



Welcome to
St Joseph's Catholic Church
 Bilton, Harrogate



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St Joseph's Catholic Church
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"Christmas is the feast of love incarnate and born for us in Jesus Christ. He is the light of mankind shining in the darkness, giving meaning to human existence and to the whole of history." Pope Francis.

SERVICES & MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday 2nd January 2022	Second Sunday after the Nativity - Year C
NB	No Saturday Evening Vigil Mass this weekend
	8.00am Mass (Fr Chris Willis [Sp Int])
	11.00am Mass (PARISH)
Tuesday 4th January	Tuesday of Christmas Time
	7.00pm Mass (Gracious [RIP])
Wednesday 5th January	Wednesday of Christmas Time
NB	No Mass Today
Thursday 6th January	The Epiphany of the Lord (Solemnity)
	9.30am Mass (Ted Costar [RIP])
Friday 7th January	Friday after the Epiphany
NB	No Mass Today
Sunday 9th January 2022	The Baptism of the Lord - Year C
	4.30pm-5.00pm (Sat eve) Confessions
	5.30pm (Sat Evening) Vigil Mass (...)
	8.00am Mass (...)
	11.00am Mass (...)

We Pray For...

God gave himself completely to us when he took on our flesh and lived among us. We now turn to him, full of confidence that he hears and answers our prayers.

We pray for our Church leaders throughout the world, and for all who are entrusted with the ministry of the Gospel. *(pause) Lord, hear us...*

During this Christmas Season may we, the Christian Community, experience the joy of Christ's presence in our lives. *(pause) Lord, hear us...*

At the start of this new year we pray for our political leaders that they will work for the common good and for the care of our planet. *(pause) Lord, hear us...*

We pray for all who have been affected by Covid-19 in our society, in particular our Health Care and Key Workers, that God will reward them for their tireless efforts. *(pause) Lord, hear us...*

We pray for all who may be experiencing depression or anxiety at this time that Christ will bring them healing and new hope. *(pause) Lord, hear us...*

We pray for all our departed relations, friends and past benefactors of this parish: Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

God our Father, as we celebrate the mystery of the Word made flesh, grant that he may dwell in us and we in him for he is Lord for ever and ever. Amen

 Please remember to turn-off mobile phones before Mass begins...Thank you!

REGULAR EVENTS & CONTACTS

APF Red Mission Boxes

Contact: Liz Walker 01423 881061

Brownies

Wednesday evenings in term-time 6.00pm - 7.15pm
Contact: 3rdbiltonbrownies@gmail.com

Catenians

Second Tuesday, 7.30pm at Ascot House Hotel
Contact: John Tolan 01423 884690

Childrens' Liturgy Group

Contact: Grace Foster 07515 686662

Choir (11.00am Mass)

Contact: Gill Crowther 01423 817885

Church Cleaning Team (More Volunteers Needed!)

Contact: Elaine Flanagan 07791 500359

Church Flowers Team

Contact: Helen Fletcher 01423 525216

Church Tea & Coffee Team (11.00am Mass)

Contacts: Anne Roberts 07867788552
Annemarie Perry 07722091465

Friendship Group

Tuesday Afternoons in the Hall - 1.30pm - 2.45pm
Contact: Rachel 07739 975021

Gift Aid Organiser

Contact: John Tweddle 01423 523332

Journey in Faith (RCIA)

Tuesdays as announced. (November - Easter)
Contact: Fr Stephen 01423 504124

Knights of St Columba

Contact: Jason Aldiss 07976 428198
jason.aldiss@eandj.co.uk

Parish Hall Bookings

Contact: Elaine Flanagan 07791 500359
elaineflanagan184@btinternet.com

Rotas (Eucharistic Ministry)

Contact: Bradley Gotting 07985 515307
b.gotting@sky.com

Rotas (Readers)

Contact: Paul Fletcher 01423 525216

Safeguarding Representatives (Parish)

Contact: Tony Cullen 07785 252253
psr.tcullen@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP)

Meeting Times TBC
Contact: Teresa Carmody 01423 565068

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs R Rouse 01423 562650

St John Fisher Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mr S Mort 01423 887254

