

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 Ben Griffiths
St Joseph's Presbytery
281 Skipton Road Harrogate HG1 3HD
Tel: (01423) 504124
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SERVICES & MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday 15th December 2024	**Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)**	
	4.30pm - 5.00pm (Sat Eve)	Confessions
	5.30pm (Sat Evening)	Mass: People of the Parish
	8.00am	Mass: Jim McBride (A)
	11.00am	Mass: For St Anthony: answer to prayer)
Tuesday 17th December	**Advent Weekday**	
	7:00pm	Mass: Riccardo's Birthday
Wednesday 18th December	**Advent Weekday**	
	9:30am	Mass: Holy Souls
	7:00-8:00pm	Penitential Service at St Robert's
Thursday 19th December	**Advent Weekday**	
	9:30am	Mass: Holy Souls
Friday 20th December	**Advent Weekday**	
	9:30am	Mass: Hannah & Joe Toland
Saturday 21st December	**St John of the Cross**	
	9:30am	Mass: Holy Souls
	10:00=11:00am	Confessions
Sunday 22nd December	**Fourth Sunday of Advent**	
	4.00pm-5.00pm (Sat Eve)	Confessions
	5:30pm (Sat Evening)	Mass: For Josif
	8:00am	Mass: Tom Murray (A)
	11:00am	Mass: People of the Parish
	4:00pm	Christmas Carol Service

REGULAR EVENTS & CONTACTS

APF Red Mission Boxes
Contact: Liz Walker 07816 288125

Bereavement Support
Contact Fr Ben who will arrange for a member of the Bereavement Support team to contact you.

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: *Pending Appointment*

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 Ben 01423 504124

Parish Hall Bookings
Contact: Elaine Flanagan 07791 500359
elaineflanagan184@btinternet.com

Piety Stall
Contacts: Helen Fletcher 07837 928851
Cathy Hudson 07790 814819

Rotas (Eucharistic Ministry)
Contact: Bradley Gotting 07985 515307
b.gotting@sky.com

Rotas (Readers)
Contact: Paul Fletcher 01423 525216

Safeguarding Representative (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

Readers & (Eucharistic Ministers) at Mass:

This Weekend: 14th & 15th Dec 2024
Vigil: P Rochester, V Clemerson (E Durbin, M Flanagan)
8.00am: G Turner, A Keith (J Tweddle, M Hardacre)
11.00am P Fletcher, A Roberts (A Perry, B Gotting)
Mass Next Weekend: 21st & 22nd Dec 2024
Vigil: R Rouse, W Considine (D Olszewski, P Durbin)
8.00am: A Hainsworth, G Turner (J Walker, V Burdon)
11.00am: H Fletcher, S Butters (H Fletcher, P Fletcher)

Christmas Hamper Squares: It's that time of year again when we hold one of St Joseph's main fundraisers in the run up to Christmas. You bring seasonal goods to make up Christmas Hampers and then we ask you to buy tickets to win them back again – a con really!! Please bring your donations of bottles, Christmas puddings, chocolates, biscuits and anything else that is good at Christmas with to Mass and leave them in the Church entrance. Santas helpers will then whisk them away to magic into hampers. Ticket squares will be on sale at all Masses (£3 each, or two for £5) from the start of Advent = Sunday 1st December. The draw will take place after the 11am Mass on Sunday 22nd December.

St Joseph's Christmas Family Party: Save the date: **Saturday 21st December.** From after the Vigil Mass until approximately 9pm. An evening of free fun for all the family with entertainment from **Tom**. Licensed bar (card or cash) and Shared Table. Please put your name down on the lists in the Church entrance for your contributions to the Feast and how many are in your party (adults and children) for the fun. **PLEASE SIGN UP TODAY OR WE MAY HAVE TO CANCEL THE PARTY DUE TO LACK OF RESPONSE.**

Christmas Carol Service: on Sunday 22nd December at 4pm in Church. The Children's Liturgy Sessions on Sundays will be used to learn and rehearse the Christmas songs that children will sing as part of the service. If you would like your children to take part in the singing during the Carol Service you will need to sign and return a consent form available at the back of Church.

Christmas Masses: The times of our Christmas Masses.
5:30pm Christmas Eve: Children's Mass
7:30pm Christmas Eve: Vigil Mass
12:00 Midnight: Midnight Mass of the Nativity of the Lord.
(with Carols and Readings from 11:30pm)
8:00am and 11:00am: Christmas Day

Christmas Rotas for Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Altar Servers: These are available for signing in the Sacristy (altar servers) or on the board next to the Sacristy door (Readers and Eucharistic ministers)

Confirmations 2025 We have now been given a date for Confirmations.: **4th February 2025, at St Robert's.** The dates we have for the preparatory meetings are as follows; Parents' Meeting: **Wednesday 8th January** 2025 6pm
Preparatory Catechesis for Candidates: On Saturdays: **11th January 2025, 25th January 2025, and 1st February 2025**.
All days run from 10am-2pm. If your child made their First Confession and First Holy Communion here, you have already signed up for notification regarding Confirmation. If those sacraments took place elsewhere, please fill in the blue form available at the back of Church, and hand it to Fr Ben. **PLEASE GET YOUR APPLICATIONS IN THIS WEEK IF YOU HAVENT DONE SO YET.**

Diocese of Leeds Community Choir Open to all. No experience necessary. Singing music by Faure, Mendelssohn and Rutter. Join for free. Rehearsals Sunday 19th January, 2nd and 9th February and 23rd March. Rehearsals are from 2-3:30pm at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Moortown. Concert 30th March. Contact office@dioceseofleedsmusic.org.uk Tel 0113 244 8634

Offertory Collection:
Collection Plate: £ 462.10
Standing Orders & Dona (weekly average): £810

Christmas Flowers for Church: You can help with this in one of two ways. You can make a donation in the flower box at the back of Church (on the sideboard) or purchase and bring a poinsettia to Church which will be incorporated in our Christmas displays. You can bring your poinsettias any time from next weekend, and they can be left outside the Church door if nobody is around.

