

# The Good Shepherd

Roman Catholic Diocese of Leeds - Registered Charity No. 249404

Royal Fold, New Road, Mytholmroyd, HX7 5EA

Parish Priest: Fr Larkin

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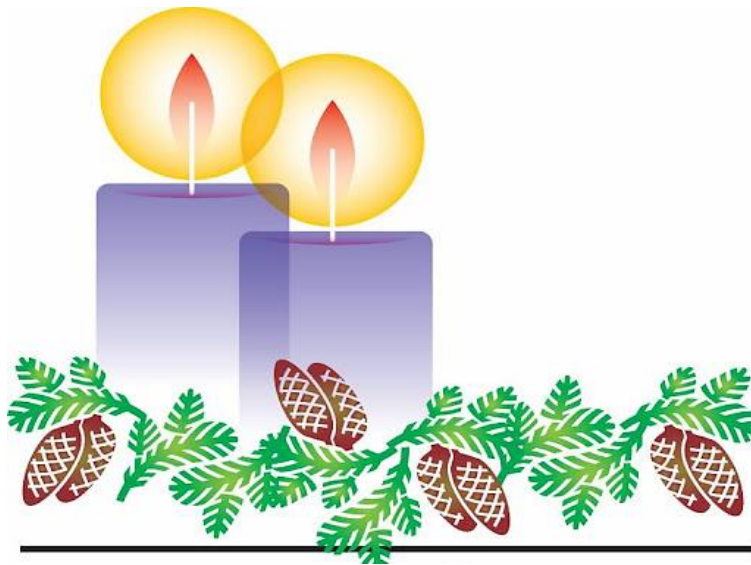
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Safeguarding: [Diocesan Office 0113 261 8069](#)



## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C

**MASSES DURING THE WEEK** Readings and Mass texts visit [www.universalis.com](http://www.universalis.com)

Sunday 05 Dec	9.30 AM	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YR C	Missa pro populo	GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH
Mon 06 Dec		Advent Week 2	PRIVATE MASS	SOWERBY BRIDGE
Tues 07 Dec		St Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor		
Wed 08 Dec	12.00 noon	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	SVP	GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH
Thur 09 Dec		Advent Week 2		
Fri 10 Dec		Advent Week 2	PRIVATE MASS	SOWERBY BRIDGE
Sat 11 Dec	10.00AM	Advent Week 2	-	GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH
Sunday 12 Dec	9.30 AM	GAUDETE SUNDAY	Missa pro populo	GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

**PARISH NEWSLETTER** Please submit notices (by Wednesday 8pm) - to Fr Larkin by email at [pp.thegoodshepherd@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:pp.thegoodshepherd@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)

## **ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2021**

**Our Theme This Year - O come, all ye faithful** Printed in 1751, the text was originally written in Latin as 'Adeste Fideles', generally credited to John Francis Wade. But the English translation, written by the English Catholic priest Frederick Oakeley in 1841, is the most commonly used version.

### Advent

- Advent giving, as in previous years we will be supporting the Gianna project, a Moses basket will be placed in the foyer for you to add your gifts to. Donations of baby clothes, nappies, wipes etc to assist the Gianna Project and Bradford Baby Bank. This project is run by Catholic Care for any parent who needs help and support. Please be generous.
- There will be a collection bucket throughout Advent for Crisis (meals for the homeless) personal donation can be made online at <https://www.crisis.org.uk/>
- We will of course be continuing our support of the Halifax foodbank

### Rotas

- From January 2022 we would like to reinstate the rotas, if you were previously involved, we will assume that you would like to continue. If you would like to be involved or to opt out, would you let Fr Larkin asap. Readers, Welcome, Prayer Leaders, Children's Liturgy, Church cleaning, Drivers, Coffee after Mass.
- Coffee (and tea) after Mass will begin again on Gaudete Sunday the 12 December. More details to follow.

## **PRAY FOR THE DEAD**

Please pray for the repose of Robert Morley. Eternal rest grant to him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

**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. 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.

**GUIDANCE ON COVID** The message to remain cautious, be kind and help each other to stay safe is a good example of how we should act. We all have a shared responsibility towards each other and that includes keeping some of the measures in place that have helped keep people safe. We need to strike a balance between what we are allowed to do and what we see as responsible to do. We will continue to assess what we can reopen and adapt so that people who want to can come together again.

I know that not everyone will agree with this cautious approach, but I take my responsibility for everyone's safety seriously. If we all play our part, we can look forward to being able to enjoy true freedom without such caution – something we all want, whatever our views.

