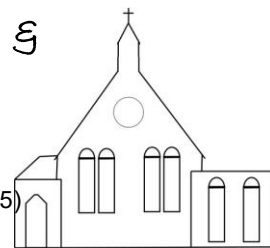


THE PARISH OF CHRIST THE KING, ALFRETON & ST. PATRICK AND ST. BRIGID, CLAY CROSS

104 Nottingham Road, ALFRETON, DE55 7GL

✉ ctkchurchalfreton@dioceseofnottingham.uk ☎ 01773 833174
Parish Hall ✉ ctkchurchhall@gmail.com ((Jerry George ☎ 07587359865))
Parish website: christthekingalfreton.org
Parish Priest: Rev. Paul Nellikulam Pius



St Clare's Convent Clay Cross ☎ 01246 862621

Safeguarding Rep: Veronica Grant ☎ 07513 725538



Christ the King School ☎ 01773 832919

Parish Pastoral Council Chairman: Peter Connolly ☎ 07783363548

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Weekly Bulletin **20th December – 27th December 2025**

CONFESSIONS ARE AVAILABLE BEFORE AND AFTER HOLY MASS ON REQUEST

Alfreton

Saturday 20th December: 6.30pm Mass:

Marion Barnes RIP & Robin Barnes RIP

Sunday 21st December: 10.30am Mass:

Ursula Ragus RIP

Monday 22nd December: **NO MASS**

Wednesday 24th December: 6pm Christmas Children's Eve Mass

Sean McGing F

Thursday 25th December: **Christmas**

10.30 Mass: Tommy Martin RIP

Friday 26th December: **NO MASS**

Saturday 27th December: 6.30pm Mass: Rita Babe RIP

Sunday 28th December: 10.30am Mass:

Winnie Stenson & Family Ints

Clay Cross

Sunday 21st December: 9am Mass: Peter Loughnane RIP

Tuesday 23rd December:

9.30am Adoration, 10am Mass: Eric Marsh RIP

Wednesday 24th December:

3pm Christmas Children's Eve Mass

Thursday 25th December: **Christmas: 9am Mass**

Sunday 28th December: 9am Mass:

Monsignor Jonathan Moore Ints

December 2025 Cleaners

Alfreton: Maureen Walker

Clay Cross: Rob Farrell

Sick & Housebound:

Please pray for – Shirley Oakes, Ian Martin, Val Kerlin, Mary Pfeffer, Hazel Titon, Martin Mullally, Elsie Stewart, Brian Bradford, Peter Egan, Ted Bennett, Jim Johnson, John Oliver, Karen Parker, Bridie Joyce, Mick Mullarkey, Kath McGrath, Mark McCallum, Roseanne Coyne, Cecilia Fletcher, Thomas Graczyk, Maureen Fuller, Paul Fuller, Isobel Hopkins, Diana Davey, Eugene Grant, Patrick Mackell and Pennie Burton. **Please remember all in our parish who need our prayers.**

This Week's Readers: Alfreton

Saturday 6.30pm: Clare Smith/Margaret Kerry

Sunday 10.30am Lilianna/Fiona Molumby

This Week's Readers: Clay Cross

Sunday 9am: Ted Bennett/Juval

Next Week's Readers: Alfreton

Saturday 6.30pm: Joshuva Chamberlain/Veronica Grant

Sunday 10.30am: Natasha Erskine/Tom McCallum

Next Week's Readers: Clay Cross

Sunday 9am: David Johnson/Reena Gigi

Collection for 13th & 14th December 2025

Alfreton	£288.91
Clay Cross	£323.72
Standing Order	£245.00

Total Collection **£857.63**

Repository CTK	£42.22
Candles CTK	£33.51
Christmas Flower Collection	£280.63
Hall income	£150.00

Many thanks for your generosity

**“WISHING ALL OUR PARISHIONERS AND THEIR FAMILIES A HAPPY AND
HOLY CHRISTMAS.”**

Christ the King Alfreton & SS Patrick & Brigid church Clay Cross:

Bank Details: Cheques payable to - **Christ the King Alfreton RCP, Account No: 03155671, Sort Code: 30-92-59**

Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocese Trustees – Company No. 7151646 Charity No. 1134449

First Holy Communion session for candidates and parents on Wednesday 7th January 5pm.

