

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 7th December 2025	**Second Sunday of Advent**	
	4:30-5:00pm (Saturday)	Confessions
	5:30pm (Saturday)	Mass: Mr & Mrs E.J.Farr (Birth Ann)
	8.00am	Mass: Riccardo Burdon (Birthday)
	11:00am	Mass: Golden Wedding Anniversary
	12:30	Baptism of Mhoonummater Abado
Tuesday 9th December	**Advent Weekday**	
	7:00pm	Mass: People of the Parish
Wednesday 10th December	**Our Lady of Loreto**	
	9:30am	Mass: Holy Souls
Thursday 11th December	**St Damasus I**	**Pope**
	9:15am	Mass: Holy Souls
Friday 12th December	**Our Lady of Guadalupe**	
	9:30am	Mass: Holy Souls
Saturday 13th December	**St Lucy**	**Virgin & Martyr**
	9:30am	Mass: Holy Souls
Sunday 14th December	**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
	12:30pm	Baptism of Oghenebrume Okiemute

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: 6th & 7th December (2nd Sun Advent)
Vigil: V Clemerson, I Morritt (P & E Durbin)
8.00am: J Walker, A Leckenby (V Burdon, Volunteer)
11.00am: Pam Evans, C Antram (Paul Evans, A Roberts)

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

Offertory Collection: Loose plate & Envelope: £305.07 Weekly average via Bank and Dona £740.00. Thank you for your generous response to the Mary's Meals foreign currency collection.

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 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.

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 the new **Leeds Diocesan Directory 2026** has arrived and can be purchased for £5.

November Dead List Envelopes: The list is now published on the noticeboard near the Sacristy door. Eighty-Seven Masses have been received, and "Holy Souls" Masses will be offered throughout the year for everyone on this year's list.

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.

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: 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.

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

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

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

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.

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

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 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:
This week, the children took part in a truly special online event streamed live all the way from Antarctica! We were inspired by Robert Swan OBE, the first person to walk to both the North and South Poles, who shared fascinating stories about his journey, the challenges he faced, and the effects of climate change on our planet – especially on penguins and polar habitats. He was joined by Jenny Cooke from the *2041 Schools* charity, encouraging our children to become future stewards of the environment.
Our Reception class also performed their beautiful Nativity, and we couldn't be prouder of their confidence, sweet singing, and clear voices – such a joyful reminder of the true meaning of Christmas.
Next up, we look forward to the turn of Year 1 and 2, who will be performing their joint Nativity on:

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

Earlier this week, Year 5 led a beautiful Advent Celebration of the Word, reminding us all of the importance of reflection and preparation as we journey towards Christmas.
Children have been making Advent promises and decorating our school tree with their hopes and actions for the season — simple ways they can prepare to meet Jesus in love, kindness and service.
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 ever, thank you for your continued support — it means the world to the children.