

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 17th + GAUDETE SUNDAY) + ADVENT WEEK 4 / CHRISTMAS TIME

Saturday 16 Dec	5-00pm 5-30pm	Confession VIGIL MASS	Deceased of the Oldfield & Teesdale families
Sunday 17 Dec	11-00am	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT GAUDETE SUNDAY	Anne Barker [LD]
Monday 18 Dec	NO PUBLIC MASS	St Damasus I, Pope	November Dead List 2023/24
Tuesday 19 Dec	09-30am	Our Lady of Guadalupe	November Dead List 2023/24
Wednesday 20 Dec	NO PUBLIC MASS	St Lucy, Virgin and Martyr	November Dead List 2023/24
Thursday 21 Dec	NO PUBLIC MASS	St John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church	November Dead List 2023/24
Friday 22 Dec	9-30am	Advent Weekday	Anne McGeever [A]
Saturday 23 Dec	5-00pm 5-30pm	Confession VIGIL MASS	Missa pro populo
Sunday (Morning) 24 Dec	11-00am	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Shirley Watkins [LD]
(Evening) 24 Dec	5-30pm	Vigil Mass of the Nativity of the Lord	Kathleen Larkin & Kathleen MM Larkin [A]
Monday 25 Dec	11-00am	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	Ann Knowles [A]
Tuesday 26 Dec	09-30am	ST STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR FEAST	Sheila Jackson [A]
Wednesday 27 Dec	NO PUBLIC MASS	ST JOHN, APOSTLE, AND EVANGELIST	November Dead List 2023/24
Thursday 28 Dec	NO PUBLIC MASS	THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS	November Dead List 2023/24
Friday 29 Dec	NO PUBLIC MASS	ST THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP, AND MARTYR	November Dead List 2023/24
Saturday 30 Dec	5-00pm 5-30pm	Confession VIGIL MASS	Ellen Horsley Recovery
Sunday 31 Dec	11-00am	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH	Tess Stott [LD]

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

WELCOME to our parish during this most blessed season of Advent and Christmas. As we gather in the warmth of our church, gazing towards the altar, our hearts are drawn to the poignant symbol of our faith, the image of Christ on the cross. This powerful representation serves as a solemn reminder of His ultimate sacrifice, offering us the gift of life and the promise of Resurrection. In this time of Advent, we prepare our hearts with joyful anticipation, reflecting on the virtues of hope, peace, love, and joy that Christ's birth brought into the world. The flickering candles of the Advent wreath illuminate our path towards the celebration of Christmas, a time when our community comes together in harmony and gratitude. As we

rejoice in the birth of Jesus, our church becomes a beacon of light and warmth, echoing the message of God's unfailing love and mercy. We cherish these moments of togetherness, sharing in the joy and wonder of the season. May this Christmas fill your hearts with peace and your journey with blessings, as we remember that in Christ, we find our truest source of comfort and joy. Thank you for joining us in this sacred celebration, and may you travel onwards in safety and God's grace.

After last year's leisurely four-week Advent the hurried nature of this year's Advent comes as a bit of a shock. Only three weeks and a day. A lot of activity must be compressed into a small space, so please accept this newsletter as my "Happy Advent" and "Happy Christmas" message combined.

PARISH GIVING – thank you for all your support it is very much appreciated.

TO BE BANKED | 12 DEC £420 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.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Each year, the collection taken at Christmas, together with the collection taken at Easter, is the offering which forms an important part of the annual taxable income of priests.

If you would prefer to make an offering by direct bank transfer to the parish bank account, please mark it '**Christmas Offering**'.

Account name: DoL Sacred Heart & St. Patrick (Use - Sacred Heart)

Bank: HSBC / Sort Code: 40-27-15 / Account: 41 01 7454 – thank you for your kind support.

PRINCIPAL SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE 24 December

5-30pm Vigil Mass of Christmas - Family Mass - a warm welcome to our families and children

CHRISTMAS DAY 25 December - Christmas Morning – 11-00am

ANNE BARKER AND KEITH MARSDEN, It is with great sadness to inform you of the death of Anne Barker and Keith Marsden who died recently. Please pray for the repose of their souls and for their families and friends. Funeral service for **Anne Barker 11.30am Tuesday 19 December** and **Keith Marsden Wednesday 20 December at 10.00am.**

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. Amen.

