

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*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.*

COLLECT

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,
your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son
was made known by the message of an Angel,
may by his Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING Isaiah 7:10-14

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

In those days: The LORD spoke to Ahaz:
'Ask a sign of the LORD your God;
let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.'
But Ahaz said,
'I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.'
And Isaiah said,
'Hear then, O house of David!
Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also?
Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and shall call his name Emmanuel.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 24(23):1-2.3-4b.5-6.R.cf.7c.10b

R: Let the LORD enter; he is the king of glory.

1. The LORD's is the earth and its fullness,
the world, and those who dwell in it.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the rivers he made it firm. *R.*
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the LORD?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The clean of hands and pure of heart,
whose soul is not set on vain things. *R.*
3. Blessings from the LORD shall he receive,
and right reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the people who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob. *R.*

SECOND READING Romans 1:1-7

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an Apostle, 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 in power according to the Spirit of holiness
by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord, through

whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the
obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations,
including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be
saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL Matthew 1:23

R: Alleluia, Alleluia.

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

R: Alleluia.

GOSPEL Matthew 1:18-24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his
mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came
together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And
her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to
shame, resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered
these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a
dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as
your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.
She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will
save his people from their sins.'

All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the
prophet:

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

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord
commanded him: he took his wife.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the Holy Spirit, O Lord,
sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar,
just as he filled with his power
the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

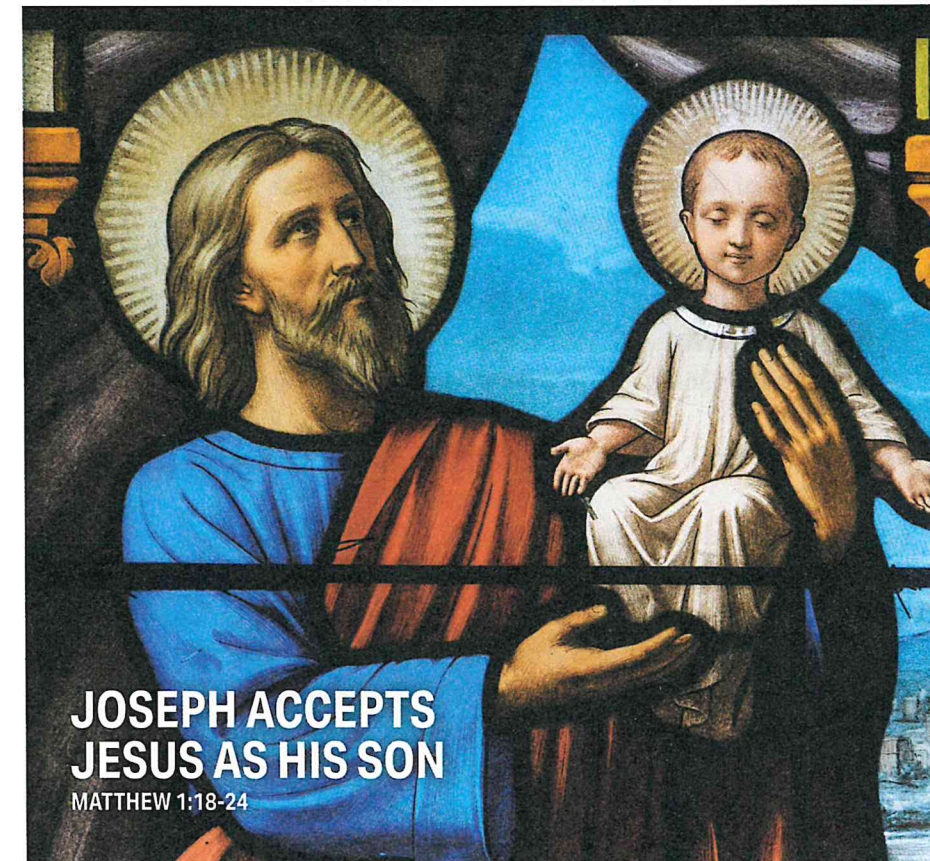
Having received this pledge of eternal redemption,
we pray, almighty God,
that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer,
so we may press forward all the more eagerly
to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

Sunday Message

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE WORD

Year A • 21 December 2025 • Psalter Week 4



This passage presents the quiet yet profound role of Joseph in the unfolding of salvation history. Unlike Luke's Gospel, which focuses on Mary's "yes," Matthew offers Joseph's perspective – a man caught in a dilemma between righteousness and mercy. Betrothed to Mary and discovering she is pregnant, Joseph initially plans to divorce her quietly, choosing not to expose her to shame.

