

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 7th + THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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]
Monday 08 Jan	NO PUBLIC MASS	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	November Dead List 2023/24
Tuesday 09 Jan	09-30am	Weekday in Ordinary Time	Hilda Kitcher [A]
Wednesday 10 Jan		Weekday in Ordinary Time	
Thursday 11 Jan	NO PUBLIC MASS	Weekday in Ordinary Time	Doris Sultana [A]
Friday 12 Jan	09-30am	St Aelred of Rievaulx, Abbot	Rita Hatto [LD]
Saturday 13 Jan	5-00pm 5-30pm	Confession VIGIL MASS	Ronald & Phyllis Blackshaw [A]
Sunday 14 Jan	11-00am	SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Diana Cunningham & Mary O'Brian

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

WELCOME to our parish 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.

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 | 02 JAN £380 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, the Christmas offering, 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

THE LADIES GROUP will meet on Friday 12 January at 10 am and then every other Fridays. A list will be available this weekend.

STOP TWO EXTREME ABORTION AMENDMENTS Pro-abortion MPs, Stella Creasy and Diana Johnson, have tabled two extreme abortion amendments in an attempt to hijack the Criminal Justice Bill.

Right To Life UK has launched a tool on its website that makes it easy for you to email your MP to ask them to oppose the two extreme abortion up to birth amendments and sign Early Day Motion 131 to stop abortion pills being sent out without an in-person medical appointment. Please visit <https://righttolife.org.uk/abortionamendments> to contact your MP now. It only takes 30 seconds.

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 ATTENDANCE 2018 - 2023

5168 people attended Mass (Jan – Dec 2020) | 5979 people attended Mass (Jan – Dec 2021)
9392 people attended Mass (Jan – Dec 2022) | **11438** people attended Mass (Jan – Dec 2023)

Back in August 2023 I published the following in the newsletter - As of August 2023, the Mass attendance figures are 7,584. If we project this rate for the entire year (considering the same monthly attendance rate for the remaining months), the estimated total would be approximately **11,376** attendees. This would represent a good recovery after covid. As you can see, we have **11,438** people attended Mass (Jan – Dec 2023) - Just keep Coming to Mass.

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 three maybe four weeks of Mass intentions outstanding at any one time.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS we tend to shun thinking about death and preparations for funerals. But sometimes a little preparation can help, especially those who are left behind. It might be an idea to have a chat with your family and friends about your funeral arrangement – Requiem Mass or funeral Service, Hymns, Scripture Readings. Perhaps having a monthly Mass said for the year. This will then be written down and placed with your papers in a safe place, so that when the time comes, we will know what to do.

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	3:30pm
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.**

COME AND SEE MONTHLY PRAYER GROUP Mission Halifax invite you to a new monthly prayer group. Prayerful reflection, Adoration, praise & worship, and testimony, 7pm, Friday 12 January 2024. St Patrick's Church, Elland HX5 0PU. All welcome.

VACANCY Secondment Opportunity for Deputy Headteacher, St John the Evangelist Catholic Primary School, Bradford. Required March 2024 – July 2024. Closing date: Friday 12 January 2024. To discuss or arrange a visit, contact Ben Lavin, ben.lavin@bcwcat.co.uk. Further details attached.

CHANGE TO ST PAUL'S BOOKSHOP OPENING HOURS Due to staffing changes, from January 2024 St Paul's Bookshop at Hinsley Hall Leeds, will not regularly be open on Saturdays.

Sunday 7th + THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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

FIRST READING A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come,
the glory of the Lord is rising on you,
though night still covers the earth
and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises
and above you his glory appears.
The nations come to your light
and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round:
all are assembling and coming towards you,
your sons from far away
and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant,
your heart throbbing and full;
since the riches of the sea will flow to you,
the wealth of the nations come to you;

camels in throngs will cover you,
and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
everyone in Sheba will come,
bringing gold and incense
and singing the praise of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 71(72):1-2,7-8,10-13

RESPONSE: All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

O God, give your judgement to the king,

to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. **R.**

In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds. **R.**

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts
shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba
shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him. **R.**

For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. **R.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Ephesians

Ephesians 3:2-3f

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Jesus Christ, through the gospel.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mt2:2

Alleluia, alleluia!

We saw his star as it rose
and have come to do the Lord homage.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,

for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward, and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Pray for 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.

As we begin this new year, we pray for all who may be considering an abortion. We pray that we will see a decrease in cases of abortion, and instead a year of increased support, both practical and emotional, from all of us in society, bettering the care for all expectant mothers. Lord hear us.

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