

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

1st Week of Christmastide: Weekly Bulletin 27th December 2025 – 04th January 2026
CONFESSIONS ARE AVAILABLE BEFORE AND AFTER HOLY MASS ON REQUEST

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Alfreton</u></p> <p>Saturday 27th December: 6.30pm Mass: Rita Babe RIP</p> <p>Sunday 28th December: 10.30am Mass: Winnie Stenson & Family Ints</p> <p>Monday 29th December: <u>NO MASS</u></p> <p>Wednesday 31st December: 9am Adoration,9.30am Mass: Maggie Smith RIP</p> <p>11pm to 12 pm Adoration followed by Midnight Mass</p> <p>Friday 02nd January: 9am Adoration,9.30am Mass: Private Ints</p> <p>Saturday 03rd January: 6.30pm Mass: Molly Egan RIP</p> <p>Sunday 04th January:10.30am Mass: Becky Smith RIP</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Clay Cross</u></p> <p>Sunday 28th December:9am Mass: Monsignor Jonathan Moore Ints</p> <p>Tuesday 30th December: 9.30am Adoration,10am Mass: Kate Doherty RIP</p> <p>Thursday 01st January: 9.30am Adoration,10am Mass: Parish Ints</p> <p>Sunday 04th January: 9am Mass: Jennings Family Ints</p>																
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Sick & Housebound:</u></p> <p><i>Please pray for</i> – 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. <i>Please remember all in our parish who need our prayers.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>January 2026 Cleaners</u></p> <p>Alfreton: Bridget W Clay Cross: Maggie Smith</p>																
<p><u>This Week's Readers: Alfreton</u> Saturday 6.30pm: Joshuva Chamberlain/Veronica Grant Sunday 10.30am Natasha Erskine/Tom McCallum</p> <p><u>This Week's Readers: Clay Cross</u> Sunday 9am: David Johnson/Reena Gigi</p> <p><u>Next Week's Readers: Alfreton</u> Saturday 6.30pm: Moya Mellors/Alison Bailey Sunday 10.30am: Fiona Molumby/Catherine Galloway</p> <p><u>Next Week's Readers: Clay Cross</u> Sunday 9am: Laveena/Feo</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Collection for 20th & 21st December 2025</u></p> <table> <tr> <td>Alfreton</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£411.22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clay Cross</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£257.05</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Standing Order</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£??????</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Collection</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£668.27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Repository CTK</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£17.08</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Candles CTK</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£31.64</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tea/Coffee CC</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£40.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Christmas Bazaar Donation</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£30.00</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Many thanks for your generosity</i></p>	Alfreton	£411.22	Clay Cross	£257.05	Standing Order	£??????	Total Collection	£668.27	Repository CTK	£17.08	Candles CTK	£31.64	Tea/Coffee CC	£40.00	Christmas Bazaar Donation	£30.00
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“Wishing all our parishioners a blessed, peaceful, and prosperous New Year 2026.

May the Lord guide you, protect you, and fill your homes with faith, hope, and love throughout the year ahead.”

New Year Midnight Adoration & Holy Mass: You are most warmly invited to begin the New Year in prayer with our parish community. On Wednesday 31st December, we will have Adoration from 11:00 pm to 12:00 midnight, followed by Midnight Mass at Christ the King Church, Alfreton. On New Year's Day (Thursday 1st January), there will be Adoration at 9:30 am, followed by Holy Mass at 10:00 am at Clay Cross Church. Please do come and join us as we place the New Year into God's loving hands, praying for His blessings, good health, peace, and guidance for the year ahead. Everyone is most welcome.

A Special Thank You: I would like to express a special word of thanks to Matthew McCallum, Sebrina Monk, and Anita Day, and to all who worked so hard to organise and support the Children's Christmas Party in our parish. With the generosity of our donors and the support of so many parishioners, the celebration was a great success and brought much joy to our children and families. Thank you all for your continued support, prayers, and generosity. It is through your goodwill and enthusiasm that our parish continues to grow more vibrant and joyful. May God bless you for all that you do.

Heartfelt Thank you: As we come to the end of the year 2025, I would like to offer a heartfelt and personal thank you to all of you who sent me your good wishes, cards, prayers, and generous gifts. I am truly grateful for your kindness and thoughtfulness. On behalf of the parish, I would also like to express a sincere word of thanks to everyone who worked so hard to prepare our churches for this year's celebrations. Your time, effort, and quiet dedication do not go unnoticed. Thank you as well to all who have supported parish life in so many ways throughout 2025: our PPC members, Finance Committee, Parish Hall manager, catechists, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, readers, church cleaners, collectors, counters, musicians, florists, altar servers, and all those who help in anyway make our churches warm, prayerful, and welcoming every single Sunday. Each role, whether seen or unseen, is a gift to the parish community. As we continue to discern the shape of parish life moving forward, we recognise that there are challenges ahead. Yet we are deeply grateful to God for the gift of faith we share and for the privilege of living and witnessing that faith together in our small corner of the Church. I wish you all a very Happy New Year 2026. May God bless you and your families with peace, good health, and renewed hope in the year ahead.

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. 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.

Just a quick and friendly heads-up for everyone. As you may know, the Lloyds Bank branch in Alfreton will be closing on 19th January 2026. We will still be able to pay cash into the parish account at any Post Office. However, Lloyds have recently informed us that from 1st January 2026, cheques will no longer be accepted at the Post Office and can only be paid in at a Lloyds branch, such as Sutton or Chesterfield. Thankfully, we don't receive many cheques, but to avoid extra travel, work, and confusion, we kindly ask hall hirers and donors, where possible, to pay directly into the parish account. Paying by direct debit or bank transfer will really help simplify things for everyone. All the bank details are already available in the newsletter. Thank you, as always, for your understanding and support.

Christmas and New Year 2026 – A Time for Hope, Gratitude, and Renewal: As we celebrate the joy of Christmas and step gently into a New Year, we pause to reflect on the greatest gift ever given to humanity: God with us. In the quiet of Bethlehem, God chose not power or privilege, but humility, love, and closeness. As St Athanasius beautifully said, "God became man so that man might become more like God." Christmas reminds us that God enters our ordinary lives, our struggles, our joys, and our hopes, and transforms them from within. Christmas is not only a celebration of a past event; it is an invitation for the present. Christ continues to be born in every heart that makes room for Him. In a world often marked by noise, division, and uncertainty, the Child of Bethlehem whispers peace. As late Pope Francis reminds us, "Christmas reminds us that God continues to love us all, even the worst of us." This love is unconditional, healing, and deeply personal. As we turn the page to 2026, the New Year offers us a fresh beginning. It is a time to give thanks for the blessings received, to learn from the challenges faced, and to entrust the unknown future into God's loving hands. The past year may have brought joys and successes, but also sorrows, losses, and unanswered questions. Yet, Scripture reassures us: "The Lord was with us every step of the way." God has been faithful, even when the road was not easy. The New Year invites us to renew our faith, our hope, and our commitment to one another as a parish family. As St Teresa of Ávila wisely said, "Christ has no body now on earth but yours." We are called to be His presence in our homes, in our parish, and in our wider community — through kindness, forgiveness, generosity, and prayer. May 2026 be a year where we walk together more closely as a faith community, supporting one another, especially the weak, the lonely, and the forgotten. Let us continue to build a parish rooted in prayer, open hearts, and joyful service. As we move forward, may we never lose sight of the simple yet powerful truth of Christmas: God is with us, and because of that, there is always hope. Wishing you all a blessed Christmas season and a peaceful, healthy, and grace-filled New Year 2026. May the Lord bless you and your families abundantly.