**Face Coverings** a good idea in indoor settings.

**Hand Sanitiser** available for people to use.

**Congregational Singing** to be kept under review.

**The Communion Rite** Sign of Peace remains suspended.

**REMEMBER** if your health is not good and you are vulnerable, if you have any cold symptoms you should stay at home.

In all of this, I thank you for the generous way that you have looked after and assisted one another in feeling safe when coming before the Lord in prayer.

**GOOD SHEPHERD PRAYER ZOOM** a discussion at the end of the prayer on 30 November concluded that there is a wish that we should continue. The sessions have proven to be a strong source of support and spiritual nourishment over the long and ongoing period of the pandemic. We have been impressed by the deep faith shared by members of the group and the many ways in which they have expressed this in their choice of music, prayers, visual images, and willingness to help each other out with readings, prayers of the faithful, live music, IT skills and hosting. So, we continue and Nick Burchnall is going to send a questionnaire to parishioners. In the meantime, if there is anyone else who would like to lead a session, please email [jeanmarsh48@btinternet.com](mailto:jeanmarsh48@btinternet.com)

#### **GS Tuesday Prayer Zoom Rota**

Dec 14 Jean and David Marsh / Dec 21 John and Cathy Duffy

Jan 11 Deborah Rolland and Roger Masters / Jan 18 Maureen and Frank Flynn

Jan 25 Nick Burchnall / Feb 01 Patricia and Paul Newman

Feb 8 Anne and Mike Plunkett

The above is a suggested rota up to February 08 2022.

Please swap with someone else if you find you are unavailable on the date suggested.

**THE CATHOLIC UNION OF GREAT BRITAIN** Founded in 1870 to represent Catholic interests in Parliament and public life, the Catholic Union of Great Britain has a consultative status to Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. It is a non-party political membership organization which includes people from all walks of life and every part of the country. With a wealth of lay-Catholic experience and expertise, its aim is to contribute in a well-informed and balanced way to the political issues of the day. The late Sir David Amess was a friend and supporter of many of their campaigns. They are keen to become better known, both at a diocesan and parish level, and have started a programme of encouraging parishes to become "Supporter Parishes" of the Catholic Union. They also produce a weekly briefing for members and supports with a digest of topical news. Visit [www.catholicunion.org.uk](http://www.catholicunion.org.uk), Email them at [info@catholicunion.org.uk](mailto:info@catholicunion.org.uk) or Tel: 020 8749 1321

**HALIFAX FOOD BANK** is still providing food to ~200 people each week. As we enter the winter months' items such as hats, scarves, gloves and socks are needed – please help if you can.

**BRIERY ONLINE ZOOM MEDITATIONS** on Thursday from 7.30pm to 8.15pm. Open at 7.15pm for a chat and start promptly at 7.30pm. It is a simple format of praying with the Sunday Mass Readings. Zoom link Meeting Link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82009483498?pwd=OUMraDBqUy9YRmxseHdVekpyWlVlVQ09>  
Meeting ID: 820 0948 3498 / Passcode: 421659

**RACHEL'S VINEYARD TALK** Rachel's Vineyard-provide reconciliation and healing retreats for those have been involved in an abortion: Talk in Wheeler Hall, St Anne's Cathedral, Leeds LS2 8BE, by Rachel from Rachel's Vineyard on Wednesday 8 December starting at 6:30pm. Rachel will include her own abortion story, the stages of abortion grief, hope and healing for those affected by abortion and supporting someone who is post abortive. There is Mass at 5:30pm in the Cathedral. <https://www.rachelsvineyard.org.uk>. Talk arranged by Leeds People for Life, email: [40daysforlifeleeds@gmail.com](mailto:40daysforlifeleeds@gmail.com).

**AN INVITATION TO CATHOLICS OF COLOUR** The Justice and Peace Commission is partnering with Leeds Citizens to strengthen racial justice and equality across the diocese and in parishes. As a first step we want to listen to the experiences and views of Black and Minority Ethnic Catholics. Then with training and an action group we will seek to take practical steps in the diocese and to be a stronger influence in wider society. If you are interested in finding out more or taking part please get in touch by emailing [jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)

**CATHOLIC CARE VACANCIES** Catholic Care are recruiting a new Head of Finance who will work closely with the strategic Leadership Team with opportunities to progress. Catholic Care are working in exclusive partnership with Sharp Consultancy. Please send your CV directly to [jamiec@sharpconsultancy.com](mailto:jamiec@sharpconsultancy.com) quoting reference CC11154. A number of other vacancies: [www.catholic-care.org.uk](http://www.catholic-care.org.uk), 0113 388 5400

**PARISH GIVING** If you wish to set up a standing order account details are:  
**Good Shepherd Mytholmroyd / Sort Code 40-27-15 and the Account No. 21023209**  
Thank you for supporting the parish financially it is appreciated.