DIOCESAN YEARBOOK 2024 The annual publication provides a very valuable physical record and guide to the life and mission of our Diocese, not only for immediate use but also for archival reference. Available today £5.00.

MASS INTENTIONS If you would like a Mass offering for a particular intention or for the repose of the soul of a loved one, please put your offering in an envelope and write the name of the intention, the date requested and your contact details & pop it into the collection box or through the presbytery letterbox. In most parishes, there are never more than two maybe three weeks of Mass intentions outstanding at any one time.

THE LECTIO DIVINA GROUP Meetings will take place on Tuesdays at 1pm and will focus on the coming week's Gospel. More details or to join the group contact Malcolm or Mary Henry on 01422 831923.

THE UNIVERSE CATHOLIC WEEKLY To subscribe for the paper to be sent direct to your home, michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk or 07436 617650.

POST - PLEASE NOTE I would suggest that your last mailing day 1st Class 20/21 December, if you are sending something 2nd Class 18 December this would enable your letters to arrive in time for Christmas.

ADVENT FAYRE 2023 - The following outlines the funds raised over the two days of the Advent Fayre

Stall			Stall Total
Cakes & Cake Raffle			185.30

Bottle			213.60
Coloured Stall			204.00
Piety – Religious Cards			74.00
Refreshments			52.50
Raffle Draw			435.00
		Sub Total	£1164.40
Costs			
	<i>Cost of printing tickets</i>		<i>£138.00</i>
		Total	£1026.40

A HUGE THANK YOU I'm delighted to share the remarkable success of the Advent Fayre in 2023. With a total of £1164.40 raised over two days, it's evident that the event was a resounding triumph. The various stalls, including Cakes & Cake Raffle, Bottle, Coloured Stall, Piety – Religious Cards, and Refreshments, all played a significant role in contributing to this achievement. The highlight, of course, was the **Raffle Draw**, which brought in an impressive £435.00. After deducting the costs, which included printing tickets and other expenses amounting to £138.00, the net proceeds of £1026.40 are truly commendable.

This success is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and generosity of everyone involved, from the organizers to the participants, as well as the supportive community of children, parents, and friends of the parish. The funds raised will make a positive impact, and it's heartening to see how the Advent Fayre brought joy and a sense of togetherness to the parish. Once again, a huge thank you to all who contributed to this wonderful event, making it a special and memorable occasion for everyone involved.

ADVENT – It was wonderful to welcome our families and children of the Sacred Heart school to the first Sunday of Advent, there was over 150 in attendance. The children helped us to sing & pray the Mass beautifully – well-done everyone.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME for children in Year 6 will commence on **Thursday 16 November 2023 3:30pm** and the sessions, led by Mrs Hutchings will be held here in school, lasting approximately one hour. If you are available, attend with your son/daughter to support and share their continuing journey in faith.

DATE	LESSONS	Time
Thursday 11 January	(7-8) The Gift of the Church / The Gift of Faith Handed On	
Thursday 25 January	(9-10) Eucharist / Prayer	
Thursday 08 February	(11-12) The Gift of Service / The Gift of Confirmation	

If you are unable to attend here, alternative dates/times for our Catholic family of schools can be found on our School Website. Bishop Marcus Stock will be celebrating Confirmation for all candidates in our Halifax deanery on **Thursday 07 March 2024 / 7pm at St Mary's Church Halifax.**

Go to YouTube – Search for

O Come, Divine Messiah · Abbé Simon-Joseph Pellegrin
O Come. O Come Emmanuel! · The Choir of King's College, Cambridge · Simon Preston
Praise We the Lord This Day · OCP Session Choir
Veni Veni Emmanuel
Rorate Caeli - Catholic Gregorian Chant Hymns
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

**Sunday 17th + THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE SUNDAY)+
SUNDAY YEAR B / WEEKDAY YEAR II**

FIRST READING A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 61:1-2f

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up hearts that are broken;
to proclaim liberty to captives,
freedom to those in prison;
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.
'I exult for joy in the Lord,
my soul rejoices in my God,
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,
like a bride adorned in her jewels.
'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,
as a garden makes seeds spring up,
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise
spring up in the sight of the nations.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Luke 1:46-50,53-54

RESPONSE: My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **R.**

The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him. **R.**
He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy. **R.**

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Is61:1(Lk4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.

He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 1:6-8,19-28

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. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.' Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

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

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