

St Hilda with St Thomas, South Shields

14 December 2025

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Intention: Our Parish and People

9.30am – Sung Mass

In Advent, we omit the Gloria.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord is upon me: he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor. Alleluia, alleluia!

3.00pm – Christingle Service at St Michael's

1. Donations towards Christmas flowers will be gratefully received.
2. Tuesday 16 December: Nursey School Christmas Visit at 10.30am.
3. Saturday 20 December: The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, here at St Hilda's, at 3pm.
4. Monday 22 December: Confessions before Christmas in the Lady Chapel at 3.00pm.
5. Wednesday 24 December: The First Mass of Christmas and Blessing of the Christmas Crib at 6pm.
6. Thursday 25 December: Christmas Day Mass with Carols at 10am.
7. See of Beverley online course begins on Monday 12 January at 7pm with the theme 'The Church as a Mystery'. Further details online.

This week's scripture readings at Mass

Numbers 24.2-7, 15-17 | Matthew 21.23-27

Zephaniah 3.1-2, 9-13 | Matthew 21.28-32

Genesis 49.2, 8-10 | Matthew 1.1-17

Jeremiah 23.5-8 | Matthew 1.18-24

Judges 13.2-7, 24-25 | Luke 1.5-25

Isaiah 7.10-14 | Luke 1.26-38

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Churchwardens: Mrs J Mulley (456-7461)
Mr P Grainger (454-3955)
Mr W Marley Miss C Mulley

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The Parish Church of St Hilda with St Thomas, South Shields

Market Place, South Shields, NE33 1DX

sthilda.org.uk | achurchnearyou.com/13711 | YouTube: Churches South Shields

A Forward in Faith Parish in the Episcopal Care of the Bishop of Beverley

This week's services and prayer intentions

[Services in italics at St Michael's Church]

Monday 15 December

Advent FERIA

Intention: United Society Partners in the Gospel

8.30am Morning Prayer

9.00am Mass

5.30pm Evening Prayer

Tuesday 16 December

Advent FERIA

Intention: Society of the Holy Cross

5.30pm Evening Prayer

6.00pm Mass

Wednesday 17 December

Advent FERIA

Intention: Housebound

10.00am Mass

11.45am Funeral Service

Albert Hall RIP

5.30pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 18 December

Advent FERIA

Intention: Christian Unity

10.15am Funeral Service at Harton Cemetery Chapel | Lawrence Whale RIP

11.00am Mass (BCP)

7.30pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Friday 19 December

Advent FERIA

Intention: Those in need

Saturday 20 December

Advent FERIA

Intention: Church musicians

10.00am Mass

3.00pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 21 December

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Intention: Our Parish and People

Sung Mass at 9.30am

Evensong at 6pm

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

COLLECT

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING Isaiah 35

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

PSALM Verses from Psalm 146

Blessed is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help : and whose hope is in the Lord his God;

Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that therein is : who keepeth his promise for ever;

Who helpeth them to right that suffer wrong : who feedeth the hungry.

The Lord looseth men out of prison : the Lord giveth sight to the blind.

The Lord helpeth them that are fallen : the Lord careth for the righteous.

The Lord careth for the strangers, he defendeth the fatherless and widow : as for the way of the ungodly, he turneth it upside down.

The Lord thy God, O Sion, shall be King for evermore : and throughout all generations.

SECOND READING James 5.7-10

A reading from the letter of James.

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

GOSPEL Matthew 11.2-11

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to Jesus, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.' As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**