

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 31st December + THE HOLY FAMILY

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]
Monday 01 Jan 2024	09-30am	SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD	Tim Larkin
Tuesday 02 Jan	NO PUBLIC MASS	Ss Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen	Edward Kitcher [A]
Wednesday 03 Jan	NO PUBLIC MASS	The Most Holy Name of Jesus	Maria Cauburn
Thursday 04 Jan	NO PUBLIC MASS	Weekday of Christmas Time	Raymond Kitcher [A]
Friday 05 Jan	NO PUBLIC MASS	Weekday of Christmas Time	Josie, Norman & Lynne Carr [A]
Saturday 06 Jan	5-00pm 5-30pm	Confession VIGIL MASS	Mary & Bill Lewis [A]
Sunday 07 Jan	11-00am	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	Siliva & Alexander Pachowko [A]

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.

May this New Year 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.

AS WE STEP away from the festive warmth of Christmas, our liturgical journey invites us to ponder a most cherished image: the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. This period in the ecclesiastical calendar is not just a continuation of celebration but a profound invitation to reflection.

Consider the profound mystery and beauty that the Son of God, in his infinite wisdom, chose to embrace the simplicity and warmth of a family, just as any child in this world. This choice elevates the family of Nazareth, making it a beacon of hope and a model of familial love and unity for every household across the globe.

In the humble setting of Nazareth, we witness the unfolding of the early chapters of the Son of God's human journey. It was here, in the sanctity of Mary's virginal embrace, brought to fruition by the Holy Spirit, that Jesus' earthly life began. The nurturing walls of the Nazareth home saw Jesus' childhood bloom with joy and love, cradled in Mary's unwavering devotion and under the protective gaze of Joseph, a father figure who mirrored the tenderness of God Himself.

In his Angelus Address of 2020, Pope Francis encapsulated this sentiment, urging families everywhere to draw inspiration from the Holy Family. His Holiness envisioned families around the world as being not only admirers but active participants in the gospel's virtues, exemplified by the Holy Family. This, he proposed, could be the yeast that transforms our society into one marked by unshakeable solidarity and a renewed humanity.

As we reflect on these profound insights, let us carry in our hearts the image of the Holy Family. May their example guide us in nurturing our own families with love, patience, and spiritual strength. Let us pray that the Virgin Mary blesses each of our families, helping us to grow closer to the ideal set forth in Nazareth, thus fostering a world steeped in compassion and unity.

PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR Come, Holy Spirit, Spirit of the Risen Christ, be with us today and always. Be our Light, our Guide, and our Comforter. Be our Strength, our Courage, and our Sanctifier. May this new year be a time of spiritual growth for us; a time of welcoming your graces and gifts; a time for forgiving freely and unconditionally; a time for growing in virtue and goodness and holiness. Come, Holy Spirit, be with us today and always. Amen.

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

BANKED | 27 DEC £371.87 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 2023 AND THE NEW YEAR 2024 I would like to thank you for your kindly support, cards and help as I celebrate my eight Christmas with you. Let me take this opportunity to wish you and all in the district the blessings of Christmas and a Happy New Year. With my very best wishes, gratitude, and the assurance of prayers for you and those you love. Fr Larkin pp

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.

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.

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.**

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.**

Sunday 31st December + THE HOLY FAMILY
SUNDAY YEAR B / WEEKDAY YEAR II
ad libitum Yr B

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

FIRST READING A reading from the book of Genesis

Genesis 15:1-6f

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great.'

'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless...'. Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir.' And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood.' Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 104(105):1-6,8-9

RESPONSE: He, the Lord, is our God. He remembers his covenant for ever.

Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.

O sing to him, sing his praise;
tell all his wonderful works! **R.**

Be proud of his holy name,
let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.

Consider the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face. **R.**

Remember the wonders he has done,
his miracles, the judgements he spoke.

O children of Abraham, his servant,
O sons of the Jacob he chose. **R.**

He remembers his covenant for ever,
his promise for a thousand generations,
the covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath he swore to Isaac. **R.**

SECOND READING Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had

made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Heb1:1-2

Alleluia, alleluia!

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.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 2:22-40

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace,
just as you promised;
because my eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared for all the nations to see,
a light to enlighten the pagans
and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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