

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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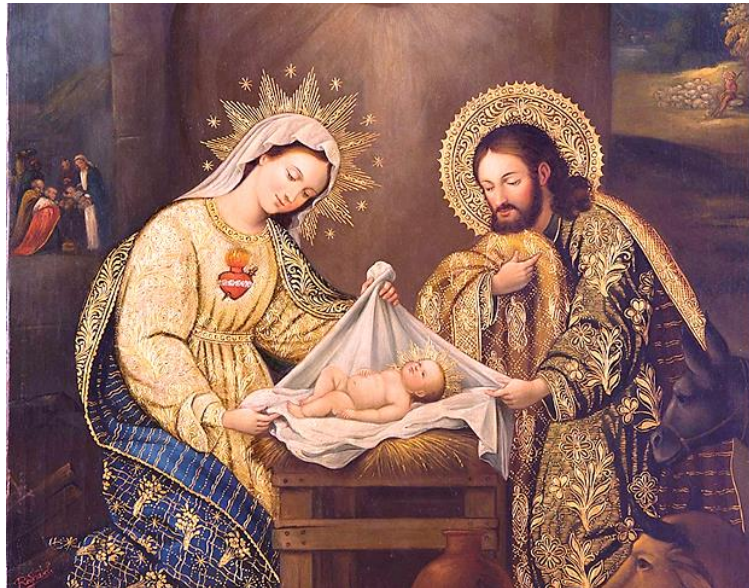
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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C

MASSES DURING THE WEEK Readings and Mass texts visit www.universalis.com

Sunday 19 Dec	9.30 AM	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Missa pro populo	GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH
Mon 20 Dec		Advent Weekday	PRIVATE MASS	SOWERBY BRIDGE
Tues 21 Dec		Advent Weekday	-	SOWERBY BRIDGE
Wed 22 Dec	12.00 noon	Advent Weekday	-	GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH
Thur 23 Dec		Advent Weekday	-	-
FRIDAY 24 DEC	5.30PM SERVICE	CHRISTMAS EVE READINGS AND CAROLS	THE CAROL SERVICE	GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH
SATURDAY 25 DEC	09.30AM MASS	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	Keith Dimond [LD]	GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH
SUNDAY 26 DEC	9.30 AM	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH	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

CLARIFICATION ON THE SUNDAY OBLIGATION - The Bishops, now having reflected on the current situation in England and Wales, recognise that the causes and effects of the pandemic are still present to such a degree that the absolute duty for all to freely attend the Sunday Eucharistic Celebration cannot yet be fulfilled.

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. Its joyous lyrics ('Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!') invite us to join the angels in celebrating the Christ child's birth.

LOOKING FORWARD CHRISTMAS

Let us remind ourselves that Christmas is an octave – eight days – and that Masses celebrated between Christmas Day and New Year's Day are all Christmas Masses. The Church regards each day in an Octave as if it were the solemnity itself. If you are anxious about the ongoing pandemic situation, consider attending church on one of the Octave days other than Christmas Day.

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROL SERVICE + 5.30pm Friday 24 + THE CAROL SERVICE

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS + 09.30am Saturday 25 + THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

SUNDAY 26TH MASS + 09.30am THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH FEAST

WEDNESDAY 29TH + MASS 12.00noon ST THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP AND MARTYR

SATURDAY 1ST JAN 2022 MASS + 10.00am SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

CHURCHES TOGETHER are holding a service for Epiphany on Sunday Jan 9, 3pm at St Thomas's, Heptonstall. All are welcome.

GUIDANCE ON COVID Government Plan B - Covid Guidance

- If you have any symptoms of Covid-19, please stay at home and not travel to church.
- Hand sanitiser continue to be available on entry to the church.
- Good ventilation and airflow should be enabled throughout the church premises.
- Face coverings are compulsory in public indoor venues, including **places of worship**. Please wear a face covering when attending church unless you are exempt from doing so.
- Everyone should test using a lateral flow device, particularly before entering a setting involving people you wouldn't normally come into contact with, or when visiting a vulnerable person (Government announcement of the move to Plan B in England).

If these guidance points remain supported, then our churches will continue to be safe places for people to gather for prayer and liturgical celebrations, including over the Christmas period.

