



Welcome to St Joseph's Catholic Church Bilton, Harrogate



Parish Priest: Fr Stephen Webb
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St Joseph's Catholic Church
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"Ensure that Holy Christmas is never a celebration of commercial consumerism, of appearances or of useless gifts, or of excessive waste, but that it is a celebration of joyfully welcoming the Lord into the crib and into the heart. ." Pope Francis

SERVICES & MASS INTENTIONS

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

Sunday 24th December

Christmas Eve

5.30pm Children's Vigil Mass (A Bisby [Sp Int])
7.30pm Vigil Mass (Maureen Kerridge [LD])
11.30pm Carols led by the choir

Monday 25th December

Christmas Day

12.00am Midnight Midnight Mass (Priest's Intentions)
8.00am Mass of Christmas Day (PARISH)
11.00am Mass of Christmas Day (Peter Rouse [RIP])

Tuesday 26th December

St Stephen, The First Martyr

12.00noon Mass (Jack Willis [LD])

Wednesday 27th December

St John, Apostle & Evangelist

12.00noon Mass (Tom & Josie Rushton [RIP])

Thursday 28th December

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

12.00noon Mass (Patricia Seddon & Family [Sp Int])

Friday 29th December

St Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr

12.00noon Mass (Saleman Wright & Family [Sp Int])

Sunday 31st December 2023 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

4.30pm - 5.00pm (Sat Eve) Confessions
5.30pm (Sat Evening) Mass (PARISH)
8.00am Mass (John & Liz Walker [40th Wedding Anniversary])
11.00am Mass (Mrs Laura Li [RIP])

*In the cold of the night,
he stretches out his tiny arms towards us:
he is in need of everything, yet he comes to give us
everything. Let us ask him for the strength to be
open to dialogue. On this festive day, let us implore
him to stir up in the hearts of everyone a yearning
for reconciliation and fraternity.*



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: 23 / 24 December 2023

Vigil: R Rouse; E Durbin (P Rochester; P Durbin)
8.00am: G Turner; D Bovo (M Hardacre; V Burdon)
See sign-up sheets for Christmas Masses

Mass Next Weekend: 30 / 31 December 2023

Vigil: A Player; P Rochester (D Olszewski; M Flanagan)
8.00am: A Hainsworth; G Turner (A Hainsworth; J Walker)
11.00am: C Antram; H Fletcher (Pal Evans; Pam Evans)

Mass Intentions Received Recently:

Mrs Edith Walton (RIP); Peter Rouse (RIP); Maureen Kerridge (LD); Patricia Seddon & Family (Sp Int); Saleman Wright & Family (Sp Int); John Utting (RIP); Mrs Laura Li (RIP); Jack Willis (LD).

Crib Offerings 2023:

With the encouragement of Bishop Marcus this year's Crib Offerings will be for the "Friends of the Holy Land", where every penny will help the poorest families living in and around Bethlehem, the West Bank, Gaza and Israel with education, employment, health & housing costs and other initiatives. FHL is non-political, ecumenical, and helps people of all faiths and none. Thank you for your support...And a Very Happy Christmas to you all!

CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal:

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at 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!

News from the School:

School News

It was the turn of Year 4 to lead the whole school in the third week of Advent worship where we celebrated the theme of joy. We all thoroughly enjoyed the Year 5 pantomime 'Cinderella and Rockerfella'; what talent there is in that class. The singing, dancing and acting were fabulous - we do hope you were able to visit school to enjoy our Christmas traditions. Reception enjoyed a visit from the North Yorkshire Police, a particular highlight was looking at the police cars with the flashing lights and blaring siren! Our winners were announced for the raffle this week and the running total for our Advent appeal (Friends of the Holy Land) so far is £985. We are thrilled that this money will bring hope to a people in much need. We are extremely grateful for the support our school receives from our wonderful families. I hope you all have a wonderful and Holy Christmas and send you best wishes for 2024, Mrs Delahay and Mrs Keith

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!

OFFERTORIES

16 / 17 December 2023

Weekly Offerings	£672.78
Av Weekly Standing Orders	£632.38
Total	£1305.16

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

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.

Deanery Day of Renewal:

On Saturday 13th January from 11.30 am to 3.45pm in St. Aelred's Church Hall, HG27BE. The Speaker will be Deacon Martin Fenlon, and his talk is, "Adoration and Service; based on 1 Peter 2 v.9" Please come along in person, but to register for a zoom link email Val at: vmese@hotmail.co.uk

Where is Your Parish Going? – Workshop Days

The Youth and Lifelong Faith Formation Office of the Vicariate for Education would like to invite you to a day exploring the future of our parishes and what it means to be part of a thriving parish! Our input is sourced from the recent Catholic Parish Summit Webinar 'Thriving or Closing: Where is your parish going?' – find the full webinar here

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sfO_wAhMv0w

The day will be hosted twice, repeated on two Saturdays, both 10:00am to 3:30pm. The first day that has been organised will take place on Saturday 27th January 2024 at St Benedict's, Garforth, LS25 1PX. The second will take place on Saturday 3rd February at a venue which is yet to be confirmed. Each day will begin with Mass and then the future of our parishes will be explored in discussion groups and directed workshops. The day is free to attend and, although tea and coffee will be provided, participants are asked to bring their own packed lunch. For more information and to book contact us at formation@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

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

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:

Let's help it 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/46JQVQv>

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

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

Christmas-tide Masses at St Joseph's

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

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)

Wishing you, and all your loved ones, a very Happy, Holy and Peaceful Christmas! I will offer Midnight Mass for your Personal Intentions, with my thanks for your part in our parish - and the support you give.

Bless you all - and here's praying for a peace-filled 2024.

With love and prayers, Fr Stephen.