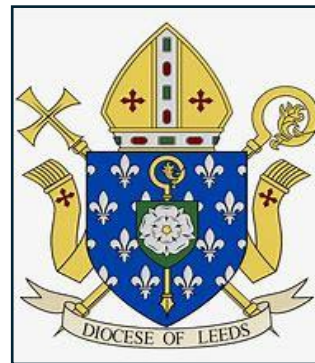




Welcome to St. Joseph's Catholic Church Bilton, Harrogate



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
e-mail:

benjamin.griffiths@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

SERVICES & MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday 30th November 2025

First Sunday of Advent

Year A in the Liturgical Cycle

4:30-5:00pm (Saturday)
5:30pm (Saturday)
8.00am
11:00am

Confessions
Mass: People of the Parish
Mass: Susan Notley (LD)
Mass: Elfriede Erna Nora Nokes
(Third Anniversary)

Tuesday 2nd December

Advent Weekday

Funeral Service for Max Anderson
(at Stonefall Cemetery)
Mass: Mark Kendall (LD)

1:00pm

7:00pm

Wednesday 3rd December

St Francis Xavier

Priest
Mass: Holy Souls

9:30am

Thursday 4th December

St John Damascene

Priest & Doctor of the Church
Mass: Holy Souls

9:15am

Friday 5th December

Advent Weekday

Mass: Holy Souls

9:30am

Saturday 6th December

St Nicholas

Bishop
Mass: Priests of the Diocese

9:30am

Sunday 7th December

Second Sunday of Advent

4:30-5:00pm (Saturday)
5:30pm (Saturday)
8:00am
11:00am.

Confessions
Mass: People of the Parish
Mass: Riccardo Burdon (Birthday)
Mass: Golden Wedding Anniversary

APF Mill Hill 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 St Robert's

Club/Centre: Contact: John Tolan 01423 884690

Children's Liturgy Group

Contact: Alicia Player

Choir: 11am Mass

Contact: Gill Crowther 01423 817885

Church Cleaning Teams (More Volunteers Needed!)

Contact: Valerie Clemerson 07815 976912

Church Flower Team

Contact: Helen Fletcher 01423 525216

Church Tea & Coffee Team (11am 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

Contact: Helen Fletcher 07837 928851

Rotas (Counters) Contact: Liz King 07771 711714

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

SVP Contact Number: 07350 857356

Readers (and Eucharistic Ministers) at Mass**This Weekend: 29th & 30th November (1 Sun Advent)**

Vigil: P Durbin, A Player (M Flanagan, D Olszewski)

8.00am: D Bovo, M Hardacre (J Tweddle, J Walker)

11.00am: J Tweddle, M Smith (P Fletcher, C Hudson)

Next Weekend 6th & 7th December (2nd Sun Advent)

Vigil: V Clemerson, I Morrith (P & E Durbin)

8.00am: J Walker, A Leckenby (V Burdon, Volunteer)

11.00am: Pam Evans, C Antram (Paul Evans, A Roberts)

Offertory Collection: Loose plate & Envelope: £423.42 Weekly average via Bank and Dona £740.00. The collection for the Diocesan Youth Service: £101.70. Centenary Fund donation £220 in memory of Elzbieta Szczurek Thank you.

Weekly Rosary for Peace: Every Friday at 11am the Rosary is prayed at the Cenotaph in Harrogate town centre for all those who gave their lives in war, and for peace in our world. **All welcome.**

Christmas Raffle: Tickets will be available from next weekend for our annual "Hamper Squares" raffle, our major Winter fundraiser. The raffle will be drawn on Sunday 21st December after the 11am Mass. As usual we are looking for donations to make up the Christmas Hampers: eg: bottles, biscuits, chocolates, etc. There will be a collection box for these in the lobby. Could we also request the return of the hamper baskets from last year and/or can some be borrowed.