But God intervenes through a dream. The angel reassures Joseph: "Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit." Joseph's response is immediate and obedient. Without protest or delay, he does what the angel commands. In doing so, he becomes the earthly guardian of Jesus and the protector of Mary.

Matthew's Gospel highlights that this moment fulfils the prophecy from Isaiah: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Emmanuel" – which means "God is with us." That name is central to Christian faith. In Jesus, God is no longer distant or hidden – He is present in our humanity, born into our world.

This passage teaches that God often works through ordinary people, quiet decisions, and faithful obedience. Joseph reminds us that trust in God sometimes means letting go of our own plans and stepping into mystery with faith. ■

LEARN

Pope St John Paul II emphasised in *Redemptoris Custos* ("Guardian of the Redeemer") that Joseph's faithful obedience shows us the dignity of human cooperation with God's plan. Joseph's "yes" reminds us that holiness often grows quietly through daily faithfulness and trusting surrender to God's will.

SAY

Lord, give me the strength to trust
your plan,
The courage to follow your will,
And a heart willing to serve each
day. Amen.

REFLECT

The story of Joseph in today's Gospel is a quiet, powerful example of faith and obedience. Imagine the confusion and worry Joseph must have felt when he discovered Mary was pregnant. In his time, this would have been a scandal. But Joseph is described as a "righteous man" – someone who seeks to do what is right, even when it's difficult.

When God sends an angel to speak to Joseph in a dream, the message is clear: don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. This reassurance helps Joseph to trust in a plan he cannot fully understand. Instead of reacting with anger or rejection, he chooses to believe and to act in faith.

Joseph's decision shows us that faith often requires courage. It means trusting God's promises, even when the path ahead is unclear or challenging. His obedience makes him a guardian not only of Mary but of Jesus Himself.

As we prepare for Christmas, Joseph's example invites us to trust God's plan in our own lives. Sometimes God calls us to step into uncertainty, to let go of control, and to follow Him with open hearts. May we, like Joseph, listen for God's voice and respond with courage and love. The God who comes to us is Emmanuel – God with us, always. ■

DO

Spend a few moments each day in quiet prayer, asking God to help you trust His plan – even when it feels uncertain. Like Joseph, try to be open to God's guidance in your life, and take one small step of obedience or kindness in response.



St. Jude's Parish, Worksop-Oldcotes, in the Diocese of Hallam
Incorporating the Churches of St. Helen's, St. Mary's, and St. Joseph the Worker
Parish Priest: Fr Desmond Edozie Tel: 07901 202244 Email: frdesmond2014@gmail.com
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Parish Deacon: Rev. Peter Hunt Tel: 01909 475687 Email: huntsp2017@gmail.com
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Chair of Finance Committee: Tony Slatcher Tel: 07736 968168 Email: tonyslatcher@hotmail.com
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Diocese of Hallam: St. Jude's Parish REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 512022

Please pray for all the elderly, the sick and the housebound of our Parish and those named below
Pat Buckley, Ray Tuffield, Lynn Babiash, Helen Maggio, Graham Lister, Ray & Chris Carter, Richard & Sheila Cummins, June Downs, Sally Burton, Barry Oliver, Dr Philip Hobson, Jean Kinnell, Kathleen Lake, Teresa Warden, Pat Hughes, Josie Thompson, Shaun Kenny, Elsie Robinson, Eddie Humes, Maisie Coney, Phyllis Burton, Anita Clarkson, Alex Carlin, Christina Martin, Mel McCluskie, Pam Little, Robin Clarkson, residents of our Nursing and Care Homes, and patients in Bassetlaw Hospital. Please email the Parish Office if anyone needs to be added or removed. Thank you.
N.B. In order to comply with GDPR legislation, please ensure that named individuals and/or family members have given their consent for their names to be published in the bulletin and on our website. Many thanks.
Please pray for the souls of the recently deceased & those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

