

Sacred Heart & St. Patrick

Bolton Brow, Sowerby Bridge HX6 2BA

Roman Catholic Diocese of Leeds | Registered Charity No. 249404

Parish Priest Fr Larkin | Tel: 01422 832085 | email pp.sacredheart.sowerbybridge@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

Sunday 27th AUGUST + TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY

Saturday 26 Aug	5-00pm 5-30pm	Confession VIGIL MASS	Sarah Fagan [LD]
Sunday 27 Aug	11-00am		
Monday 28 Aug	Private Mass	St Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	
Tuesday 29 Aug	9-30am	The Passion of St John the Baptist, Martyr	Karl-Heinz Nagel
Wednesday 30 Aug		Ss Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line and Margaret Ward, Martyrs	
Thursday 31 Aug	NO MASS TODAY	St Aidan, Bishop and the Saints of Lindisfarne	
Friday 01 Sep	9-30am	Weekday	Terry & Doreen Carroll
Saturday 02 Sep	5-00pm 5-30pm	Confession VIGIL MASS	For Fr Larkin
Sunday 03 Sep	11-00am		

Tea & Coffee after Sunday Mass today (From 11.45 - 12.45)

Welcome to our parish, looking toward the altar and the Heart of the church where the priest celebrates Mass in the midst of the congregation, the great image of Christ on the cross is there to remind you that he died that we might have life and that having risen from the dead he draws us with him into Resurrection - you can trust completely in Him. Thank you for your visit and may you travel on in safety.

PARISH GIVING – A Testament to your generosity.

BANKED | 22 AUG £290 plus standing orders of ~£1220 per month (approx. £281.53 per week)

Switching to Standing Order If you have online or phone banking, then you can set this up yourself. Most people setup payments monthly. Please let Fr Larkin know if you do change to this system.

Bank details: HSBC / Sort Code: 40-27-15 / Account: 41017454. Thank you.

RUSHBEARING FESTIVAL The 2023 event will take place on the weekend of the 2/3 of September.

The Rushcart will be arriving at church on **Saturday 02 between 12.45 – 13.35.**

Saturday Route –

	Arrive	Depart
1	10:00 St John's Church	10:45
2	11:00 Warley Village / Maypole Inn	11:30
3	11:45 Hill Crest Bowling Club	12:30
4	12:45 St Patrick's Church / Shepherd's Rest Inn	13:30

The tradition of the Rushbearing Festival in Sowerby Bridge is deeply intertwined with the local church communities, notably Sacred Heart and St Patrick's. While the festival had its modern revival during the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977, its spiritual and communal significance dates back much further. The

processions and celebrations over the weekend create a link between our present and our rich cultural history. The festival underlines the spiritual significance of the event. Historically, churches had earthen floors, and parishioners would carry rushes to the church to refresh the floor covering. Over time, this act of bringing rushes to the church transformed into the festive parade we know today. We have played an instrumental role in the revival and continuity of this tradition and our continued involvement pays homage to the historical intertwining of religious and community celebrations.

As we mark the coronation of King Charles III this year, it is an opportunity to reflect upon the sacredness of our traditions and the enduring role of institutions like Sacred Heart and St. Patrick's in upholding them. The Rushbearing Festival serves not just as an event of joy and camaraderie but also as a spiritual journey that helps bind the community together. I invite you to join us for the festival **Saturday 02 September**. Any help on the day from 10-00am onwards would be very welcome. Any home baked cakes would be appreciated. Please ask any of the Ladies group about what is required. And for more details of the two-day event visit www.rushbearing.com - It is full of news about the weekend.

ON SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 3RD, we will gather in reverence and joy to mark the 70th anniversary of the original school's opening in 1953. The Holy Mass, a cornerstone of our faith, will be celebrated with the special intention of commemorating the auspicious day of August 31, 1953, when the doors of the school were first opened in the church house. This event is not just a testament to the enduring legacy of Catholic education but a heartfelt tribute to all who attended, walked its corridors, and became part of its rich history. After the Mass, in the spirit of community and shared memories, everyone is cordially invited for coffee and tea, accompanied by a special display of photographs capturing poignant moments from the school's first decade. It's a unique opportunity for all to reminisce, reconnect, and celebrate the institution that has shaped so many lives. The hall will be open to guests from 11-3pm, and all are welcome.

THE SVP will be having a tombola stall at the Rush Bearing Festival to raise money for our good causes. We are appealing to our parishioners to donate any unwanted gifts, toiletries, bottles etc for prizes for our stall. A box will be in the church porch for donations. Thank you.

THE UNIVERSE CATHOLIC WEEKLY is back in print as well as online. To subscribe for the paper to be sent direct to your home, please contact michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk or 07436 617650.

CATENIANS Any Catholic men wishing to learn more about the Catenians can call Membership Officer Dennis Donnelly on 01484 606042.

SAFEGUARDING Irene Hellowell 07432121757 is available to provide advice, support whenever it is needed along with Safeguarding Administrator – Joanne Clark at the diocesan office Tel: 0113 261 8046

HOLY SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM A date and time for your child's Baptism can be provisionally given once you have completed the parish form and established a relationship with the parish. The choice of godparents is important. A godparent is a role model for your child by living a fully Christian life, there are usually two godparents. Godparents must be at least 16yrs of age, practising Catholics and should have received the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. Parents are responsible for instructing and forming their children in both the teaching and practice of the Catholic faith. Although Catholic schools exist to help parents in this regard, they are not a substitute for it. The best instruction that you can give your child is through commitment to the Mass. As you make this request for your child, it should also be a reality in your own life. If after reading this information you feel ready to present, your child to the Church for Baptism please see Fr Larkin after Mass for Pre-Baptism form.