St Joseph's Pre-School (Term-time Mornings)

Contact Julie Kane 07792657808
nyey.580630@outlook.com

Readers & (Eucharistic Ministers) at Mass: This Weekend:

Vigil: No Vigil Mass
8.00am Alex Leckanby; John Walker (John Tweddle)
11.00am Paul Fletcher; Catherine Antram (Pam Evans)

Next Weekend:

Vigil: Imelda Morrill; Peter Durbin (Elaine Durbin)
8.00am Daniele Bovo; Amy Keith (John Tweddle)
11.00am Anne Roberts; Greg Warren (Pam Evans)

Mass Intentions Received Recently:

Happy New Year!

My sincere good wishes, and prayers for you and your families this New Year, 2022. May God bless you all, and keep you safe. Fr Stephen

Thank you all!

Thank you to all those who in any way worked to prepare our church for Christmas, and of course all those who performed particular duties and ministries, thank you ...and bless you! Fr Stephen.

More Thanks!

Sincere thanks to all who have been so generous towards me this Christmas with gifts and cards...Pablo is very excited by the numerous squeaky toys he has been gifted (Fr Stephen, less so!) but the presbytery is certainly alive with the sound of squeaking. Thank you too for your generous Christmas Offerings which are, of course, gratefully received. May God bless each one of you, and especially in this New Year. Fr Stephen.

Friends of the Holy Land:

As a Parish we will once again support the work of Friends of the Holy Land with our particular Crib Offerings - from Christmas Eve, and throughout the Octave there will be a box available to place in your offerings for Friends of the Holy Land close to the crib. If you place any offerings into the main collection box, specifically for FHL then please place them in an envelope and clearly mark it FHL. Thank you for your support.

CAFOD Appeal:

To contribute to the CAFOD Afghanistan Crisis Appeal please donate directly on the CAFOD website: cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal and please pray for the people of Afghanistan.

St John Fisher School Admissions:

'In accordance with the School Admissions Code 2021, the trustees of Bishop Wheeler Catholic Academy Trust, are proposing to reduce the admission number at St John Fisher Catholic High School, for admission to Year 7 in 2023 from 210 to 200. Please see the school website for more details on the consultation which closes on 28 January 2022'.

Life Transfigured:

A series of talks and workshops on the interaction between Catholic Faith and the Arts. Dates for the ten special events planned for 2022 are now available. The programme includes speakers from a variety of backgrounds including the visual arts, dance, theatre and theology. The first two talks in 2022 are as follows:

Scripture --- Why we need the beautiful: how our faith is nourished by art Fleur Dorrell, Bishops' Conference & Bible Society Tue 18 Jan 2022, 7pm Hinsley Hall

Architecture --- Faith in the built form: the glory of our Catholic churches Sophie Andreae CBE, architectural historian Tue 22 Feb 2022, 7pm Wheeler Hall

Tea & Coffee Rota:

It is great that we are now able to offer refreshments after the 11.00am Mass on a Sunday - but to continue, then we need more volunteers to help! Please contact Annemarie or Anne at the 11.00am Mass. Thank you!

Dies Domini: The Importance of Sunday:

At the request of the Bishops of England and Wales, the Mission Directorate has produced a series of podcasts on why the Day of the Lord is so important. Inspiration for this series has been drawn from Pope John Paul II's Apostolic Letter *Dies Domini* from 1988. <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/series/day-of-the-lord/>

Friendship Group Over the Christmas Period:

We resume on the 11th January 2022, assuming that there are no more restrictions. All are welcome, contact Rachel for more details: on 07739 975021

Horizons of Hope:

Saturday, 22nd January 2022. Inspired by the Wisdom of Fr Daniel O'Leary's book, the day will be facilitated by the Begin with the Heart Team. For info and bookings please call the Administrators on 01943 607287 or email: briery@btconnect.com

Pope Francis' Urbi et Orbi Christmas Message:

Pope Francis gave his traditional Christmas message followed by his *Urbi et Orbi* blessing - to the city and the world - to crowds of pilgrims gathered in a rainy Saint Peter's Square and to the world via traditional and online broadcasting.

