

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.



An Act of Spiritual Communion.

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if you were already there,
and I unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

(Saint Alphonsus Liguori)

Prayer to St. Michael

St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in our daily battle; be our safeguard against
the wickedness and snares of the devil.

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O
Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God thrust
down into hell

Satan and all the other evil spirits who prowl throughout
the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

✠ Our Lady of Lourdes ✠ Pray for Us

✠ St. Theresa ✠ Pray for Us

✠ St. Anthony ✠ Pray for Us

Confession
& Absolution

Confessions

Available after every weekday and
Saturday Vigil Mass or by advanced
booking.

Exposition of the Blessed
Sacrament
30 minutes before Weekday Mass

Anointing of the sick
In cases of emergency only.

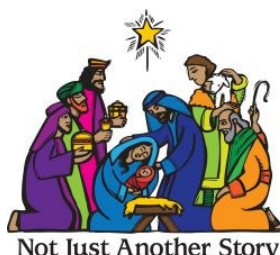
GOD IS WITH US!!!

It is Christmas once again! A Saviour is born to us!! We celebrate with great joy and thanksgiving. Christmas is all about the celebration of the fulfilment of God's promise to humanity. He is a God who never disappoints. Once He promises, it must surely come to pass. Hence, God says through the mouth of His Prophet Ezekiel that "There will be no further delay in the fulfilling of any my words, What I have said shall be done now" (Ezk 12:28). He promises "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as King and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land...and this is the name by which he will be called: The Lord is our righteousness" (Jer 23:5-6). Further, He promises "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel" (Isaiah 7:14). This promise was fulfilled at Christmas, when God came into the world as a little Baby through the womb of a virgin. Thus, a Saviour is born to us, who is called Emmanuel, which means God with us. Paul attests in the second reading that he was "set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, concerning his son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the son of God" (Rm 1:3). So, as we celebrate the fulfilment of God's promise at Christmas, we have to appreciate those who allowed themselves to be used by God in order to fulfil His promise. We appreciate John who was the forerunner of Christ. He announced His coming to people and urged the people to prepare His way and make His paths straight. Again, we say thank you to our Blessed Mother, who notwithstanding in her state of confusion was able to say yes to God and allowed God to come to the world through her. More so, we appreciate Joseph so much. It might seem simple but not easy to take responsibility of a woman who he never impregnated, but he listened to the voice of God and obeyed God's commands however difficult. As we celebrate with joy that God is with us, can we allow ourselves this season for God to use us to touch the lives of other people. Just like John, Joseph and Mother Mary allowed God to use them, may we allow God to touch the lives of other

people through us this Christmas. I wish you a merry Christmas.

FR BEDE

... and you shall call his name
Jesus for he will save his
people from their sins.
Matthew 1:21, ESV



Not Just Another Story

St Theresa's and Our Lady of Lourdes with St Anthony's

Parish Priest: Fr. Bede Dike | Parish Office Tel: 0114 248 6102



Office Email: lol.church@btinternet.com

Website: <https://ourladyoflourdes-sttheresa.hallam-diocese.com/>



December Devotion: The Immaculate Conception of Our Lady

The Fourth Sunday of Advent, Yr.A

21st December 2025

Psalter Week 4



Saturday, 20th December,

6.00pm, Our Lady of Lourdes – Margaret McLoughlin RIP (Anniversary)

Sunday, 21st December,

8.30am, St Anthony's – Joan & Jack Goodwin RIP
9.45am, Our Lady of Lourdes – SVP Beneficiaries
11.00am, St. Theresa's – Eunice Dike RIP

Monday, 22nd December, 10.00am, Our Lady of Lourdes

Late Advent Weekday — Travellers this Christmas.

