



# 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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[WWW.SACREDHEARTANDSTPATRICKSCHURCH.ORG.UK](http://WWW.SACREDHEARTANDSTPATRICKSCHURCH.ORG.UK)

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## SEASON OF ADVENT- YEAR: A(II)

### Sunday 14th + GAUDETE SUNDAY + ADVENT WEEK 4 + CHRISTMAS TIME

<b>Saturday 13 Dec</b>	<b>5-30pm</b>	<b>VIGIL MASS</b>	<b>Maria Marchetti Mason [A]</b>
<b>Sunday 14 Dec</b>	<b>11-00am</b>	<b>GAUDETE SUNDAY</b>	<b>Peter Bridges [A]</b>
Monday 15 Dec	NO PUBLIC MASS	Advent Weekday	Canon Larkin [GH]
<b>Tuesday 16 Dec</b>	<b>09-30am</b>	<b>Advent Weekday</b>	<b>Stuart Stott [LD]</b>
Wednesday 17 Dec		Advent Weekday	
Thursday 18 Dec	NO PUBLIC MASS	Advent Weekday	November Dead List 2025/6
<b>Friday 19 Dec</b>	<b>09-30am</b>	<b>Advent Weekday</b>	<b>James Didgiunaitis LD</b>
<b>Saturday 20 Dec</b>	<b>5-30pm</b>	<b>VIGIL MASS</b>	<b>Emma &amp; Robert - Thanksgiving</b>
<b>Sunday 21 Dec</b>	<b>11-00am</b>	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	<b>Peter McDonnell [LD]</b>
Monday 22 Dec	NO PUBLIC MASS	Advent Weekday	For Andy [R]*
<b>Tuesday 23 Dec</b>	<b>09-30am</b>	<b>Advent Weekday</b>	<b>Canon Larkin [GH]</b>
<b>Wednesday 24 Dec</b>	<b>5-30pm</b>	<b>VIGIL MASS NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>	<b>Mr &amp; Mrs T Larkin &amp; Kathleen MM Larkin [A]</b>
<b>Thursday 25 Dec</b>	<b>11-00am</b>	<b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>	<b>Ann Knowles [A]</b>
<b>Friday 26 Dec</b>	<b>09-30am</b>	<b>ST STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR FEAST</b>	<b>Peppino Iconetti</b>
<b>Saturday 27 Dec</b>	<b>5-00pm 5-30pm</b>	<b>Confession VIGIL MASS</b>	<b>Bridget Cassidy [A]</b>
<b>Sunday 28 Dec</b>	<b>11-00am</b>	<b>THE HOLY FAMILY CLOSING OF THE ORDINARY JUBILEE OF THE YEAR 2025 IN THE DIOCESE</b>	<b>James &amp; Kathleen Davey [A]</b>

**Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 5.00pm – 5.30pm**

**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)**

## PRINCIPAL SERVICES

**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 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**.

**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.

**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**.

**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

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

**PARISH GIVING** – thank you for all your support.

**BANKED | 08 DEC 2025 £1380.00** 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.

**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**'. Thank you. / 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.

**2026 DIOCESAN YEAR BOOKS** The annual publication provides a very valuable physical record and guide to the life and mission of our Diocese. Available now at £5.00

**SCHOOL PLACES** for any children needing a school place in other year groups at any time within the academic year, they are more than welcome to visit – please contact the school if you would like an appointment with the headteacher contact the school office on 01422 831360

**SVP** - St Augustine's centre has asked for help to provide for 500 children, women and men seeking in Calderdale. You can help by donating, selection boxes, warm socks, gloves, scarfs, sturdy umbrellas, hot water bottles with covers, toiletry gift sets, medium sized backpacks. A box will be provided in the church porch for donations. Thank you for your generosity which is very much appreciated.

**THE UNIVERSE CATHOLIC WEEKLY** To subscribe for the paper to be sent direct to your home, [michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk](mailto:michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk) or 07436 617650.

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## 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](mailto:admin@sacredheart.calderdale.sch.uk)

**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.

**LISTEN TO THE LATIN HYMNS** If you are subscribing to [the spoken Liturgy of the Hours](#),

**THE WEEKLY PODCASTS** Here are the episodes which have come out since the last newsletter.

You can listen by clicking on the link. Each is around 20 minutes long. **16 November:** "Resurrection Is Now"

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

<b>Stall</b>		<b>2025</b>
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>	£31.25
	<i>float</i>	215.00
		<b>£819.15</b>

**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.

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**Sunday 14 December 2025** *Liturgical Colour: Rose or Violet. Year: A(II).*

**+ (GAUDETE SUNDAY)**

**Readings at Mass**

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**First reading Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;  
it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.  
Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to those who have an anxious heart,  
'Be strong; fear not!  
Behold, your God will come with vengeance,  
with the recompense of God.  
He will come and save you.'  
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then shall the lame man leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.  
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return  
and come to Sion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain gladness and joy,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 146(145):6c-7. 8-9a. 9b-10. R Matthew 5:3**

***Come, Lord, and save us.***

It is the Lord who preserves fidelity for ever,  
who does justice to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord who sets prisoners free. R

The Lord who opens the eyes of the blind,  
the Lord who raises up those who are bowed down.  
It is the Lord who loves the just,  
the Lord who protects the stranger. R

The Lord upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever,

your God, O Sion, from age to age. R

**Second reading James 5:7-10**

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)**

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor.  
Alleluia.

**Gospel Matthew 11:2-11**

At that time: When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'

And Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.

'What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you."

'Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

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**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](http://www.leedscathedrallive.org.uk)

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

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