

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 28th December 2025	**The Holy Family**	
		No Confessions this week
	5:30pm (Saturday)	Mass: People of the Parish
	8:00am	Mass: Maureen Stone (LD)
	11:00am	Mass: Donor's Intention
Tuesday 30th December	**6th Day of Christmas Octave**	
	7:00pm	Mass: Josie MacDonald
Wednesday 31st December	**7th Day of Christmas Octave**	
	9:30am	Mass: The Morris Family
Thursday 1st January 2026	**Mary Mother of God**	**Solemnity**
	9:30am	Mass: Holy Souls
Friday 2nd January	**Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen**	
	9:30am	Mass: Holy Souls
Saturday 3rd January	**The Holy Name of Jesus**	
	9:30am	Mass: Fr Chris Willis
Sunday 4th January	**2nd Sunday after Christmas**	
	4:30-5:00pm (Saturday)	Confessions
	5:30pm (Saturday)	Mass: People of the Parish
	8:00am	Mass: Praying for God's Blessing
	11:00am	Mass: Colin LeBrocq (LD)

APF Mill Hill Red Mission Boxes Contact: Liz Walker 07816 288125 **Bereavement Support**	**Join Bishop Marcus in praying for Vocations:** Our Lady of Unfailing Hope! Pray that the Lord of the Harvest will send labourers into his harvest and that He will grant an abundance

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: 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)

Next Weekend 3rd & 4th Jan (2nd Sunday after Xtmas)
Vigil: R Currie, J Cooper (D Olszewski, P Durbin)
8.00am: C Currie, G Turner (Val Burdon, Volunteer)
11.00am: P Fletcher, A Roberts (P & P Evans)

The Epiphany of the Lord: Is a Holyday of Obligation and will be celebrated on Tuesday 6th January 2026. Masses will be celebrated here in St Joseph's Church at 9:30am and 7:00pm on that day.

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

Offertory Collection: Loose plate & Envelope: £
Weekly average via Bank and Dona £740.00. Piety Stall £78 (cash) Coffees £20, Flowers £30, Votives £131.11. **Thank you.**

Christmas "Hamper Squares" Raffle: A very big thank you to all who participated in the Hamper Square Raffle, provided goods to fill the hampers, the hampers themselves, and all who volunteered to help sell the hamper squares. The final total raised will be notified when we get it, but it will be over £600.

Hamper Square Prize winners: (Hampers) Gill Daly, Oliver Simpson, Danille, Charlotte Adamson, Rachel, Virginie Morris, Sue Butters, Caroline Spratt, Warren Considine, Michelle Todd, Maria Gibson, Caroline Smith, Iris Frost, Raymond Martin, **(Bottles)** Stan Nker/Dunstan Danker, Tom Murphy, John Gibson, Claire, Father Ben, Peter Knowles. Some of these prizes have already been claimed.

Christmas Flowers: It's not too late to make donations for Christmas flowers. They will be gratefully received and can be put in the box at the back of Church.

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)

Date for Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation: Thursday 4th February 2026 @ 6:00pm

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."

Bishop Marcus: writes "Placing all my faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ, and the prayers of his Blessed Mother, I will do my utmost to fulfil the mission which His Holiness Pope Leo XIV has entrusted to me as **Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Middlesborough in addition to my ministry as Bishop of Leeds**… It is the Holy Father's wish that I explore with the clergy, lay faithful and religious of our two historic sister dioceses of Middlesborough and Leeds how we might journey together in mission, work in close collaboration and gain from each other's strengths in order to secure the future of the Church's witness to Christ across the regions we serve…
Both Middlesborough and Leeds Dioceses share not only the Saints and sacred places of the ancient Kingdom of Northumbria, but also the post-industrial heritage of Yorkshire's historic North, East and West Ridings. We also share a common origin from 1878, when the Diocese of Beverley was divided into the current two sister Dioceses by Pope Leo XIII.
Trusting in God's providence, I pray for the divine graces we have received in this Holy Year of Jubilee will guide us and shape us on our journey of hope and discover together the future that God wills for us.
I humbly ask all those I am now called to serve. To pray for me; that Almighty God will grant me the spiritual fortitude I will need to undertake this new role. **The full text of the letter is available at the back of Church)**

A Message from Fr Ben: I just wish to record my thanks to you all for the work you do to keep our parish thriving. Some things are very visible, but much happens behind the scenes too. We have a beautiful church, but it is the living stones of

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

Rosary For Peace: Is prayed every Friday at 11am at the Cenotaph in the town centre, in commemoration of those who gave their lives in war, and for peace in the world. **All welcome.**

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.

the church which make the parish, and without everything that you give and inspire and pray for, we would have nothing other than an unusually decorated building! Thank you for the many gifts, cards and good wishes you have given me over Christmas. I also want to thank you for your generosity with respect to the Christmas Offering. I hope you had wonderful Christmas celebrations with your families, though for some, that will have been tinged with sadness, as we are aware at this time of year of absences from the table, perhaps for the first time. I wish you every blessing in the New Year. As I said at the Christmas Masses, it is my duty to pray for you as your Parish Priest, but it is also a great pleasure so to do. You are wonderful people, and it is a joy to be your pastor, guide and spiritual leader. Please pray for me, and pray for vocations to the priesthood in our diocese, and indeed from our parish! God bless you all!

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.

News from the School: The school are of course on their well-earned Christmas Holidays and will be returning next week. We thank God for all the work which has been done during the first term, and we look forward to many more fantastic things to come throughout the Spring Term. In the meantime please keep the school's request for the following in mind:

🎨 **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.