**CONTACT DETAILS FOR FR JOHN** Landline: 01422 881190 / Mobile: 07856974301

**FIELD NOTES** We are in a dark time of the year. The mornings are dark and the evenings darker still. Light is at a premium, and we have yet to reach the shortest day of the year. It is within that darkness that we light our second Advent candle today. The days may be getting shorter, but our Advent wreath is getting brighter. The growing brightness of our Advent readings says that we are drawing closer to the great feast of Christmas, the birthday of the one who declared, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life'. So why is the gospel full of many strange names, people and places? Why does Luke make special mention these people and places? Jesus lived in a particular place and at a particular moment in history. First of all, St Luke is simply following the custom of his day both for Jewish and Greek writing. But, more importantly, he is saying that the story of John the Baptist and of Jesus is really historical. This story happened in this world at a particular time and a particular place. Luke is preparing us for the announcement of God coming among us.

He is preparing the stage for this great drama. And so, he gives:

- the exact time this is going to happen
- the political situation (Palestine was a colony of the Roman Empire)
- the religious situation (Annas and Caiaphas were high priests)
- the place (a small province in the eastern part of the Empire).

Any modern history of those times will corroborate the facts that Luke gives.

Today's Gospel, also speaks of John the Baptist. He – an equally historical figure – was chosen to announce the coming of Jesus: The Messiah, the Christ, the Saviour King.

"Prepare a way for the Lord," he calls out and his words are equally meant for us as for the people he directly spoke to. He comes "proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins," says Luke. There are three words there which are closely linked – baptism, repentance, and forgiveness. Baptism, of course, is not here the Sacrament of Baptism by which people are incorporated into the Christian community. But it was a sacramental or symbolic action through which people expressed by their immersion in the waters of the River Jordan their desire to have their sinful past totally washed away. This baptism of repentance means not just sorrow for past sins but a total and radical change of outlook in our relationship with God and other people. It calls for a radical and genuine renewal and conversion of heart. This conversion in turn will bring about the forgiveness of sin. Forgiveness, too, involves a total reconciliation with our God and with all those whom we have hurt or with whom we have come in conflict. It is a healing, a making whole. This is how people are to "prepare a way for the Lord".

### **Go to YouTube – Search for**

Merton "Hark! A Herald Voice Is Calling" · The Choir of Norwich Cathedral  
Prepare The Way · Simply Taizé

It is good to be together

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

**These petitions are taken from parishioners' requests.**

Please pray for **Kate Leslie** as she undergoes further investigations

For he remains unwell and about to start another round of Chemotherapy

For **Rosa Raho**, who remains in need of spiritual support as her treatment for cancer continues.

For **Mel**, suffering from sepsis a complicated fracture and ruptured achilles tendon.

She is listed for major surgery and, in her early 40s, at risk of an amputation

For **Gisela Lea-McCann** for timely resolution of her health issues

For **Sarah McCann** diagnosed with cancer and shortly to undergo treatment

For **Barry Harrop** deal with an uncertain future with cancer.

For **all receiving treatment for cancer** at this time.

For **Clive Barker** living with ongoing health issues.

For **Molly** suddenly admitted to hospital

For **those suffering from Covid 19** and its aftermath.

For **those in positions of decision-making**, to be guided by the Common Good.

For **the isolated and sick** at this time of Covid restrictions.

For **those in care and hospital work** – may they be given resilience.

For **the recently bereaved** – when we cannot console them directly.

**Of your mercy, please pray for** Robert Morley, Raymond Smith

And all who have recently died. May they rest in peace. Amen.

**If you have a petition and would like it to be included contact Fr Larkin by email at [pp.thegoodshepherd@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:pp.thegoodshepherd@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)**

### PRAY FOR:

**THE SICK** Edna Harwood, , Joseph Fleming, Fr John, Sarah McCann, Doris Phillips, Barry, Thomas Davis, Mary Harwood, Mary Howard, Rosa Maria Santos

**CLERGY** Please remember to keep in your prayers those who are unwell or recovering from surgery, especially Fr Bernard Battle and Fr John Gott. Please support with your prayers also, all the priests and deacons of our diocese who are burdened with long-term illnesses of various kinds.

**LATELY DEAD** Robert Morley, Raymond Smith, Aileen Queenan, Annis Peart-Binns, Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.