



Sacred Heart & St. Patrick

Bolton Brow, Sowerby Bridge HX6 2BA

Roman Catholic Diocese of Leeds | Registered Charity No. 249404

Parish Priest: Very Reverend Canon M Larkin BSc (Hons) (Dunelm) STL VF

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SEASON OF ADVENT- YEAR: A(II) SUNDAY 7TH SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday 06 Dec	5-30pm	VIGIL MASS	Missa pro populo
Sunday 07 Dec	11-00am	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	For SVP
Monday 08 Dec	NO PUBLIC MASS	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	Canon Larkin [GH]
Tuesday 09 Dec	09-30am	Advent Week 2	Martin Lewis [LD]
Wednesday 10 Dec		Advent Week 2	
Thursday 11 Dec	NO PUBLIC MASS	Advent Week 2	Miss Gill [A]
Friday 12 Dec	09-30am	Advent Week 2	Peter McDonnell [LD]
Saturday 13 Dec	5-30pm	VIGIL MASS	Maria Marchetti Mason [A]
Sunday 14 Dec	11-00am	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT GAUDETE SUNDAY	Peter Bridges [A]

Deanery Sunday Masses St Mary's Halifax - 9:30am & 11am | Sunday St Alban's 6pm
Tea & Coffee after Sunday Mass (From 11.45 - 12.45)

WELCOME to our parish during this most blessed season of Advent. 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. We cherish these moments of togetherness, sharing in the joy and wonder of the season. Thank you for joining us and may you travel onwards in safety and God's grace.

MASS ATTENDANCE 2025 – 1756 people attended Mass (November). **Just keep coming to Mass**

PARISH GIVING – thank you for all your support.

BANKED | 01 DEC 2025 £300.00 plus, standing orders **£1415** per month. Thank you.

Collection for the Catholic Youth Service £46.00 thank you.

STANDING ORDER - Most people setup payments monthly. Please inform Canon Larkin if you change to this system. Bank details: HSBC / Sort Code: 40-27-15 / Account: 41017454. Thank you for supporting standing orders. You can complete a Gift Aid form here: <https://www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk/gift-aid-declaration/>. With very grateful thanks for your generosity to the parish.

ADVENT FAYRE 2025 - The following outlines the funds raised over the two days of the Advent Fayre

Stall		2025
Cakes & Cake Raffle		221.05
Bottle		103.00
Coloured Stall		218.60
Piety – Religious Cards		73.00
Refreshments		71.75
Raffle Draw (<i>cost to print deducted £144</i>)		378.00
	Sub total	£1065.40
	<i>Cost Mince Pies</i>	<i>£31.25</i>
	<i>float</i>	<i>215.00</i>
		£819.15

THANK YOU I'm delighted to share the success of the Advent Fayre in 2025. With a total of **£819.15** raised over two days. This is a testament to hard work, commitment, and generosity of everyone involved. Once again, thank you to all who contributed to this event, making it a special and memorable occasion for everyone involved.

2026 DIOCESAN YEAR BOOKS 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 now at £5.00

ADVENT CONFESSION LEEDS CATHEDRAL Tuesday 16 December A full day of Confessions will be available at Leeds Cathedral from **7.00am until 7.00pm**, accompanied by **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**. Canon Larkin will be present in the confessional from **11.00am - 1.00pm**, as part of his new duties in the Cathedral Chapter. If you find yourself in Leeds that day, you are warmly invited to step inside our beautiful cathedral; a quiet haven in the midst of winter streets to make your peace with the Lord and prepare your heart for the coming Feast. As we approach Christmas, the Church reminds us of the traditional practice of celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation, especially at **Christmas and Easter**, fulfilling our age-old duties with grace, humility, and renewal. A good confession restores the soul, lifts the conscience, and allows the light of Christ to shine more clearly within us. For further information please call **(0113) 245 4545**.

