



# Welcome to St Joseph's Catholic Church Bilton, Harrogate



**Parish Priest:** Fr Stephen Webb  
St Joseph's Presbytery  
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**St Joseph's Catholic Church**  
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*"The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven, and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel." Pope Francis*

## SERVICES & MASS INTENTIONS

### Sunday 17th December 2023 Third Sunday of Advent (*Gaudete Sunday*)



4.30pm - 5.00pm (Sat Eve) Confessions  
5.30pm (Sat Evening) Mass (Danny & Marie; Connors; Joyce; Atkinson & Smith Families)  
8.00am Mass (PARISH)  
11.00am Mass (Helen Harvey [Sp Int])

### Tuesday 19th December

#### Advent Weekday

7.00pm Mass (Catherine McEvoy [A])

### Wednesday 20th December

#### Advent Weekday

9.30am Mass (Lena Ford [Sp Int])

### Thursday 21st December

#### Advent Weekday

9.30am Mass (Eileen Brennan [LD])

### Friday 22nd December

#### Advent Weekday

9.30am Mass (Josie McDonald [Sp Int])

### Sunday 24th December 2023 Fourth Sunday of Advent



4.30pm - 5.00pm (Sat Eve) Confessions  
5.30pm (Sat Evening) Mass (Liam Kelly [LD])  
8.00am Mass (PARISH)  
**NB - No 11.00am Mass as the Christmas Eve Masses begin in the afternoon**

#### **Please Pray For:**

As we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Christ let us turn to the Father with our petitions and prayers:

For Pope Francis and the Church throughout the world, that all will be blessed as they continue their mission of joyfully proclaiming the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

For our world, that financial concerns about the present economic situation will not overshadow the urgent needs of the poor, and all affected by climate change.

For war-torn nations and peoples of the world, especially the people of the Holy Land and of Ukraine, that the ears of warmongers may be opened to the words of the Prince of Peace.

For all who are burdened with worry or loneliness, that the joy of the Lord will bless them with the gifts of thankfulness and praise.

For all held captive by addiction, debt or trafficking, that the Holy Spirit will release them and restore them to wholeness.

For the sick, the suffering, the bereaved and for all whose lives are overshadowed by anxiety, that they may find strength, support, compassion and peace.

God our Father, you have made us your daughters and sons in Jesus Christ. Help us to live by that truth as we await his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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

### Children's Liturgy Group

Contact: Grace Foster 07515 686662

### Choir (11.00am Mass)

Contact: Gill Crowther 01423 817885

### Church Cleaning Team (More Volunteers Needed!)

Contact: Valerie Clemerson 07815 976912

### Church Flowers Team

Contact: Helen Fletcher 01423 525216

### Church Tea & Coffee Team (11.00am Mass)

Contacts: Anne Roberts 07867 788552  
Annemarie Perry 07722 091465

### Friendship Group

Tuesday Afternoons in the Hall - 1.30pm - 2.45pm

### 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

### Parish Hall Bookings

Contact: Elaine Flanagan 07791 500359  
elaineflanagan184@btinternet.com

### Piety Stall

Contacts: Helen Fletcher 07837 928851  
Cathy Hudson 07790 814819

### Polish Friendship Group

Contacts: Magda 07432 688582  
Malgosia 07539 276304

### 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

### St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs G Delahay 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 07792 657808

### Readers & (Eucharistic Ministers) at Mass:

#### This Weekend: 16 / 17 December 2023

Vigil: P Rochester; W Considine (E Durbin; M Flanagan)  
8.00am: D Bovo; A Leckenby (J Tweddle; J Walker)  
11.00am: H Fletcher; C Bohills (A Perry; P Fletcher)

#### Mass Next Weekend: 23 / 24 December 2023

Vigil: R Rouse; E Durbin (P Rochester; P Durbin)  
8.00am: G Turner; D Bovo (M Hardacre; V Burdon)  
No 11.00am Mass today, sign up for Christmas Masses

### Mass Intentions Received Recently:

*Bernard Frost (A); Tom & Josie Rushton (RIP); John Loftus (1st A); Anne Murray (1st A); John & Liz Walker (Ruby Wedding Anniversary); Alan Geldart (2nd A); Eileen Brennan (LD).*

### Readers & Eucharistic Ministers Christmas Duties:

Lists are available at the back of Church - please sign up this weekend for duties at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. Thank you!

### Carol Service & Nativity Readers:

Please sign up to read at the Carol Service on Thursday evening at 6.30pm - list at the back of Church. Readings available in the Sacristy.

### Christmas Hamper Squares:

Our hamper squares are on sale before and after this weekends Masses. Squares are £3 each, or two for £5! The Grand Draw will be made after the 11.00am Mass on Sunday. Thank you!

### CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal:

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at [cafod.org.uk/ipc](http://cafod.org.uk/ipc) or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you!

### Christmas Poinsettias:

The Flower Team would be grateful to receive gifts of Poinsettias (either Red or Pink) for use in the Christmas Flowers. Please bring any donations of plants from now until next weekend. Thank you for your generosity!

### News from the School:

Year 3 led the whole school in the second week of Advent worship where we reflected on the importance of peace. If you have had chance to visit our school, you may have noticed the Christmas Tree decorated with the children's Advent Promises - it is truly a tree of hope. The children of St. Joseph's were treated to a delightful performance of the Nativity by Years 1 and 2. Well done to the children who sang and acted with gusto. Furthermore, a special thank you to our fabulous PTA who organised a theatre group to visit school with a hilarious performance of 'Beauty and the Beast' - everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. A reminder that the Year 5 pantomime 'Cinderella and Rockerfella' is being held on Wednesday 20th December at 14:00 and 18:00 where a very warm welcome awaits the people of our parish.