The Fisher Singers Christmas Concert: Monday 16th December at 7:30pm. The concert will take place at The Cairn Hotel in aid of Harrogate Homeless Project. Tickets £12 (under 18 £8) For tickets ring 07958 665410 or 07411 258713 and at the door. All welcome.

Carol Service and Solemn Benediction: Scarthingwell Church of the Immaculate Conception, LS24 9PH. The Rudgate Singers will lead the Traditional Carol Service concluding with Solemn Benediction on Saturday 21st December at 3pm. Refreshments afterwards. All are welcome.

Polish Community Christmas Get-Together: Sunday 29th December from 4pm in St Joseph's Church Hall. A Christmas Social, with quiz and a shared table. Everyone welcome. For more information contact Gosia on 07539 276304

Date for your Diaries: Saturday 26th July 2025. Bishop Marcus will celebrate the 5:30pm Mass for us as we commemorate the centenary of the First Mass being celebrated in our beautiful church. This will lead into a social event for the rest of the evening.

Safeguarding Conference Saturday 8th February 2025 at Hinsley Hall (62, Headingley Lane, Leeds, LS6 2BX) from 10am-3pm. Talks include hearing from victims and survivors; on Dementia Friendly Churches: When are you ready: Hydrant Programme. Opportunities to share good practice. To book a place please email safeguarding@dioceseofleeds.org.uk. Lunch will be provided. Please let us know when booking if you have any dietary requirements.

Advent Penitential Service: At St Robert's Church on Wednesday 18th December from 7-8pm. Several priests from the Deanery will be available to hear Confessions during this service.

Advent "Day By Day" Resource Books: The Parish School had some surplus issues of these work booklets in both Infant and Junior Editions. They are available at the back of Church for anyone to take for their families. They are completely free.

Fr Ben's Induction as Parish Priest: Will take place sometime in March, around, but not on our Patronal Feast Day. The actual date has yet to be finalised with Bishop Marcus, who has agreed to conduct the Induction himself.

The Annual Lourdes Dinner Dance: will take place on Friday 28th February 2025 at the Met Hotel in Leeds. Tickets are £40 each or £375 for a table of ten. Ticket price includes a reception drink, a 3-course dinner and entertainment throughout the night. Please contact Phil Marshall for tickets or more info on 07766 148375 or at philmarshall@hotmail.com

First Reconciliation ("First Confession") 2025. The proposed date for this is Wednesday 2nd April 2025 from 3-4:30pm. (The school closes for Easter on 4th April) Provisional dates for the preparatory meetings are:
Parents Meeting: 12th March 2025
Preparatory Catechesis for the candidates: Saturday 15th March and Saturday 29th March 2025.
More information to follow, but this is to give you the likely dates, subject to final confirmation.

First Holy Communions 2025
Provisional dates for your diaries for preparation and celebration of First Holy Communion in the parish next year.
Parents Meeting: Wednesday 23rd April 2025
Preparation dates with the children: On Saturdays: 26th April, 10th May and 7th June 2025.
First Holy Communion Day Saturday 21st June 2025, with two Masses at 11am and 1:30pm
All subject to final confirmation. More information, and enrolment nearer the time.

News from the school
We have been reflecting on the joy this season brings to our school community. Advent has been filled with excitement and festive spirit, and I am so proud of our children. Our Reception children gave a heartwarming Nativity performance, truly capturing the essence of the Christmas story and reminding us all of the beauty of this time of year. The Year 1 and 2 Nativity was brilliant. The children worked incredibly hard to perfect their songs, lines, and dances, and their performance was a highlight for all of us. We are also proud of all our staff teams for their dedication and hard work throughout this festive season.
We still have the Year 5 panto to look forward to, which is going to be amazing!

Plea for Sewing Help Y6 is in need for volunteers who would be willing to give up Friday afternoons (13:30 – 15:00) after Christmas to help the children sew and decorate their waistcoats. There will be 4 weeks and if you can make one or all, we would be most grateful. (10th, 17, 24th, 31st January 2025). Please contact the office on 01423 562650 or admin@stjosephsharrogate.org
Thank you to those who have already contacted us – that is super of you!

Vacancies

- **Facilities Assistant Vacancy.** St Mary's, Menston. Start: as soon as possible. Closing date. Monday 6th January. Further info: Bishop Wheeler Academy Trust – Trust & Academy Vacancies (bishopwheeelercatholicacademytrust.org) To discuss or arrange a visit, contact Jo-Anne Hughes jahughes@stmarysmenston.org
- **Catholic Care Director/Chief Executive Officer Vacancy.** Salary over £70K pro rata, depending on experience. Based in Leeds. Our ideal candidate will possess strong personal values with the vision/skills for leadership, a passion for caring for people in need and improving people's lives. They will have significant experience of leadership and developing/delivering strategy. For further details and how to apply please visit https://www.catholic-care.org.uk/recruit/latest vacancies/ or send your CV and cover letter to Katrina.greenhalf@catholic-care.org.uk. Contact Katrina on 0113 388 5400