MASS ATTENDANCE 2023 Mass Participation Trends

Background: Over the last few years, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of attendees at Mass. By examining the figures from 2020 to 2022 and assessing the data from the first seven months of 2023, we can forecast potential attendance for the year of 11,821 people by the end of the year.

Analysis:

1. In 2020, a total of 5,168 people attended Mass from January to December.
2. This number saw a notable increase in 2021, with 5,979 attendees, marking an increase of 15.7% compared to 2020.
3. 2022 witnessed a more substantial surge with 9,392 attendees, which is a striking 57.1% growth from 2021.
4. As of July 2023, the attendance figure is already 6,896, surpassing the whole-year attendance for both 2020 and 2021 within just seven months.

Projection for 2023

Given the data from January to July 2023, and assuming the monthly average attendance rate remains consistent for the latter half of the year, we can project the total attendance for 2023.

The average monthly attendance for 2023 thus far is approximately $\frac{6896}{7} = 985.14$ (rounded off to 985 attendees per month). Considering this rate for the remaining five months of 2023, the projected attendees would be $985 * 5 = 4,925$. Adding this to the already accounted number of attendees in the first seven months, the total projected attendance for 2023 would be $6,896 + 4,925 = 11,821$.

Conclusion: There has been a consistent growth trend in Mass attendance from 2020 to 2022. If the current pace of attendance is sustained for the rest of 2023, we can anticipate a record attendance of approximately **11,821** people by the end of the year, marking yet another substantial increase from the previous years. The driving factors for this growth would need further research, but from a number's standpoint, engagement and participation in Holy Mass are on a positive trajectory. It is good to be together...

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Firstly, our deepest gratitude goes to every member of our community who has consistently shown generosity in supporting the Parish. Your dedication and kindness play an integral role in our Parish's growth, sustenance, and ongoing life.

One of the remarkable tools that has made this generosity so effective and consistent is the adoption of standing order payments. Standing orders provide numerous benefits:

1. **Consistency and Predictability:** With standing orders, the Parish can anticipate a regular flow of funds, enabling us to budget and plan more effectively. This predictability ensures that programs, events, and essential services continue uninterrupted.
2. **Ease of Administration:** Standing orders eliminate the frequent handling of cash and manual entry of donations. This reduces the administrative burden, ensuring that funds are received and accounted for seamlessly.
3. **Security and Transparency:** Standing orders a secure method of transferring funds. The transactions are traceable, and donors have the assurance that their contributions are reaching the intended destination.
4. **Convenience:** Once set up, a standing order is an effortless way to contribute. There's no need to remember; the donation process is automated, making it easier for everyone.
5. Another instrumental component that further magnifies the impact of these donations is **Gift Aid**. For those who are UK taxpayers, Gift Aid allows the Parish to claim back 25p for every £1 donated at no extra cost to the donor. This means that a donation of £100, with Gift Aid, effectively becomes £125 for the Parish. We would strongly encourage those eligible to use the Gift Aid scheme. This enhances the value of your donation and provides additional vital funds to our Parish without you having to give more. Gift Aid forms available from Fr Larkin.

Furthermore, it's essential to highlight the beautiful link between the act of giving and our Catholic tradition. The Catholic Church has, for centuries, emphasized the importance of almsgiving and supporting one's church and community. This tradition is based on the teachings of Jesus, urging us to be selfless and considerate. In the act of giving, we not only support the church but also bear witness to our faith and commitment to the teachings of Christ.

By choosing to support the Parish through generous donations, our community is upholding this time-honoured Catholic tradition. Each contribution, whether big or small, strengthens the bond we share as a community and showcases our collective commitment to the church's mission.

In conclusion, our Parish thrives on the generosity of its members. Standing order payments, with their simplicity and effectiveness, act as a bridge, connecting the age-old Catholic tradition of generous giving with the modern methods of financial transactions. We are profoundly grateful for this unwavering support and pray for continued blessings on our parish.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

Please keep the **Father Paul Moores** in your prayers Ordination to the Priesthood Saturday 01 July 2023.

Please pray for peace in Ukraine and Sudan, all who are sick, our housebound parishioners, for those in distress and bereaved; and for all who have died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Sunday 27th + TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

READINGS, PRAYERS AND MASS TEXTS can be found at: www.universalis.com

FIRST READING A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 22:19-23

Thus says the Lord of Hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant
Eliakim son of Hilkiah.
I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.
I place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder;
should he open, no one shall close,
should he close, no one shall open.
I drive him like a peg
into a firm place;
he will become a throne of glory
for his father's house.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 137(138):1-3,6,8

RESPONSE: Your love, O Lord, is eternal: discard not the work of your hands.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart:
you have heard the words of my mouth.
In the presence of the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. **R.**

I thank you for your faithfulness and love,
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. **R.**

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. **R.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Romans

Romans 11:33-36f

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION cf. 2Co5:19

Alleluia, alleluia!

God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself,
and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 16:13-20

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

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.*

Diocese www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk
Church www.sacredheartandstpatrickschurch.org.uk
School www.sacredheart.calderdale.sch.uk

Readings and Holy Mass www.universalis.com
Safeguarding Diocesan Office 0113 261 8069
Safeguarding Parish Irene Hellowell 07432121757