptures teach only one Incarnation, and its purpose is given in Jn 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life". We call our celebration of the Incarnation of God in a Baby today "Good News" because our Divine Saviour has been born. As our Saviour, Jesus liberated us from slavery to

sin and atoned for our sins by his suffering, death, and Resurrection. So, every Christmas reminds us that we need a Saviour every day, to free us from our evil addictions and unjust, impure, and uncharitable tendencies. Christmas 2022 also challenges us to accept Jesus in the manger as our saving God and personal Saviour and to surrender our lives to him, allowing him to rule our hearts and lives every day in the New Year.

Christmas is the Feast of God's sharing His love with us: Jesus, as our Saviour, brought the "Good News" that our God is a loving, forgiving, merciful, rewarding God and not a judgmental, cruel, punishing God. He demonstrated by his life and teaching how God our Heavenly Father loves us, forgives us, provides for us, and rewards us. All his miracles were signs of this Divine Love. Jesus' final demonstration of God's love for us was his own death on the cross to atone for our sins and to make us children of God. Each Christmas reminds us that sharing love with others is our Christian privilege and duty, and every time we do that, Jesus is reborn in our lives. Let us humbly admit the truth with the German mystic Angelus Silesius "Christ could be born a thousand times in Bethlehem – but all in vain until He is born in me." Hence, let us allow Jesus to be reborn in our hearts and lives, not only during Christmas, but every day, so that he may radiate the Light of his Presence from within us as sharing and selfless love, expressed in compassionate words and deeds, unconditional forgiveness, the spirit of humble service, and overflowing generosity.

Christmas is the Feast of the Emmanuel (God living with us and within us): Christmas is the feast of the Emmanuel because God in the New Testament is a God Who continues to live with us in all the events of our lives as the "Emmanuel" announced by the angel to Mary. Jesus lives in us as Emmanuel in the Sacraments (especially in the Holy Eucharist), in the Bible, in the praying community, and in each believer, as the Holy Spirit residing in us makes us His "Temples." Christmas reminds us that we are bearers of God with the missionary privilege and duty of conveying Jesus to those around us by loving them as Jesus did, through sacrificial, humble, committed service. Sharing with others Jesus, the Emmanuel living within us, is the best Christmas gift we can give, or receive, today.

Lord our God, with the birth of your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, your glory breaks on the world. As we celebrate his first coming, give us a foretaste of the joy that you will grant us when the fulness of his glory has filled the earth.

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



No Prayer Meeting This Week

Join us for the next meeting after Christmas.

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

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