

# Sacred Heart & St. Patrick

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Roman Catholic Diocese of Leeds | Registered Charity No. 249404

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## CHRISTMAS - YEAR A



Saturday 24 Dec	5-00pm 5-30pm	CAROLS Vigil Mass of the Nativity	Kathleen Larkin & Kathleen MM Larkin [A]
Sunday 25 Dec	11-00am	+ FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT +	Ann Knowles [A]
Monday 26 Dec	09-30am	ST STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR FEAST	November Dead List 2022/23
Tuesday 27 Dec	09-30am	ST JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST	Miss E Gill [A]
Wed 28 Dec	09-30am	THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS	Emily Power [A]
Thursday 29 Dec	09-30am	ST THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP AND MARTYR	Miss N Purcell (d.1922)
Friday 30 Dec	10-30am	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH	Requiem Joyce Carr [LD]
Saturday 31 Dec	5-00pm	Confessions	-
Saturday 31 Dec	5-30pm	Vigil Mass Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God	Kathleen Larkin [A]
Sunday 01 Jan 2023	11-00am	+ SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD +	Joan Heptinstall [LD]

**A VERY WARM WELCOME** to all our visitors - we are delighted you have joined us for Christmas and New Year... I wish you all the greatest joys of this Season and I pray for God's abundant blessing upon you, your families, friends and those amongst whom you live and work.

**THE CHRISTMAS GOSPELS** Christmas Day, alone of all the days of the year, has four complete Masses. When it gets dark on the evening of the 24 December, we remember the Annunciation and the bare fact of

Jesus' birth. At midnight we remember the shepherds who, that night, were the first to hear the good news. At dawn we are still with the shepherds as they visit the stable. And when it is fully day, we change perspective: we see it all from the point of view of heaven, of eternity, in the gospel according to John.

**CHRISTMAS** I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you and your families a very blessed and Holy Christmas. I have been your Parish Priest for over 7 years now and I would like to express my deep gratitude for the support that I have received over the years and also to thank you for your cards and good wishes. As this year draws to a close, I pray that whatever 2023 has in store for us, we will face it together as a society of faith, and as a family. As members of the Body of Christ, the Church, we are never alone and it is in the birth of the babe of Bethlehem that we find our strength and courage on our pilgrimage of life. This Christmas, for various reasons, may not be easy, but let us remember that the Lord's entry into the world that first Christmas was far from easy. The stable was a place for outcasts, the ignored, and the forgotten, the place where only the destitute would gather and yet it was precisely where the Son of God chose to be born. The lesson is that: God is always where you least expect to find him - from that stable comes the gift of salvation for the whole world. Please invite your family and friends to Holy Mass this Christmas. In a world that seems so uncertain and gloomy, you can give no greater gift than that of faith. The strength, comfort and hope that the gift of faith provides are of infinite value. So, let us hasten to the manger of the Lord. But before drawing near we must prepare ourselves as well as we can with the help of his grace; and then, in company with the angels and saints, with pure heart, good conscience, and authentic faith, we may proclaim: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

**THOMAS MARTIN RIP** It is with great sadness to inform you of the death of Thomas who died recently. Funeral on **Wednesday 28 December at 11am** P Followed by Park Wood 12noon.  
Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

**JOYCE CARR RIP** It is with great sadness to inform you of the sudden death of Joyce Carr who died 7 December. Please pray for the repose of Joyce's soul and for her family and friends.

**Reception into Church** - Thursday 29 December 2022 at 5.00pm

**Funeral – Requiem** - Friday 30 December 2022 at 10.30am

Followed by burial at Sowerby Cemetery, Sowerby New Road

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.

**"I AM WITH YOU" - HALIFAX DEANERY MISSION 2023** In the week leading up to the Feast of the Ascension (15 - 18 May 2023) the Catholics of the Halifax Deanery will be celebrating a week of Mission, sharing with each other and the wider community the love of Jesus. To access the latest information and follow developments, please use the following social media "handles": Facebook: @missionhalifax | Twitter: @halifaxmission | Instagram: @missionhalifax

**APOSTOLIC NUNCIO** The Holy Father Pope Francis has appointed His Excellency, The Most Reverend Claudio Gugerotti, until now Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain, as Prefect of the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches. Please pray for Archbishop Gugerotti, that the Lord will bless him abundantly and give him the graces necessary to carry out the new ministry which he has been asked to undertake in the service of the Holy See and the worldwide Church.

**BISHOP-ELECT PHILIP MOGER** Please pray for our brother Philip as he prepares to take up his new ministry as an Auxiliary Bishop in the Archdiocese of Southwark. His Episcopal Ordination will take place on Tuesday 21 February 2023 in St George's Cathedral, Southwark. More details regarding the ordination will be sent to you as soon as they are available.

**NEW BISHOP OF EAST ANGLIA** Please pray for the Right Reverend Peter Collins who was ordained to the Episcopate and installed as fifth Bishop of East Anglia on Wednesday 14 December at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist, Norwich. Please pray also for his predecessor, the Right Reverend Alan Hopes, as he begins his retirement.

