



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

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Sunday 4th + SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY

Saturday 03 Jan	5-00pm 5-30pm	Confession VIGIL MASS	Ronald & Phyllis Balckshaw [A]
Sunday 04 Jan	11-00am	SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY	Stuart Stott [LD] SVP
Monday 05 Jan	NO PUBLIC MASS	Weekday of Christmas Time	Norman & Josephine Haw [A]
Tuesday 06 Jan	09-30am	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD*	Peter McDonnell [LD] SVP
Wednesday 07 Jan		Wednesday after the Epiphany	
Thursday 08 Jan	NO PUBLIC MASS	Thursday after the Epiphany	Cecilia Sirianni
Friday 09 Jan	09-30am	Friday after the Epiphany	Siliva & Alexander Pachowko [A]
Saturday 10 Jan	5-30pm	VIGIL MASS	Martin Lewis [LD] [SVP]
Sunday 11 Jan	11-00am	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD <i>Christmas Time ends</i>	Peter McDonnell [LD]

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)

HAPPY NEW YEAR With a grateful heart I offer *Deo Gratias* for the manifold blessings and graces of 2025. As we step joyfully into 2026, I give humble thanks for God's unfailing faithfulness and for the kindness you have shown through your cards, letters, and Christmas offerings. Your support has been a source of true encouragement and consolation. For all of this, I am profoundly grateful.

A new year is given to us like a blank page in the hand of Providence, brimming with hope, fresh beginnings, and opportunities for grace. May we embrace 2026 with open hearts, casting aside the burdens of the past and stepping forward with renewed faith, courage, and love. May our love for God and one another deepen evermore in this new year. Thank you to all who have supported me throughout 2025. Your prayers, your kindness, and your joyful service have been a blessing beyond measure. May the year of our Lord 2026 be for us all a year of abundant grace, peace profound, and enduring beauty. With every blessing, Canon Larkin.

PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR - Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come, before thee do I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

PARISH GIVING – thank you for all your support.

BANKED | 29 DEC 2025 Total £1170.00 plus, standing orders **£1415** per month. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING Thank you so much for your support. **£845.01**

NEXT SUNDAY: Collection for Poor Missions Fund

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.

***THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD** Tuesday - 06 Jan - 09-30am – at Sowerby Bridge

If you would like to attend Mass at a different time please see the following:

7:00am St Mary's Halifax

12:15pm St Mary's

7:00pm St Alban's

MASS ATTENDANCE 2025 – 995 people attended Mass (December). **Just keep coming to Mass**

Parish Mass Attendance — A Heartening Sign of Growth and Faith

Over the past few years, it has been truly inspiring to see so many gather to celebrate the Holy Eucharist — *“the source and summit of the Christian life”* (Second Vatican Council, *Lumen Gentium*, 11).

Our total Mass attendance for **January to December 2025** reached **11,869**, a wonderful sign of the vitality and commitment within our parish community.

For comparison: **2023:** 11,438 | **2024:** 10,773 | **2025:** 11,869

These figures tell a hopeful story of renewed participation, growing confidence, and a shared desire to worship God together as one family in Christ. Whether you attend every week, have recently returned, or have just begun to explore the faith your presence matters profoundly. Let us continue to build on this encouraging momentum throughout 2026, keeping our eyes fixed on Christ and our hearts open to those yet to join us. With gratitude for your faith and witness may the Lord bless and sustain us in every good work.

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

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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 above link. Each is around 20 minutes long.

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

Catenians: Mass for Vocations: Prior to their monthly meeting on Tuesday 20 January which this month only will be at the 315 Restaurant 315 Wakefield Road Lepton HD8 0LX, Father Michael Hall, the Huddersfield Circle Chaplain, will celebrate Mass with the Catenians at 7.00 pm. All welcome. After the meeting at around 8.15 will be a two-course meal costing £24 per person. Further details about the Association can be found at <https://thecatenians.uk> or you may wish to speak to our Membership Officer Dennis Donnelly on 01484 606042.

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.

Sunday 4 January 2026 *Liturgical Colour: White. Year: A(II).*
Readings at Mass

First reading

Sirach 24:1-2, 8-12

The wisdom of God has dwelt in the chosen people.

Wisdom will praise herself and will boast in the midst of her people. In the assembly of the Most High she will open her mouth, and in the presence of his forces she will boast: 'Then the Creator of all things commanded me, and the one who created me gave my tent a resting place. And he said, "Make your dwelling in Jacob and in Israel receive your inheritance." From eternity, in the beginning, he created me, and for eternity I shall not cease to exist. In the holy tabernacle I ministered before him, and so I was established in Sion. In the beloved city likewise he gave me a resting place, and in Jerusalem was my dominion. So I took root in an honoured people, in the portion of the Lord, his inheritance.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 147: 12-13. 14-15. 19-20. R12a

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord!

O Sion, praise your God!

He has strengthened the bars of your gates;

he has blessed your children within you. R

He established peace on your borders;

he gives you your fill of finest wheat.

He sends out his word to the earth,
and swiftly runs his command. *R*

He reveals his word to Jacob;
to Israel, his decrees and judgements.
He has not dealt thus with other nations;
he has not taught them his judgements. *R*

Second reading

Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18

‘He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus.’

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints.

Gospel Acclamation

Cf. 1 Timothy 3:16

Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory to you, O Christ, proclaimed among the nations.

Glory to you, O Christ, believed in throughout the world.

Alleluia.

Gospel

John 1:1-18

‘The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.’

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the Only Begotten

from the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness about him, and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me." ' For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only begotten God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

Solemn Blessing

May the God of infinite goodness,
who by the Incarnation of his Son has driven darkness from the world
and by that glorious Birth has illumined this most holy day,
drive far from you the darkness of vice
and illumine your hearts with the light of virtue.

Amen.

May God, who willed that the great joy
of his Son's saving Birth
be announced to shepherds by the Angel,
fill your minds with the gladness he gives
and make you heralds of his Gospel.

Amen.

And may God, who by the Incarnation
brought together the earthly and heavenly realm,
fill you with the gift of his peace and favour
and make you sharers with the Church in heaven.

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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