Tuesday, 23rd December, 10.00am, Our Lady of Lourdes

Late Advent Weekday — John Green RIP (Birthday)

Wednesday, 24th December, THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

5.00pm, St. Theresa's – Peace in the World

7.00pm, Our Lady of Lourdes— Family Unity

10.00pm, Our Lady of Lourdes— The Light of Christ in the Whole World

Thursday, 25th December, CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

8.30am, St. Anthony's— Special Intention

9.45am, Our Lady of Lourdes - Thanksgiving

11.00am, St. Theresa's – Joseph McGinty RIP

Friday, 26th December, NO MASS

St Stephen, The First Martyr

Next Weekend's Masses (2nd Sunday of Advent, Yr. A)

Saturday 27th December

6.00pm, Our Lady of Lourdes - Patrick Heenan RIP (Anniversary)

Sunday 28th December

8.30am, St. Anthony's - Maria & Aubrey Roberts RIP

9.45am, Our Lady of Lourdes - Unity and Peace in Families

11.00am St. Theresa's - Unity and Peace in Families



Sanctuary Lamp Intentions

Our Lady of Lourdes: Safety for Travellers at Christmas
Sponsor: OLOL Parish

St. Anthony's: Love & Unity in Families
Sponsor: St. Anthony's Parish

St. Theresa's: Peace in the World
Sponsor: St Theresa's Parish



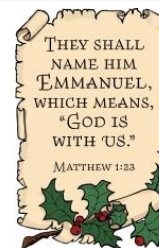
Sunday Readings:
1st Isaiah 7:10-14.
2nd Romans 1:1-7.
Gospel Matthew 1:18-24.

Responsorial Psalm: 24.
Let the LORD enter; he is the king of glory.

Gospel Acclamation, Matthew 1:23.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel — which means, God with us. Alleluia.



Ignatian Spiritual Exercises: Men's retreat, 4 & 11 February 2026

A fantastic opportunity to experience St Ignatius' Spiritual Exercises in a 5-day, shortened form. The retreat will be guided by the monastic community of St Joseph's Abbey, Flavigny (France), who were founded with the specific charism of offering this version of the Exercises and with a particular apostolate to men. The retreat is open to men in all states of life, who wish to seek God's will through a deepened detachment from the world.

<https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/mens-retreat-spiritual-exercises-of-st-ignatius>

Love & Beauty in St John's Spiritual Canticle, 20 - 22 February 2026

2026 marks the centenary of the declaration of St John of the Cross as a Doctor of the Church. In honour of this anniversary, Fr Matthew Blake, OCD will offer a weekend reflecting on the themes of love and beauty in the most celebrated poetry of the great Spanish mystic.

<https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/love-beauty-in-st-johns-spiritual-canticle/>

Weekend Cash Collections 13th/14th December

Our Lady of Lourdes..... £344.43

St Anthony's..... £147.50

St Theresa's£304.45

Thank you.



If you know anyone who is sick or housebound and would appreciate a visit from Fr. Bede for their Christmas Preparation please email or call the Parish Office so that this can be arranged. Parish Office contact details are on the front of the bulletin.



St Wilfrid's Centre is looking to recruit a new Director. Please see our website stwilfridscentre.org for the job description, person specification and application form. The closing date is midnight Sunday 4th January 2026



Christmas Confessions

There will be a service at Our Lady of Lourdes on 22nd December 2025 at 6pm Exposition, Rosary, Confessions and concluding with Benediction. Please take the opportunity to prepare well for Christmas.



Support for St. Wilfrid's Centre

Tinned ham, chocolate biscuits and crisps for light lunches and snacks



Food Donations

Foodbank

As we approach the Christmas season, it's right that we support those less fortunate than ourselves. Please consider bringing something that could be used as part of a Christmas dinner to donate to the foodbank, alongside all our usual staple items. Thank you.



Safeguarding Representatives

St. Theresa's—Debi Stringer
OLOL—Tessa Taylor

School News

St John Fisher School news:
www.st-johnfisher.org

St Theresa's School news:
www.st-theresas-sheffield.co.uk



These QR Codes can be used to make an offering using your smartphone. Simply scan the relevant QR code and follow the on screen instructions.

OLOL/St. Anthony's



St. Theresa's



Please pray for all the elderly, the sick and the housebound of our three churches including those named below.

