



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



**St Joseph's Catholic Church**  
www.stjosephsharrogate.org.uk

Diocese of Leeds Registered Charity No: 249404

**Parish Priest:** Fr Stephen Webb  
St Joseph's Presbytery  
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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

<b>Sunday 31st December 2023</b>	<b>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary &amp; Joseph</b>
	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])
<b>Monday 1st January 2024</b>	<b>Mary, The Holy Mother of God</b>
	12.00noon Mass (Marjorie Webb [Sp Int])
<b>Tuesday 2nd January</b>	<b>St Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops &amp; Doctors of the Church</b>
	7.00pm Mass (Mr & Mrs E F Costar [RIP])
<b>Wednesday 3rd January</b>	<b>The Most Holy Name of Jesus</b>
	9.30am Eucharistic Service
<b>Thursday 4th January</b>	<b>Weekday of Christmas Time</b>
	9.30am Eucharistic Service
<b>Friday 5th January</b>	<b>Weekday of Christmas Time</b>
	9.30am Mass (Holy Souls)
<b>Sunday 7th January 2024</b>	<b>The Epiphany of the Lord</b>
	4.30pm - 5.00pm (Sat Eve) Confessions
	5.30pm (Sat Evening) Mass (Mrs Edith Walton [RIP])
	8.00am Mass (PARISH)
	11.00am Mass (Alan Geldart [2nd A])

### **Please Pray For:**

In Baptism we are all made daughters and sons of the Father and so, with confidence in his great love for us, we turn to him with our prayers:

For the family of the Church that, by our unity and love, we will always bear witness to the love of God our Father.

For the whole human family that we may learn to live in peace, striving to break down the barriers of prejudice and intolerance.

For wounded or broken families, that they may try to find common ground on which children may flourish in loving and lasting relationships.

For Christians everywhere, that they will endeavour to defend the sanctity of human life from conception to death.

For all who are sick or suffering in any way, mentally or physically, and particularly those who are victims of violence or of natural disasters, that they will be comforted by the love of Christ.

God of love, Father of all, teach us the sanctity of human love, and help us to live in peace with the whole of humanity that we may share your life forever. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit in the splendour of eternal light one God forever 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

### 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 Twedde 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: 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 Next Weekend: 6 / 7 January 2024

Vigil: I Morrill; C Antram (M Flanagan; P Durbin)

8.00am: C Currie; A Hainsworth (M Hardacre; V Burdon)

11.00am B Grindrod; M Smith (C Hudson; B Gotting)

### Mass Intentions Received Recently:

Fr John Carlisle (Sp Int); Marjorie Webb (Sp Int); Margaret Rose Gilroy (10th A); Aleksandra Olszewska (Sp Int).

### Thank-you!

Sincere thanks to everyone who helped to make our celebration of Christmas so very beautiful and meaningful. In all, around 500 people came to the five Masses celebrated on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and so very many of those people commented on how beautiful our church looked...so a huge 'thank you' to all who helped beautify our church, by cleaning and preparing the building - by the wonderful flowers and decorations all around our church, by welcoming visitors to church and helping in the liturgies as Readers, Ministers, Servers, Sacristans, Musicians and of course, special thanks to Gill, who almost took up residence in church across the Eve and Day Masses!

Personal thanks also to you for your generous Christmas Offerings, these are, as you know not supposed to be a "Christmas tip", but make up a large proportion of your priest's annual income - so thank you again for them, and also the many lovely gifts you have given to me, and indeed Pablo (He is very grateful for the treats and squeaky toys...me less so !!) God bless you all, and my prayers are with each one of you in 2024.

### 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!

### 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!

### 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.

### OFFERTORIES

23 / 24 December 2023

Weekly Offerings	£252.52
Av Weekly Standing Orders	£632.38
Total	£884.90

### 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*

### 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](mailto:vmese@hotmail.co.uk)

### The Importance of Home:

It is a Christmas paradox that the birth of the homeless is celebrated in almost every home. For Mary and Joseph, there was no room at the inn – but the innkeeper provided them with a temporary shelter, even if only a stable. Be it ever so humble, anywhere the heart is warm, generous and forgiving can rightly be called 'home'.

This coming year will see a major anniversary of our own 'Family Home', as Leeds Cathedral celebrates its Centenary of Consecration. Like any home, a Cathedral is more than just fine architecture and furnishings. Our 'Mother Church' is a place of nurturing and unfailing help for anyone coming home to seek God's mercy and forgiveness as well as share a joyful Feast in His presence.

Throughout the ages, Christianity has provided not only places of worship, but also sanctuaries where the poor, widowed and aged could be cared for. As with all human institutions, we know life could sometimes be hard and comforts basic in such places – but better than the streets or the workhouse, which is where secular societies routinely condemned the most vulnerable to end their days.

Now a separate charity, St Anne's Centre for the homeless was originally founded at the Cathedral in December 1971 to provide shelter and support for those experiencing the isolation and danger of life sleeping rough. For the past 158 years, the Little Sisters of the Poor have also provided a home for some of the most vulnerable in our communities. The nuns and staff at Mount St Joseph's Care Home in Headingley tend to the physical and spiritual wellbeing of low-income elderly people, of any faith or none, who need varying degrees of care.

Last month, RAAC concrete was found throughout the roof of Mount St Joseph's, so this Christmas, the sixty two current residents, including several of our retired priests, have been coming to terms with finding new homes. Of course, no-one will be on the streets, but moving house is stressful at any age. Some have no relatives who can assist them or help find the specialist residential care they need elsewhere. Two residents who have no family – one 105 years old and the other in her late nineties – have been found places at the Little Sisters' care homes in other UK cities, and their Christmas has been spent amongst strangers.

To ensure the safety of residents and staff, the Sisters have taken advice from RAAC specialists, architects and insurers. All the upper floors have been evacuated, the main hall and chapel are closed and only the ground floor is in use. With substantial support structures now strengthening the building, what was once a community of comfort and joy at all times of year is now marred by the intrusion of metal girders.

Rehoming the residents is underway, working with families to get the best solution for their loved ones. The Little Sisters' other homes are holding rooms for any

residents without local ties and are opening up areas to create additional care beds. Leeds City Council has pledged to help other residents stay local and close to family and friends. Many people are working hard to find rooms at the inn, or at least temporary 'stable' accommodation.

The financial cost of hiring the girders to allow continued use of less than half the building has so far reached £200,000. The Sisters have started urgent fundraising to pay for providing the extra accommodation needed, but the building which has provided a place of sanctuary for generations of local men and women will have to be demolished.

The bricks and mortar will be swept away, but the love on which this home is truly built will stand firm. Like everything material at Christmas, our gift wrap and leftovers are thrown away and even the sturdiest toys and presents will one day be lost or broken – but the God given skill, care and love through which our gifts are made, given and remembered is eternal.

As we wish a blessed Christmas and hopeful New Year in all homes and all hearts across the Diocese of Leeds, please consider supporting the Little Sisters of the Poor with the costs of keeping Mount St Joseph's safe until all the Leeds residents have been found new homes ...

### 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](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](mailto: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](mailto:epbereavementcare@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)