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.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION The dates have been set for the Deanery celebrations for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and Confirmation for 2022.

CONFIRMATION ON WEDNESDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2022 7PM, AT
ST MALACHY'S CHURCH OVENDEN

RECONCILIATION ON SATURDAY 2 APRIL 2022 AT 2PM AT ST BERNARD'S CHURCH, HALIFAX
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION IN OUR OWN PARISH ON CORPUS CHRISTI AT 9.30AM

If your child is in Y3 or above then they are welcome to join the Reconciliation group, Y4 and above for First Holy Communion.

We have not had a confirmation group at Good Shepherd for 2 years and we propose to run a group for any of our children/young people starting in January. This will be for anyone Y6 or older. Please contact me asap if you believe your child is the right age and ready for the next step in their faith journey. Jowoodhead1@gmail.com or mobile 07725 854932

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.

TUESDAY PRAYER ZOOM ROTA 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.

REPAIR AND REUSE A Repair Cafe, run by skilled volunteers, is available in Heptonstall School on the second Saturday of each month from 10am - 1pm. Electrical and furniture repairs, sewing and mending and knife sharpening, is undertaken whilst enjoying a friendly chat with cake and a cuppa. More details are available on their Facebook page.

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*'. details are:

Good Shepherd Mytholmroyd / Sort Code 40-27-15 / Account No. 21023209

Thank you

FIELD NOTES THE BIRTH OF JESUS is imminent. In a few days' time we will be celebrating the memory of that great event. Mass today prepares us for the Christmas celebration. Each of the three readings takes up a different aspect of this great mystery.

In the Gospel we are brought to a small remote corner of Israel. Mary and Elizabeth, seem to be the principal actors, and yet, the really important characters are the unseen children, Jesus and John. When Mary approaches, the child in Elizabeth's womb reacts immediately. At the sound of Mary's voice, John experienced the presence of Jesus and is filled with the Spirit. "For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy," Elizabeth tells Mary. Elizabeth is also affected by the presence of Jesus. She bursts into praise for Jesus and his mother: "Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?" And, by consequence, with a visit from the Lord himself. Mary goes to visit Elizabeth because of the danger's attendant on so late a pregnancy. That she went with haste, halfway across the country, to make the visit is a clear sign of Mary's kindness and goodness.

These two great women understand the miracle that is unfolding, in each case there was divine intervention in a truly exceptional way. The Gospel says that both were informed of this fact by the words of an angel; they each had a message from God telling them so. These great biblical women consoled each another, shared their stories: Elizabeth after her long years childless and now sudden pregnancy, and Mary, after her meeting with the heavenly messenger, and her "irregular" situation and pregnancy.

The fact that both Elizabeth and Mary had this divine intervention is a reminder that our own lives too are a gift of God. At some moments we may recognise the hand of God in our lives. Maybe at the point when we decided on; marriage, or a vocation to special service in the church. Maybe at the birth of a child, a change in jobs, or the death of a parent, or admired friend. Maybe it was a moment in prayer, the grace of a sacrament, wise words from a friend.

The story of the Visitation teaches us an important lesson: When Christ is growing inside of us, we will be led to people, places and situations that we never dreamed of. We will bear words of consolation and hope that are not our own. In the very act of consoling others, we will be consoled. We will be at peace.

Go to YouTube – Search for

O Come. O Come Emmanuel! · The Choir of King's College, Cambridge · Simon Preston
Praise We the Lord This Day · OCP Session Choir
It is good to be together

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL We pray for all expectant mothers. We pray for an overwhelming sense of hope and joy to fill their lives, and for increased support to be provided by their family, friends and local communities, as they journey through this life-changing experience. Lord hear us

As we celebrate this Christmas season, we pray especially for all expectant parents who are worried about the practical means of supporting their child, that they would find hope and consolation in the story of the Holy Family and, by the power of God, be able to overcome all obstacles. Lord hear us

These petitions are taken from parishioners' requests.

Thank you for all the prayers for **Kate Leslie**.

After being told she almost definitely had cancer (twice), investigations have excluded malignancy. Thanks be to God for such good news

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

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.