Mary's Meals: This is the final weekend for you to donate any of your foreign coins and banknotes and any obsolete UK currency. You'll find envelopes and the box to put them in on the sideboard at the back of Church. Thanks very much for your generous response.

Piety Stall: Our own parish piety stall has got a wide range of Christmas cards and holy gifts suitable for the season at very competitive prices. In using the stall you are helping to support the parish too. Also available: Nidd Gorge Nature Reserve Calendars (£6) and the new **Leeds Diocesan Directory 2026** has arrived and can be purchased for £5.

May they Rest in Peace: Prayers please for two of our diocesan priests who died this past week. Fr John Brendan Murphy, who was our longest-serving priest, who was ordained to the priesthood in 1954. Also, for Fr David Bulmer who died after a long illness.

November Dead List Envelopes: Today (Sunday) is the last day to return any envelopes to Father Ben. He will then publish the November Dead List with the names for the forthcoming year. As usual this will be on the board next to the Sacristy Door. Holy Souls Masses will be celebrated throughout the coming year. Currently we have 80 Masses which will be said.

The Gift of Jesus: Advent Unwrapped: Exploration of the liturgical season of Advent. A day of reflection led by Fr Dennis Cassidy at The Briery, Ilkley on Saturday 6th December. £25 including a soup lunch and dessert and all refreshments. For more information and to book, contact the Administrators on 01943 607287 or admin@briery.org.uk

Women of Hope: An Advent Weekend Retreat: 12th to 14th December at The Briery, Ilkley. As the Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee year comes to an end, join us for a weekend unwrapping gifts from scripture, with music and art. Contact as above.

Parish Christmas Carol Service: Will be held in Church at 4pm on Sunday 21st December. There will be the usual emphasis on children's participation in the service. As previously would parents please sign the list to say that they are willing to let their children take part in the service. Practices will take part during the Children's Liturgy at the 11am Mass in the preceding weeks.

Christmas Masses here at St Joseph's: Please note there will be no Midnight Mass here at St Joseph's this year.

5:30pm (Christmas Eve): Children's Mass

7:30pm (Christmas Eve): Vigil Mass of Christmas

8:00am & 11am (Christmas Day)

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers will be needed for these Masses. Please see lists for volunteering for these ministries near the Sacristy door at the back of Church.

Dates for Confirmation Catechesis (classes)

Saturday 6th December: 10am-2pm (Parish Hall)

Thursday 18th December: 3:45-4:45pm Prayer Session

Saturday 10th January 2026: 10am-2pm (Parish Hall)

Saturday 24th January 2026: 10am-2pm (Parish Hall)

Silver Swans Ballet Sessions: In St Joseph's Church Hall every Thursday from 10:30-11:30am. £7 per session. Silver Swans teachers are trained specifically to teach a range of abilities and people over 55. These open, accessible and low impact classes are set to beautiful classical music. Contact Mary Fielding 07970 962341 or Michelle Vink 07739 97500

Deanery Day of Renewal: Saturday 13th December 11:30am-3:45pm in St Aelred's Church Hall, Woodlands Drive, Harrogate, HG2 7BE. The speaker this month is Rev Lesley Taylor, on the theme "We are all Poets." She will share on her sabbatical and writing poems. There will be activities for all to engage with. All welcome.

Coffee & refreshments after 8am Mass on 21st December. All very welcome: it will include Christmas cake, stollen, mince pies etc. Any donations of these goods will be gratefully received.

The Fisher Singers Christmas Concert: Monday December 15th @ 7:30pm at the Cairn Hotel, Ripon Road, Harrogate. Tickets £12 or £8 for under 18s. Tickets available on the door or Tel: 07958665410 or 07411258713. There will be a bar and a raffle. Proceeds in aid of the Salvation Army.

Christmas Day Lunches: Does anyone know of local groups and/or charities that are providing Christmas lunch gatherings on Christmas Day particularly for those who live alone? If you do, please let Father Ben know, and we will publish the contact/application details on the bulletin in the coming weeks.