Year 4 had a brilliant time visiting the Leeds City Museum to learn more about the lives of the Ancient

### OFFERTORIES

9 / 10 December 2023

Weekly Offerings	£485.90
Av Weekly Standing Orders	£632.38
Total	£1118.28

### Parish Banking Details:

**Name:** Diocese of Leeds, St Joseph's Harrogate  
**Sort Code:** 40-27-15 **Account Number:** 11017500

*Many thanks for your continued generosity*

Egyptians and whilst they were there they also had chance to enjoy the other exhibitions.

### Special 'Thank you' to the Sewing Team

Mrs. Keith and the class of Year 6 would like to express their gratitude to the wonderful team of volunteers who came to help them sew waistcoats for their teddy bears. The class are thrilled with their final products and they most enjoyed holding a teddy bear fashion show at the final session. Thank you!

### Leeds Cathedral Advent Day of Reconciliation:

Tuesday 19th December, 7am to 7pm. There will be priests available to hear confessions and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament throughout the day.

### Carol Service & Solemn Benediction:

Scarthingwell Church LS24 9PH - The Rudgate Singers will lead a Traditional Carol Service concluding with Solemn Benediction on Sat 23rd Dec 3.30pm at All welcome.

### Cupertino Group Masses:

Next Mass for Christmas: 7th January 2024, 3pm. St Joseph's Catholic Church, West Gate, Wetherby, LS22 6LL. Contact number: Fr Frank - 07850 076926 Rosie - 07891 951949. These monthly Masses are for children with additional needs and disabilities.

### Elizabeth Prout Bereavement Care:

The Diocese, in association with The Briery Retreat Centre, now has a small core leadership team of trained Grief Companions and several parishes now have trained Bereavement Ministers. This is a ministry of accompaniment, not counselling. We encourage parishes to support the development of small teams to accompany the bereaved to support and help them process their grief. We offer ongoing support and special events to everyone who completes the Grief Companions training. Our next training sessions are six Zoom sessions lasting 1.1/2 hours from 6.30pm to 8pm. The dates are Monday 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th January and 5th, 12th February. There is no cost for this training. For further information and to book a place please contact The Briery on 01943 607287 or email [epbereavementcare@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:epbereavementcare@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)

### Catholic Care Vacancies:

Various paid roles and volunteer opportunities currently advertised including Senior Residential Childcare Worker and School Social Worker. For further details of individual roles, and how to apply please visit <http://www.catholic-care.org.uk/recruit.../latest-vacancies/> or call 0113 3885400.

### Help Friends of The Holy Land's Christmas Song Reach Number One!

Pope Francis has endorsed *Hear Angels Cry*, a Christmas song produced by Friends of the Holy Land - and we can all help it reach Number One in the Christmas Charts!

*Hear Angels Cry* is a heartfelt plea for unity, compassion, and the enduring power of hope, even in the most challenging circumstances. This Christmas, the world is invited to join in this message of solidarity and support for those affected by the ongoing struggles in the Holy Land. Proceeds from the song will go to Friends of the Holy Land, a UK charity which is also registered in Palestine. Through its office in Bethlehem, it is well-placed to get urgent, personalized aid to the

families most in need in Gaza and the West Bank and will make sure the most in need are helped quickly by the proceeds from the song.

Youstina Safar, a resident of Bethlehem and a student at Bethlehem University, has collaborated with the London-based band Ooberfuse to deliver a powerful message through *Hear Angels Cry*. The song resonates with the belief that hope for a better future, born in the hearts of humanity, remains resilient in the face of aggression.

As this year, in a departure from the traditional decorations and Christmas tree lighting, the Bethlehem Municipality has chosen to cancel Christmas festivities as a prayer for peace, Youstina said, 'In the midst of despair, our song *Hear Angels Cry* stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of hope in Bethlehem. While the traditional Christmas displays may dim this year in remembrance of lives lost in Gaza, our voices unite to affirm that hope will never succumb to darkness.' The Christmas song has been promoted on the Vatican News and is being played on Vatican Radio and can be found at:

**Youtube:** <https://bit.ly/418x6IF>

**Spotify:** <https://spoti.fi/46JOQVo>

**Amazon:** <https://amzn.to/3GuduPo>

**Apple Music:** <https://apple.co/46lk9jk>

### Advent & Christmas 2023 at St Joseph's

#### Thursday 21st December

6.30pm Carol Service & Children's Nativity

#### Advent IV (Sunday 24th December 2023)

5.30pm (Saturday) Vigil Mass

8.00am Parish Mass

#### Christmas Eve (Sunday 24th December 2023)

5.30pm Children's Vigil Mass of Christmas

7.30pm Vigil Mass of Christmas

11.30pm Carols leading into Midnight Mass

#### Christmas Day (Monday 25th December 2023)

12.00am Midnight Mass

8.00am Mass of Christmas Day

11.00am Mass of Christmas Day

#### Tuesday 26th - Friday 29th December 2023

Mass each day at 12.00noon

#### The Holy Family - Sunday 31st December 2023

Weekend Masses as normal

#### Mary, Mother of God - Monday 1st January 2024

12.00noon Mass

#### The Epiphany - Sunday 7th January 2024

Weekend Masses as normal

*A warm welcome awaits you here at St Joseph's*

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### First Sacraments - Confirmation:

Bishop Marcus will be coming to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on our candidates (Year 6 and above) on **Thursday 8th February 2024 at 7.00pm**

### Parents Meeting:

Wednesday 17th January at 6.00pm (Church)

### Preparation Sessions: need to attend all 3!!!

Saturday 20th January 10.00am until 2.00pm (Hall)

Saturday 27th January 10.00am until 2.00pm (Hall)

Saturday 3rd February 10.00am until 2.00pm (Hall)

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