In his opening words he announced "the Word of God, who created the world and who gives meaning to history and to humanity's journey, became flesh and came to dwell among us."

This event that fills the heart with wonder, he noted, shows how "the Word became flesh in order to dialogue with us," since "God himself, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is dialogue, an eternal and infinite communion of love and life." Through Jesus, God showed us the way to encounter and dialogue, "so that we might know it and follow it, in trust and hope."

Patient dialogue for unity and peace

The Pope observed that our world needs dialogue, especially in these pandemic times where unity and solidarity are essential to overcoming the hurt in social relationships, putting them to the test. Imagine what our world would be like if it were not for the patient dialogue of so many generous persons trying to keep families and communities together, preventing and resolving conflicts, he said.

Hear the cry of the suffering

Decrying the "great number" of seemingly unending conflicts, crises and divisions we are witnessing today, the Pope contrasted them with how today we celebrate the message of the Saviour's birth, "source of true peace" that "resounds in our hearts" and the world. The Christmas message calls on us to respond to the tragedies in our world, he stressed, recalling the people of Syria who have suffered from ten years of war, and Iraq struggling to recover from decades of strife. He asked the world to hear the cry of the children of Yemen, suffering terribly as a result of a years-long conflict.

The Pope recalled the ongoing tensions between Israelis and Palestinians, the town of Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus, struggling from the economic downturn caused by the pandemic, as well as the nation of Lebanon's unprecedented economic and social crisis.

Be open to dialogue

Despite these shadows, there is "the sign of hope", the Pope underscored, "the Love that moves the sun and

the other stars" became flesh, sharing in our plight and breaking down the walls of indifference. The little child "in need of everything", came "to give us everything". The Pope encouraged everyone then to ask the Lord for "the strength to be open to dialogue" and create in our hearts a real desire for "reconciliation and fraternity," turning to Him in prayer.

Peace for the Middle East, Myanmar and Ukraine.

Looking at areas of the world in special need of our prayers and solidarity, the Pope's thoughts turned to all working to provide humanitarian aid to those fleeing their homelands for various reasons, including Afghanistan suffering from more than forty years of war. He remembered the people of Myanmar where intolerance and violence are rampant, affecting even the Christian community and places of worship. The Pope prayed for all people working to advance encounter and dialogue in these places, also remembering the people of Ukraine and its ongoing conflict.

Reconciliation & solidarity in Africa & the Americas

The Pope prayed for Ethiopia and that it might find the path to peace once again remembering first the needs of its suffering people. He also remembered those living in the Sahel region affected by the violence of international terrorism, for North Africa struggling to overcome social and economic instability, and for those suffering from conflicts in Sudan and South Sudan. May dialogue, mutual respect, solidarity and reconciliation prevail in the hearts of peoples in the Americas, the Pope prayed.

Safety for women, children, elderly

During this time of pandemic, the Pope prayed in particular for those feeling its affects, especially women who are the victims of violence, children suffering due to bullying, the elderly who are even more isolated. He asked the Lord to give peace of mind and unity to all families and the children they are raising.

Global Health and solidarity

May we all pray for ways to overcome the current health emergency, the Pope continued, and the Lord grant health to those who are infirm, and vaccines for those who need them most. He remembered those generously caring for the sick and most vulnerable.

Recalling those imprisoned due to war, conflicts and political reasons, he prayed that they may soon return home. And recalling the millions of migrants and refugees, he asked everyone to see in them our common humanity and have a heart to understand their plight.

Care for our common home

The Pope also remembered our need to be attentive to our common home, our planet and the environment suffering from how we often treat it, praying for inspiration for political leaders to reach agreements to assure its viability future generations.

Happy Christmas to all!

Acknowledging and praying over the many challenges we are facing today, the Pope underscored that "hope prevails", a child is born, who is the Word of God. May we "learn to listen to God, our Father, to listen to one another and to dialogue as brothers and sisters," he concluded, and ask the Lord to "teach us" to walk beside Him "on the paths of peace."

After reading his message, Pope Francis gave his Christmas blessing *Urbi et Orbi*. ❖❖❖