Crib Offerings – Friends of the Holy Land: This year, our Crib Offerings will support Friends of the Holy Land, one of the few charities working directly with local Christian communities across the West Bank, Gaza, Israel, and Jordan. The charity provides vital practical assistance, including education, employment, healthcare, and community support. By contributing to the crib offerings, we stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Christ, helping to sustain hope, dignity, and faith amid great hardship. Thank you for your generosity and prayers.

Parish Lunch, Monday 5th January at 1pm The booking lists for the January 2026 Pensioners Lunch are now at the back of both churches. If you would like to attend this lunch, please book your place by Sunday, 28th December 2025, so we know how many people to cater for. Why not come along and enjoy a good meal, great company and fantastic entertainment? You may even win some cash at the cash bingo or a raffle prize. We look forward to seeing you there.

MISSIO BOXES - thank to all who have had their boxes emptied during October/November 2025. ANNUAL TOTALS: £208.22 from Clay Cross and £137.26 from Alfreton. Should anyone who pays income tax and who has not yet done so, and who is willing to Gift Aid their donation at no cost to them, please let your promoter know - call 07749 620117.

“Peace be with you all: Towards an ‘unarmed and disarming’ peace”. The theme of Pope Leo XIV’s Message for the World Day of Peace (1st January 2026) invites humanity to reject the logic of violence and war, and to embrace an authentic peace based on love and justice. This peace must be unarmed, that is, not based on fear, threats or weapons. And it must be disarming, capable of resolving conflicts, opening hearts and generating mutual trust, empathy and hope. It is not enough to call for peace; we must embody it in a way of life that rejects every form of violence, whether it be visible or systemic. The greeting of the Risen Christ, “Peace be with you” (John 20:19), is an invitation addressed to everyone — believers, non-believers, political leaders and citizens — to build the Kingdom of God and to work together to build a humane and peaceful future.

According to Aid to the Church in Need 5.4 billion people (2/3 of the world's population) live in countries where individuals and entire communities suffer violations of religious freedom. More than 220 million Christians are at direct risk of persecution. In response, ACN has initiated a petition calling on governments around the world to implement in full Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the gold standard of religious liberty - the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, the right to change religion and the right to manifest religion in teaching, practice, worship and observance. Parishioners are invited to stand with persecuted Christians and all those who suffer for their beliefs by signing the ACN Article 18 petition, by visiting: <https://acnuk.org/article-18-petition-religious-freedom-human-right-not-privilege>. Please continue to pray for all those who suffer for their faith.

Christmas thoughts: Christmas is not simply a date on the calendar or a beautiful tradition we repeat each year; it is an invitation to look again at our spiritual life and to rediscover what truly gives meaning to our existence. In the silence of Bethlehem, God chose not to shout but to whisper. He came not as a king in a palace but as a child in a manger. As St. Augustine reminds us, “God became man so that man might learn how to live.” Christmas teaches us that real life is not found in power, wealth, or control, but in humility, trust, and love. In our modern world, we are often busy preparing everything except our hearts. We decorate our homes, plan our meals, and exchange gifts, yet sometimes forget the greatest gift of all — God dwelling among us. G.K. Chesterton wisely said, “The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and left untried.” Christmas challenges us to try again: to pray a little more, forgive a little deeper, and love a little wider. The spiritual life grows not through extraordinary actions, but through small, faithful choices made with love. The mystery of the Incarnation also reminds us that God enters our brokenness. Jesus did not come into a perfect world; He came into poverty, uncertainty, and rejection. This gives great hope to every human heart. As Pope Francis says, “God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of asking for mercy.” Christmas assures us that no failure, weakness, or pain can prevent God from coming close. He chooses to meet us exactly where we are. Spiritual life at Christmas is also about relationships. The Holy Family teaches us the beauty of presence — being there for one another in love and patience. Mother Teresa once said, “If you want to change the world, go home and love your family.” The manger reminds us that holiness often begins at home: in kindness, listening, reconciliation, and compassion. A house becomes a home when Christ is welcomed into it. Finally, Christmas restores our sense of wonder and hope. In a world often marked by fear, division, and uncertainty, the birth of Jesus proclaims that light still shines in the darkness. As C.S. Lewis wrote, “The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God.” Christmas is the promise that our lives have purpose, that love is stronger than sin, and that God is always faithful. May this Christmas renew our spiritual life, deepen our faith, and help us live each day with gratitude and joy, knowing that Emmanuel — God is with us.