

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
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SERVICES & MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday 14th December 2025	**Third Sunday of Advent**	**Gaudete Sunday**
	4:30-5:00pm (Saturday)	Confessions
	5:30pm (Saturday)	Mass: 2 years since Monica's passing
	8.00am	Mass: Tom Murray (A)
	11:00am	Mass: People of the Parish
	12:30	Baptism of Oghenebrume Okiemute
Tuesday 16th December	**Advent Weekday**	**No service here today**
Wednesday 17th December	**Advent Weekday**	**No service here today**
Thursday 18th December	**Advent Weekday**	
	9:15am	Mass: Holy Souls
Friday 19th December	**Advent Weekday**	
	9:30am	Mass: Holy Souls
Saturday 20th December	**Advent Weekday**	
	9:30am	Mass: Holy Souls
Sunday 21st December	**Fourth Sunday of Advent**	
	4:30-5:00pm (Saturday)	Confessions
	5:30pm (Saturday)	Mass: Donor's Intention
	8:00am	Mass: Jim McBride (A)
	11:00am	Mass: People of the Parish
	4:00pm	Children's Carol Service
	6:00pm	Reception into Church of Lorna Watts

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: 13th & 14th December (3rd Sun Advent)
Vigil: W Considine, P Allinson (M flanagan, P Rochester)
8.00am: Volunteer, D Bovo (J Tweddle, J Walker)
11.00am: A Roberts, A Player (B Gotting, Pam Evans)

Next Weekend 20th & 21st December (4th Sun Advent)
Vigil: E Durbin, M Gargan (D Olszewski, P Durbin)
8.00am: G Turner, J Walker (C Hudson, V Burdon)
11.00am: S Butters, J Tweddle (H & P Fletcher)

Offertory Collection: Loose plate & Envelope: £322.72 Weekly average via Bank and Dona £740.00. **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 "Hamper Squares" Raffle: Tickets are on sale 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.

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.

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.

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, the Permanent Diaconate and the Religious Life within the Diocese of Leeds and throughout the world. Amen!

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.

Christmas Flowers: Any donations for Christmas flowers will be gratefully received in the box at the back of Church. Some poinsettias are being bought for display in Church, but you may also bring a poinsettia in memory of a loved one. Just bring them along the weekend before Christmas, and they will be displayed around the Church.

Dates for Confirmation Catechesis (classes)
Thursday 18th December: 3:45-4:45pm: Prayer Session.
Saturday 10th January 2026: 10:00am-2:00pm (Parish Hall)
Saturday 24th January 2026: 10:00am-2:00pm (Parish Hall)

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.

Advent Reconciliation Day at Leeds Cathedral: If you work in Leeds you may wish to avail yourself of the opportunity to go to Confession at Leeds Cathedral. Tuesday 16th December from 7am to 7pm. Priests will be available all day, and the Blessed Sacrament will be Exposed throughout the day.

Lorna Watts (RIP) Please keep Lorna in your prayers. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. Also remember in your prayers her husband Tony, and her daughters Alexis and Melanie and their families. Lorna's body will be received into Church here at St Joseph's at 6pm on Sunday 21st December. The Requiem Mass will be on Monday 22nd December at 11:30am.

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

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.

Abortion Recovery Care & Helpline: Struggling after abortion? You are not alone. Call to speak to one of our volunteer Befrienders who are here to listen with compassion and without judgment. Telephone 0345 603 8501. 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and 7pm-10pm every evening. Leaflets and cards available at the back of Church. For more information: info@archtrust.org.uk

Franciscan Friars of the Renewal Discipleship Days: Please join the Franciscan Friars (CFRs) at St Patrick's Mission Church, Bradford. The theme is "Called to Holiness: The Second Vatican Council after 60 Years." Upcoming dates January 10th, February 7th, March 7th and May 2nd 2026. The days include Rosary, Holy Mass, a reflection on the Second Vatican Council documents, Confession and Eucharistic Adoration, concluding around 4:30pm. Lunch will be provided.

Crib Offerings 2025: The Bethlehem Care & Hospice Trust (BCHT) is a charity providing end of life care to people in Bethlehem, the city of Our Lord's Nativity. Professor Phil Hopkins KHS is Professor of Anaesthesia at the University of Leeds and a parishioner of St Joseph's, Wetherby. He is Chair of the Trust's Board of Trustees. The Bethlehem Care & Hospice Trust is the first, and still the only, palliative care service in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Now entering it's third year, the service is currently supporting well over 100 patients of all faiths and none, and building compassionate communities across Bethlehem. But the need is far greater. Funds are only spent on delivering palliative care. The Trust urgently need financial support to maintain and expand their services and reach all those who are still going without care. They will be the beneficiaries of our Crib Offerings this year, as urged by Bishop Marcus. Further information about BHCT is available at https://bethlehemcareandhospicetrust.org/.

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

Vacancy: Shape the future of Education: Become a Director. The Bishop Wheeler Academy Trust is seeking a Director with a strong strategic educational background to join the Trust Board. This voluntary role is ideal for individuals who understand curriculum development, school improvement, and governance at scale. Contact Mrs Jemma Johnson, BWAC Head of Governance at j.johnson@bwcat.org for more information.

News from the School: This week, our hearts have been full as we journey through the final weeks of Advent.
Year 4 led a beautifully reverent Celebration of the Word, guiding the school in reflection and prayer as we continue to prepare for the birth of Christ. Year 6 also completed the Sacrament of Reconciliation, taking time to open their hearts and reflect on how they can bring peace, love, and kindness this Christmas.
The Year 1 and 2 Nativity was truly joyful — the children shone like stars and brought huge smiles (and a few happy tears!) to everyone in the audience.
We are so grateful to our PTFA for their incredible generosity this week:

- They funded a hilarious pantomime performance, which had the whole school laughing, singing, and joining in the festive mayhem!
- They also arranged for Father Christmas and his cheerful elf to visit each class — every child received a special present and treasured the magical moment.

Our Christmas Fair, organised by staff and children, was a tremendous success — a celebration filled with laughter, community spirit, and festive cheer. Combined with the pantomime and Santa visits, our Festive Fun Day truly captured the joy, anticipation, and friendship that define this holy season.
Next week, we are excited to enjoy our final Christmas performance — Year 5's pantomime, *Cinderella and Rockerfella*, with performances on:

- Tuesday at 2:00pm
- Wednesday at 6:00pm

All are warmly welcome to attend!
Donations continue to be welcomed at all our Christmas events for our two Advent charities: Mary's Meals and the Harrogate Hospital and Community Charity.
As always, we are so proud of our pupils and deeply thankful to our families, staff, and parish for the support and kindness that make St Joseph's such a special place at Christmas and all year round.