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| St Francis logoHis week personal | Franciscan |
| **Church of St Francis of Assisi**277 Sandygate Road, Sheffield S10 5SDTelephone 0114 263 0383Email: stfrancisrcsheffield@gmail.comWebsite: [www.stfrancisrc-sheffield.org.uk](http://www.stfrancisrc-sheffield.org.uk)Registered Charity No. 512021Parish Priest: Fr Kevin ThorntonParish Deacon: Stephen Parker | **THE 29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME****Sunday 19th OCTOBER 2025**Year C - Psalter week 1(People of the Parish) |

**SUNDAY MASS** is at 11am each week.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (**CONFESSION**) is available on request. Contact Fr Kevin.

A basket will be passed around during Mass for the **OFFERTORY COLLECTION**. Alternatively, you can make your offertory donation directly to:

* Account name: Diocese of Hallam St Francis Sheffield
* Sort Code: 40-41-07.
* Account Number: 21094343

If you are able to Gift Aid your offering, please contact Edmund King at edmundking42@gmail.com.

The **POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION** for October is collaboration between different religious traditions. Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice and human fraternity.

**PLEASE PRAY** for Ann Bright, Kathleen Campbell, Colette Connolly, Jean Fahy, Olwyn Heyes, Brian H, JH, Paul Spragg and Veronica Sowerby, who are sick, and for all whose anniversaries occur about this time.

Fairtrade **TEA, COFFEE AND BISCUITS** are available in the Assisi Hall after Sunday Mass.

**Today is WORLD MISSION SUNDAY. There is a basket in the narthex for donations to Missio, the Pope’s charity for World Mission.** Please pray for missionaries and give what you can so that Missio can bring God’s compassion, peace and justice to those in need. To donate, use the Missio envelope or visit <https://missio.org.uk/> to give online.

**There will be NO WEEKDAY MASSES at St Francis Church this week.**

The Parish Pastoral Council wants to hear from everyone connected with St Francis - whether you’re a regular at Mass, come occasionally, or don’t feel very involved. Please take a few minutes to fill in our **PARISH QUESTIONNAIRE**, which will help shape future plans. You can complete it online at [tinyurl.com/StFrancisParishSurvey2025](https://tinyurl.com/StFrancisParishSurvey2025) or pick up a paper copy from the narthex. All responses are anonymous and appreciated.

The **S2 FOODBANK** is asking for donations of staple foods to help local families keep warm and well-fed this autumn. Cash donations are welcome too. Please leave food in the trolley in the narthex or visit <https://s2foodbank.org.uk/donate> to donate online.

St Marie’s Cathedral are running a **JOURNEY IN FAITH** course for those who want to become Catholic, for adult Catholics who have not been Confirmed, and for Catholics who want to learn more about the faith. Registration will take place at 3:30pm on Saturday 18th October.

St Marie’s Cathedral will be lit-up with **CHRISTIAN-THEMED PUMPKINS** and candles from 4.30pm to 7pm on Saturday 25th October. There will be Children’s Liturgy from 5pm and a family social at 6pm. Younger parishioners are invited to come dressed as angels. Please bring a Christian-themed carved pumpkin and/or food or drink for the social.

There will be a day on **LECTIO DIVINA** from 10am to 3pm on Saturday 1st November at St Francis led by Deacon Stephen Parker. The day will be a gentle introduction to exploring lectio to enrich your spiritual life using scripture, music and art. Bring a packed lunch. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. For more details, contact Stephen on gurric@sky.com.

St Marie's Primary School will be holding an **OPEN MORNING** from 10am on Saturday 8th November. Please contact the school office on 2301904 if you would like to attend.

All Saints High School will be holding a **SIXTH FORM OPEN MORNING** from 10am to 12 noon on Saturday 8th November.

Bishop Ralph will celebrate our final Jubilee Mass this holy year for those who serve others across the diocese. Everyone who volunteers their time in service to others is invited to a Mass of **THANKSGIVING FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS** at 11am on Saturday 15th November at Immaculate Conception Church, Rotherham. The National Jubilee Icon will also be on display. Refreshments will be served after Mass.

The **HALLAM BETHLEHEM BALL** in support of the Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust will be on Saturday 15th November at The Royal Victoria Hotel. Tickets are £45 each. The evening will have live music and a Givergy auction. For more details, visit <https://bethlehemcareandhospicetrust.org/>. Contact John Booth or email trustee@bcandht.org for tickets.

