

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 21st December 2025	**Fourth Sunday of Advent**	
	4:00-4:30pm (Saturday)	Confessions
	5:30pm (Saturday)	Mass: Donor's Intention
	8:00am	Mass: Jim McBride A)
	11:00am	Mass: People of the Parish
	12:30pm	Baptism of Nikolett Fulop
	4:00pm	Carol Service
	6:00pm	Reception into Church of Lorna Watts
Monday 22nd December	**11:30am**	**Requiem Mass for Lorna Watts**
Tuesday 23rd December	**Advent Weekday**	
	7:00pm	Mass: Helena Ford
Wednesday 24th December	**Advent Weekday**	**Christmas Eve**
	9:30am	Mass: Jannah & Joe Toland
CHRISTMAS SERVICES		
Wednesday 24th December	**5:30pm**	**Children's Christmas Mass**
	7:30pm	**Vigil Mass of Christmas**
Thursday 25th December	**8:00am**	**Christmas Day Mass**
	11:00am	**Christmas Day Mass**
Friday 26th December	**St Stephen**	No Mass here today
Saturday 27th December	**St John the Apostle**	No morning Mass here today
Sunday 28th December	**The Holy Family**	No Confessions today
	5:30pm (Saturday)	Mass: People of the Parish
	8:00am	Mass: Maureen Stone (LD)
	11:00am	Mass: Donor's Intention

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: 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)

Next Weekend 27th & 28th December (Holy Family)
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: £392.67 Weekly average via Bank and Dona £740.00. **Thank you.**

The Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Collections: Are, as customary, the Christmas Offering for the Parish Priest. Fr Ben would just like to express his thanks for all that you have done through the year to make this such a fantastic parish! Wishing you every good wish and blessing for Christmas and the New Year, and safe travelling if you will be away over the holidays. Welcome home to returning parishioners, and a very warm welcome to any visitors who are joining us this Christmas. May your Christmas and New Year be filled with joy, peace and love.

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 this Sunday 21st after the 11am Mass.

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.
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.

Dates for Confirmation Catechesis (classes)
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.

Deanery Day of Renewal: Saturday 10th January 2026 from 11:30am to 3:45pm in St Aelred's Church Hall, Woodlands Drive, Harrogate, HG2 7BE. The speaker is Breda McStay. The title of the talk is "Speak Lord your servant is listening (1Samuel 3:9-10)

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

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/.

Irish Night Fundraiser: In aid of the **Little Sisters of the Poor** rebuild fund> February 27th 2026 at the Irish Centre, York Road, Leeds, commencing at 7:30pm. Irish meal, soda bread and Irish dessert. Irish music & dancing. Auction, raffle and football card. Tickets on sale in Irish Centre and also contact Sister Christina email: funds.leeds@lsplondon.co.uk

Lourdes Nurses Volunteer Appeal: Are you a qualified nurse? Would you like to join the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes (3rd-9th July 2026)? Please contact: Lourdes.enquiries@dioceseofleeds.org.uk for further information. We desperately need registered nurses to join our team to enable our assisted pilgrims to travel to Lourdes. This is a wonderful experience, and many nurses return year after year. Please consider joining our friendly, happy team of volunteers and enjoy a truly blessed week with our assisted pilgrims.

Welcome Home for Christmas: Please consider welcoming and encouraging people who may have drifted away from Church and may be just in need of a friendly invitation and a word of encouragement to re-engage with their faith. If you have come here spontaneously this Christmas, it is great to have you back with us, and we hope and pray that you will feel at home with us, and please know that you are always welcome here. For those for whom Christmas is a time of sadness, please know that you and your loved ones are in our prayers.

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.

Diocesan Vacancies: There are numerous vacancies around the Diocese in teaching and elsewhere. Please see details downstairs near the table by the door into Church.

News from the School: What a week we've had at St Joseph's!
Year 3 led a beautiful *Advent Liturgy*, helping us all reflect on the true meaning of the season and prepare our hearts to welcome Jesus.
Year 5 dazzled with their fantastic performance of *Cinderella and Rockerfella*. With sparkling singing, energetic acting, and plenty of laughter, the show was a true highlight — well done to all the children (and staff!) involved for their talent and hard work.
Year 4 enjoyed an exciting trip to Leeds City Museum to explore life in Ancient Egypt. From mummies to amulets, the children deepened their understanding of this fascinating period of history.
Meanwhile, Year 6 took part in a brilliant WWII workshop led by a visiting expert. Through interactive sessions, they learned how the war impacted everyday life in Britain, deepening their understanding of the courage and resilience shown by so many during that time.
This Advent, we also had a special visit from Valeria Burdon, who spoke to the children about the Neapolitan Nativity. The children were captivated by the detailed scenes, which feature not only the Holy Family, but also ordinary people going about their daily lives — a reminder that Jesus came for *everyone*, in the midst of everyday moments. We are especially grateful to the Italian community, who generously fundraised to gift every child their own beautiful Baby Jesus figurine — a truly special and treasured keepsake.
Our final act of worship this term was the Christmas Crib Blessing, led reverently by Year 6. With hearts full of hope and joy, the school gathered to sing beloved carols and Christmas favourites, accompanied by the wonderful Mrs Crowther on piano — our heartfelt thanks for sharing her time and talents.

🪡 **Sewing Volunteers Needed!**
As part of an exciting project in the spring term, Year 6 will be designing and creating their own waistcoats, and we are in need of volunteers to help with sewing support. If you can spare a morning (or more!), we'd be very grateful. The dates are:

- **Friday 16th January**
- **Friday 23rd January**
- **Friday 6th February**
- **Friday 13th February**

Please contact the school office (Amy Keith) if you can help— no need to be a sewing expert, just willing to lend a hand (and thread a needle!).
As we close the term, we offer our sincere thanks to all members of our school and parish community for your continued support, kindness, and generosity.
We wish you all a **blessed and peaceful Christmas**, filled with love, light, and joy.
Let all that you do be done in love.