Masses for all three churches from Saturday 20 th December to Sunday 28 th December			
20 Saturday Vigil	6pm JW	4 th Sunday of Advent	Happy Christmas to St Jude's from Donna
21 Sunday	9am SH	4 th Sunday of Advent	Jenkinson Family
21 Sunday	11am SM	4 th Sunday of Advent	People of the Parish
21 Sunday	5pm SM	Carol Service with Benediction	
23 Tuesday	6pm ALL churches	Christmas Confession	
24 Wednesday	6pm JW	Christmas Vigil Mass	Mark and Andrew Babiaryz
25 Thursday	9am SH	Christmas Day Mass	Stapleton Family & Special intentions
25 Thursday	11am SM	Christmas Day Mass	Margaret Fogarty & family
26 Friday	No mass today		
27 Saturday Vigil	6pm JW	Feast of the Holy Family	Intentions of Lynn, Frank & Christian Babiash
28 Sunday	9am SH	Feast of the Holy Family	Sally & Philip Burton
28 Sunday	11am SM	Feast of the Holy Family	People of the Parish
KEY: SH = St Helen's Church SM = St Mary's Church JW = St Joseph the Worker Church			
Mass intention request slips are available in church with envelopes and from the parish website.			
Please use these slips and add RIP if the person is deceased or email with details. Many thanks.			

Sanctuary Lamp Intentions for this week

This week each seven-day Sanctuary Lamp candle will be lit continuously for the following intentions

Church	Intention	Sponsor
St Joseph the Worker	November Memorial List	St Jude's Parish
St Helen's	With thanks for your love and support	Pat and Francis Buckley
St Mary's	Christine and Susan Birkett	Frank and Lynn Babiash

Sanctuary Lamp intention request slips are available in church with envelopes and from the parish website.
*Please use these slips, or email, and add **RIP** if the person is deceased. Many thanks.*

Holy Mass in Polish every Sunday at 4pm in the Church of St. Joseph the Worker, 101 Wingfield Avenue, Worksop, S80 0SF. Please see www.parafia-mansfield.co.uk for details or contact Fr. Kazimierz Bidzinski on 01623 626470.

Holy Mass Syro-Malabar Rite in St. Joseph the Worker Church. For the current Mass Times, please contact :- Fr. Jom Mathew Kizhakkarakattu: The Presbytery of St. Joseph the Worker, 101 Wingfield Avenue, Worksop, S81 0SF. Email address: Jomkm@csmegb.net or mobile 07888 170451. National website: www.eparchyofgreatbritain.org/

Flame of Love Rosary will next be held on Wednesday 7th January 2026 at 6.30pm at St Helen's Church.

Prayer Group meeting every Thursday following morning mass, in St. Joseph's Church Hall, Worksop. All welcome.

The Pope's Monthly Prayer Intentions - December – For Christians in areas of conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

Please email stjudesworksopoldcotes@gmail.com to subscribe to the weekly bulletin. You may unsubscribe by request at any time.

OFFERING – The offerings last week for the Parish were £649.71. Many thanks for all your kindness and generosity.

NOTICES:

On Sunday Feast of the Holy Family – it would be nice for all families to attend the Mass. There will be special blessings for peace and unity.

Please kindly remember in your prayers Mr Agbo Emeka and Attah Mirian Ifechukwu who are getting married on 17th January in Nigeria.

If you know anybody who is **housebound** and would like to have Christmas confession and Communion, please let Fr Desmond know.

The **Parish Office** will be closed from 24th December until 6th January. If you need to contact the office, please either email or phone and leave a message.

Mary's Meals – We have heard from Leftover Currency and the total donation to Mary's Meals came to £123.42. A breakdown of the currency was sent and everything has a value even old, out of circulation and unexchangeable currency. The boxes will remain at the back of the churches for the time being and will be emptied periodically. Thank you so much

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

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

FR DESMOND AND THE PARISH OFFICE WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL PARISHIONERS A PEACEFUL, HAPPY AND HOLY CHRISTMAS