There will be **BACON BUTTIES**, cakes and Christmas cards on sale after 10am Mass on Sunday 16th November at Mother of God Church to raise awareness and funds for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC).

The **PARISH PANTOMIME** will be on Friday 28th and Saturday 29th November. More details to follow.

The Diocese are holding an **ADVENT RETREAT** for young people aged 15+ from Friday 5th December (after school) to Saturday 6th December in Bollington. See the poster in the narthex for more details. Email youth@hallam-diocese.com for a booking form.

Can you **SPONSOR A SEAT** on the coach to allow a young person to attend the youth retreat in Bollington. To sponsor a seat (or part of one), contact youth@hallam-diocese.com.

**VOLUNTEERING**: At least 22 local charities are looking for new trustees. Being a trustee means being involved in managing the charity, attending a meeting (often no more than monthly), and generally supporting a project. For parishioners still working, it can be a flexible way to fit volunteering around busy lives. Charities currently looking for trustees include Disability Sheffield, Heeley Trust (community regeneration), No Panic (people with anxiety problems), Broomhall Community Centre, GROW (supporting women and girls), Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust, Green City Action, MESH (mediation services), Wadsley Scout Group, Manor Community Transport and Sheffield Jazz - a huge range of opportunities. If any of those speak to you, have a look at [www.vas.org.uk](http://www.vas.org.uk) for more details.

The Live Simply campaign is asking us to consider the issue of **GIRL'S EDUCATION** - globally there continue to be significant inequalities between boys and girls in accessing and completing education. There is more information in the narthex and at [www.stfrancisrc-sheffield.org.uk/livesimply/](http://www.stfrancisrc-sheffield.org.uk/livesimply/).

There are still some spaces on the **READING, WELCOMING AND TEA/COFFEE ROTAS** in the narthex. Please sign up.

**CHURCH FLOWERS.** Fresh flowers in church enhance our weekly worship. We need new recruits to help with the flower arrangements, otherwise we may have to switch to artificial flowers. No experience is needed and support will be given. For more information, contact Paula Goodfellow-Coates on paulagoodfellow@btinternet.com.

The **MASS READINGS**:

* Exodus 17: 8-13
* Psalm 121
* 2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:2
* Luke 18: 1-8

**SCRIPTURE NOTE** We often think of prayer as mere asking, and this parable encourages us to pester God as the wronged widow pestered the Unjust Judge. But that is only one aspect of Luke’s teaching on prayer. He also shows us what our attitude in prayer should be in the parable which immediately follows today’s passage from the gospel: the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax-Collector. The tax-collector wins approval because he just stands there, admitting his sins. Most instructive, however, is Luke’s teaching on Jesus at prayer: he reminds us that Jesus is always quietly at prayer to his Father. He needs to slip away to spend the night in prayer. Especially he prays at the most important moments of his life: at his Baptism, when he chooses his team of disciples, before he teaches them to pray, at the approach of his Passion, finally forgiving and comforting others at his death. Paul tells us we should pray continually. The prayer of asking must be built on a relationship of love and dependence, just as the request of child to parents is built on their loving relationship. It does not matter if the child is at times naughty; the deep relationship between parent and child is one of love. So too we do not need to be perfect to make our requests to our Father. When and how do you find it best to pray?

**REFLECTION**

I am neither a man of letters nor of science, but I humbly claim to be a man of prayer. It is prayer that has saved my life. Without it I would have lost my reason long ago. If I did not lose my peace of soul, in the midst of many trials, it is because of the peace that came to me through prayer. One can live several days without food, but not without prayer. Prayer is the key to each morning, and the lock to each evening. It is a sacred alliance between God and us. Let everyone try this experience, and they will find that daily prayer will add something new to their lives, something which cannot be found elsewhere. *Mahatma Gandhi*

**PARISH PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, pour down on our Church your Holy Spirit, the fire of your love. Give us the courage, the wisdom and the faith to be salt for the earth and light for the world.

Help us to build warm and welcoming communities of faith in our families, our neighbourhoods, our Parish. May we carry the Good News by word and action into all our environments, especially those which are hostile and hurting.

Together with Mary, the first evangeliser we entrust all our efforts into the care of the Divine Spirit, who fills and renews the face of the earth. Amen.