DEANERY ADVENT CONFESSION this year will take place **Saturday December 20. 2025** at St Mary's Halifax. 09.00 - 10.00 Fr Hilton | 10.00 - 11.00 Mgr. McQuinn | 11.00 - 12.00 Fr Hall
12.00 - 13.00 Canon Larkin | 13.00 - 14.00 Fr Owens | 14.00 - 15.00 Mgr. Owens | 15.00 - 16.00 Fr Hilton
I warmly invite all parishioners to take part in this Advent Confession on **20 December**. Let us embrace this time of penance and grace as we ready ourselves to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, renewed in spirit and heart.

SVP - St Augustine's centre has asked for help to provide Christmas gifts to 500 children, women and men seeking sanctuary in Calderdale. You can help by donating any of the following items that they have suggested: selection boxes and festive chocolates, warm socks, gloves and scarfs, sturdy all weather umbrellas with covers, durable hot water bottles with covers, toiletry gift sets and medium sized backpacks. A box will be provided in the church porch for your donations. Thank you for your generosity which is very much appreciated.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

NOTE - Reconciliation - 11.00am - 28 March 2026 at St Bernard's (Children in Yr 3 or above) & First Holy Communion (Children in Yr 4 or above) Children in these year groups or above receive these sacraments in the spring/summer of 2026. Preparation takes place in school. If your child does not attend Sacred Heart or another Catholic primary school, please contact school and we can support you with preparations. Please speak to Mrs Mitchell in the office or email admin@sacredheart.calderdale.sch.uk

SCHOOL Carols around the Tree will be on Friday 19 December at 1:15pm if anyone in the parish would like to join us. All welcome.

FURTHER ACTION NEEDED Please act now and visit <https://righttolife.org.uk/uptobirthlords> a new phase of our *No to Abortion Up to Birth* campaign for the House of Lords

HOLY SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM A date and time for your child's Baptism can be arranged once you have completed the parish form and begun to establish a relationship with the parish community. The choice of godparents is very important, as they are called to be role models in the Christian life. Normally, two godparents are chosen; they must be practising Catholics, at least 16 yrs old, and have received the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. Parents have the primary responsibility of handing on the faith to their children, both in teaching and in practice. Catholic schools exist to support you in this task, but they cannot replace your example, especially your faithful commitment to the Mass, which is the best instruction you can give your child. If, after reflecting on this, you wish to present your child for Baptism, please see Canon Larkin after Mass for the Pre-Baptism form.

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

Sunday 7 December 2025 *Liturgical Colour: Violet. Year: A(II).*
Readings at Mass

First reading Isaiah 11:1-10

On that day:

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,

and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples — of him shall the nations enquire,
and his resting-place shall be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 72(71):1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R cf. 7

In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace for ever.

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 great peace till the moon is no more.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the River to the bounds of the earth. R

For he shall rescue the needy when they cry,
the poor who have no one to help.
He will have pity on the weak and the needy,
and save the lives of the needy. R

May his name endure for ever,
his name continue like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blest in him,
all nations shall call him blessed. R

Second reading Romans 15:4-9

Brothers and sisters: Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.'

Gospel Acclamation Luke 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight;
all flesh shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia.

Gospel Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.' For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight." '

Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father", for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

'I baptise you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Solemn Blessing

May the almighty and merciful God,
by whose grace you have placed your faith
in the First Coming of his Only Begotten Son
and yearn for his coming again
sanctify you by the radiance of Christ's Advent
and enrich you with his blessing.

Amen.

As you run the race of this present life,
may he make you firm in faith,
joyful in hope and active in charity.

Amen.

So that, rejoicing now with devotion
at the Redeemer's coming in the flesh,
you may be endowed with the rich reward of eternal life
when he comes again in majesty.

Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever.

Amen.

MASS FROM LEEDS CATHEDRAL

To participate online, please access the following YouTube channel: www.leedscathedrallive.org.uk

Deanery Mass Times - <http://www.halifax-deanery.org.uk/halifax-deanery-parish-websites/>

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