**RESIGNATION OF BISHOP ROBERT BYRNE C.O.** On Monday 12 December, the Holy Father accepted the resignation of The Rt Rev Robert Byrne as Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle. In his letters to the Catholic clergy and lay faithful of the Diocese and to the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales, the Bishop Byrne said: "For some time now, I have been discerning my future and after much prayer and reflection, it is with a heavy heart that I now find the office of the Diocesan Bishop has become too great a burden and feel I can no longer serve the people of the Diocese in the way I would wish. Having undertaken this discernment process, and with due consultation with others, I indicated my wish to resign to the Holy Father and he has graciously accepted my request." Please keep Bishop Byrne in your prayers as he prepares to move to the Oxford Oratory.

**INQUIRY INTO ASSISTED SUICIDE** From the Anscombe Bioethics Centre: "The House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee has launched an Inquiry into assisted suicide, and is inviting comments from individual members of the public and interested organisations to comment. Assisted suicide presents profound dangers to public safety and the common good, and so it is crucial that as many people as possible engage with the Parliamentary Inquiry and oppose the introduction of assisted suicide into UK law. Submissions must be in by Friday 20 January 2023. The Anscombe Bioethics Centre has produced a short two-page Briefing (also attached) to help anyone interested in responding, whether as an individual or as an organisation. Anyone with any questions can contact the Anscombe Centre at [admin@bioethics.co.uk](mailto:admin@bioethics.co.uk)."

## Sunday 25th THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

**READINGS, PRAYERS AND MASS TEXTS** can be found at: [www.universalis.com](http://www.universalis.com)

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,  
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;  
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

### FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful on the mountains,  
are the feet of one who brings good news,  
who heralds peace, brings happiness,  
proclaims salvation,  
and tells Zion,  
'Your God is king!'

Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices,  
they shout for joy together,  
for they see the Lord face to face,  
as he returns to Zion.

Break into shouts of joy together,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord is consoling his people,

redeeming Jerusalem.

The Lord bares his holy arm  
in the sight of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

The word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

**PSALM** Psalm 97(98):1-6

**RESPONSE:** Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Sing a new song to the Lord  
for he has worked wonders.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have brought salvation.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

The Lord has made known his salvation;  
has shown his justice to the nations.  
He has remembered his truth and love  
for the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.  
Shout to the Lord, all the earth,  
ring out your joy.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp  
with the sound of music.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
acclaim the King, the Lord.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

## **SECOND READING**

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Hebrews 1:1-6

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has

appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father; or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-Born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

The word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

A hallowed day has dawned upon us.

Come, you nations, worship the Lord,

for today a great light has shone down upon the earth.

Alleluia!

### **GOSPEL John 1:1-18**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

In the beginning was the Word:

and the Word was with God

and the Word was God.

He was with God in the beginning.

Through him all things came to be,

not one thing had its being but through him.

All that came to be had life in him

and that life was the light of men,

a light that shines in the dark,

a light that darkness could not overpower.

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness,

as a witness to speak for the light,

so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light,

only a witness to speak for the light.

The Word was the true light

that enlightens all men;

and he was coming into the world.

He was in the world

that had its being through him,

and the world did not know him.

He came to his own domain

and his own people did not accept him.  
But to all who did accept him  
he gave power to become children of God,  
to all who believe in the name of him  
who was born not out of human stock  
or urge of the flesh  
or will of man  
but of God himself.

The Word was made flesh,  
he lived among us,  
and we saw his glory,  
the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father,  
full of grace and truth.

John appears as his witness. He proclaims:  
'This is the one of whom I said:  
He who comes after me ranks before me  
because he existed before me.'

Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received –  
yes, grace in return for grace,  
since, though the Law was given through Moses,  
grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.  
No one has ever seen God;  
it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart,  
who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

**The Sacred Heart of Jesus** *Ultimate Defence Against Modernism and the Culture of Death keep us safe.*  
**PRAYER INTENTIONS OF THE HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS FOR JANUARY 2023**

Please remember in your prayers the following intention:

For educators

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

**Go to YouTube – Search for**

O Come. O Come Emmanuel! · The Choir of King's College, Cambridge · Simon Preston

1. Verbum Caro Factum Est - Gregorian Chant, Catholic Hymns
2. Make We Joy Now in This Fest, Choral Society of Durham, Rodney Wynkoop
3. Quid petis, o fili? by Richard Pygott (ca.1485-1549)

4. "Nesciens mater" - Jean Mouton - The Monteverdi Choir/Gardiner
5. Stille Nacht (Silent Night) - Vienna Boys Choir
6. O Magnum Mysterium, Morten Lauridsen King's College Cambridge 2009
7. Videte miraculum - Thomas Tallis
8. Omnes de Saba venient (Lassus)

If you have the time search for the Classic FM 30 greatest Christmas carols of all time.

It is good to be together... Oremus pro invicem