Healing Service: On 10th December at 7pm at St Mary's, Horsforth. Everyone welcome, including non-Catholics and those of no faith. All that is needed is an openness to Jesus.

Vacancy at St Joseph's Catholic School: We have a vacancy at our own parish school for a **Teaching Assistant**. Contract term: Part-time (4 days) Salary £24,796-£25,989 annually (FTE) Fixed term until August 31st 2026 – part-time 26hrs per week, TTO (Actual salary £14,621-£15,324 per annum). Closing date 8:00am on 10th December 2025. Interview date Monday 15th December. Start date: ASAP. For more information please see link below:
<https://mynewterm.com/jobs/142159/EDV-2025-SJCPSHVA-90515>

The Italian Community: Wishes to thank parishioners for their support last weekend, which raised £1,200 for sensory packs for disabled and autistic children attending A&E at Harrogate District Hospital. There are some **Raffle Prizes** to be claimed.

229 (Hamper) Maria Flannagan, **238 (Hamper)** Peter, **248 (Hamper)** Mary Lockwood, **276 (Hamper)** Michele Hardacre, **349 (Stefano's Voucher)** Serena, **358 (Hamper)** Maria, **365 (Brio Café voucher)** John Tweddle.

Parish Finance Committee Vacancy(ies): As required by Canon Law, St Joseph's has an active Finance Committee which over the years has advised and helped the Parish priest with the running of our parish. A long-serving member has announced his intention to stand down at the end of this financial year after many years' service, and replacement(s) are sought. This is very much a hands-on role with members expected to take over the management of Church maintenance projects. If you are interested please contact Fr Ben or John Tweddle on 07836 271646 for further information.

Priestly Vocations Discernment Meeting: Time for prayers, questions, input from a priest and social time. There are two groups meeting simultaneously; under 18s and over 18s. Fridays 6:30pm-8:15pm: 19th December (Hinsley Hall). Under 18 participants must complete and return a permission form prior to attending. For permission forms and to notify attendance (all participants) please contact Vocations Promotor, Fr Simon Lodge simon.lodge@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

Join Bishop Marcus in Praying for Vocations: Our Lady of Unfailing Help! Pray that the Lord of the Harvest will send labourers into his harvest and that He will grant an abundance of vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life within the Diocese of Leeds, and throughout the world. Amen.

Franciscan Friars of the Renewal Discipleship Days: Please join the Franciscan Friars (JCFRs) at St Patrick's Mission Church, Bradford. The theme is "Called to Holiness: The Second Vatican Council after 60 Years." Upcoming dates December 6th, January 10th, February 7th, March 7th and May 2nd. The days includes Rosary, Holy Mass, a reflection on the Second Vatican Council documents, Confession and Eucharistic Adoration, concluding around 4:30pm. Lunch will be provided.

News from the School: The arrival of our school Christmas tree this week marked the beginning of Advent, as we prepare our hearts with joy for the coming of Jesus. We are now filled with sparkle and excitement as we journey together through this special season.

Year 3 enjoyed an incredible educational visit to Murton Park, where they stepped back in time for an immersive day as young Romans! From making pottery candles and writing in Roman script to military training with wooden shields, the children were fully engaged in learning about Roman life. Dressed in costume and working within a recreated Roman village, the children and staff came back absolutely buzzing with enthusiasm and new knowledge.

Next week, we look forward to Reception Class performing their Nativity—always a highlight of the school year. Their sweet voices and joyful storytelling are sure to bring a tear (or two!) to many.

We warmly invite the parish to join us for one of their performances:

- **Tuesday at 2:30pm**
- **Wednesday at 9:15am**

At all our Christmas performances this Advent, children will be collecting donations for our Advent appeal to support those most in need this Christmas.

Thank you, as always, for your prayers and continued support.