Rita O'Hara, Clare Roberts, Jennie Heenan, Caitlin Rose Goss, Beryl Stafford, Jean Grove, Liliana Poole, Jean White, Shirley Foster, Sean Kilcoyne, Avis Hurst, Gloria Andrews, Chena Drakesmith, Marj Hall, Melvin Hanlon, John Carroll, Joan Hill, Claire Lawson, Patricia Foster, Christopher Browne, Mr. Shannon, Margaret Betson, Paul Manning, Annabel Taylor, John Nicholson, Philomena Walker, Lesley Osborne, Gail Hook, Elizabeth Dodson, Gemma Thomas, David Dowling, Fr. David Stafford, Ursula & Paul Parker, Tessa Taylor.

Please pray for the repose of the recently deceased souls & those whose anniversaries occur about this time.



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE!!!

It is Christmas!!! "A Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord" (Lk 2:11). So, Christ is the reason for the season.

Therefore, we join the Psalmist to say, "This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Ps. 118:24).

Christmas is a time of Joy. Thus, the Angel said "Do not be afraid. Look I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people" (Lk 2:10). Regardless of anything, we are called upon to rejoice and be happy for Christ has come to save us. However, as we rejoice let us also try to extend the joy to others. Put smiles on the faces of others this Christmas!!!

Christmas is a time of Peace. At His birth, the throng of hosts of heaven sang "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace for those he favours" (Lk 2:14). We are called to have peace in our lives and try as much as possible to make peace with all people. Be a peace maker!!!

Christmas is a time of Thanksgiving. After visiting the newborn Child, the shepherds went back "glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen" (Lk 2:20). It is a time to be grateful to God for His love to humanity. As we appreciate God for the gift of Jesus to us, let us extend that to other people. We are expected to appreciate those who have been helpful to us in one way or the other. Be a person of gratitude!!!

Christmas is a time of Visit. The Magi heard of the birth of Jesus, and they went immediately to pay Him visit. We also are called upon to make out to visit our old friends; the lonely, the unloved; the sick and housebound. Give someone a warmth of love this Christmas!!!

Christmas is a time of Sharing. The Magi visited the Newborn Child and gave Him gifts. We are expected to share what we have with others. As you shop for your family, please remember to shop for the less privileged and the poor. There is joy in sharing!!!

Christmas is a time humility. If God could be born in a manger, who am I to be prideful. Let us be humble for humility pays. As we celebrate Christmas, I pray that the gift of the Newborn Child to humanity brings peace and love to our troubled world. Amen.

I wish you a wonderful and merry Christmas!!!

FR BEDE



Planning a Celebration?

Why not book one of the Parish Halls?

For bookings at Our Lady of Lourdes please contact Mark on 07852164838 or via email lol.churchhallbookings@gmail.com

For bookings at St Theresa's Hall please contact Debi on 075778 97291



St. Wilfrid's currently have their Reverse

Advent Calendar on their website and a PDF to download. Each day from December 1st to the 25th is marked with easy-to-get items or small donations of money for you to add to a box or a bag. Once completed please drop off your collection after the 5th January at the back of OLOL. Each item donated will help towards their work supporting vulnerable adults in our community.



Mary's Meals Christmas Raffle

We are running our annual raffle for Mary's Meals which we do at this time of year because any donations are doubled up to £1M. Tickets are available from Our Lady of Lourdes, and Sal will visit St Anthony's and St Theresa's with tickets if anyone would like them. www.marysmeals.org.uk



Pro-life update

2025 has been one of the most challenging and busiest years ever for the pro-life movement in the UK, with the biggest battles on abortion and assisted suicide in over 50 years. Thanks to the support of our parish, there has been a strong, coordinated response in Parliament, in the media and among the wider public. The 2025 Right To Life UK Year in Review sets out some of the key areas in which significant progress has been made this year. Please visit <http://righttolife.org.uk/2025> to read the Year in Review to find out more about what we have achieved together for life this year

The bulletin for December has been sponsored by Casey Barker. Thank you.