

The Good Shepherd

Roman Catholic Diocese of Leeds | Registered Charity No. 249404

Royal Fold, New Road, Mytholmroyd, HX7 5EA |

Parish Priest: **Very Rev Canon Larkin BSc (Hons) (Dunelm) STL VF**

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Diocesan Safeguarding www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk/safeguarding/

Safeguarding Team - 0113 2618046

Website www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk

Website: www.thegoodshepherd.org.uk



Facebook: The Good Shepherd

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Sunday 14th + THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Sunday 21 Sept	9.30 am	TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY	John Machin [LD]
Monday 22 Sept		Weekday in Ordinary Time	
Tuesday 23 Sept		St Pius of Pietrelcina	
Wednesday 24 Sept	12noon	OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM	Yorkshire Brethren 2025
Thursday 25 Sept		Weekday in Ordinary Time	
Friday 26 Sept		Ss Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs	
Saturday 27 Sept		NO MASS TODAY	12 Noon Mass with the Bishop in Walsingham - Missa pro populo
Sunday 28 Sept	9.30 am	TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY	

Mass Times - Sacred Heart & St. Patrick, Sowerby Bridge HX6 2BA - Saturday 5-30pm / Sunday 11-00am

NB - NO MASS SATURDAY - 27 SEPTEMBER

Requiem Mass for Kathleen Metcalfe Wednesday 8 October at 1.15pm

PARISH NEWSLETTER Please submit notices (by Wednesday 8pm) - by email at pp.thegoodshepherd@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

PARISH OFFERING - Average monthly standing orders £1693.50

14/09/2025 Week 24 Total £252.76 | WK23 CO £3.32 |

BANKED – 15 September £255.00 | WK24 CO £1.08 Thank you for your support.

Catholic Education Service **£142.26** Thank you

PARISH GIVING If you wish to set up a standing order account detail:

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

THIS SUNDAY: Collection for Evangelii Gaudium Day

FIRST RECONCILIATION if your child is in Y3 (or older) then they are in the right age group to prepare for their First Reconciliation, this is usually followed by preparing for and celebrating their First Holy Communion the following year.

I would like to start the preparation after October half term.

Please catch me at Mass or ring 07725 854932 if you are interested in this.

FLOWER ROTA | 21 September Leo Mcluskey | 28 September Mary Harwood |

5 October Mary & Tom O'Connell | 12 October Kay Pierce | 19 October Liz Godfrey |

26 October Vacant | If anyone would like to join the flower rota, talk to either Doris or Liz. Thank you.

SURVEY FOR ALL THOSE ENGAGED WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH We are now asking every diocese to help us share a new survey inviting everyone engaged with the Catholic Church, including Parishioners et al to contribute their experiences. The aim of this survey is to better understand how the Catholic Church engages with Survivors.

Information regarding this survey can be found

here: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=SSQzRY2fT0OpJmB_Xy63KLBE XoG2tIVAm_9UYqKjMSFUM1hSR1VCOEpYMUc4SDVQWTg3VkNDTzg5OS4u

NEWS FROM THE ORCHARD Patience has been rewarded! The trees, planted in November 2015, have all produced a good crop. It was very rewarding last Sunday (24.8) to see my hope realized: children picking plums after the Mass. I'm glad I took Fr Larkin's advice not to give up on the orchard. At one point when they were looking unpromising it crossed my mind to grub up the whole lot. It's good to know that the luncheon club and the Monday supper will use the fruit, so thanks to Jo and Steve for gathering up the plums that the wind had dispersed. The three compost bins are working well. The donations of grass clippings are appreciated. The bin on the left is producing a good quality compost which will be used to mulch the trees in the autumn. I will need help with this, more about that in due course.

PRIESTLY VOCATIONS DISCERNMENT MEETINGS Time for prayers, questions, input from a priest and social time. There are two groups meeting simultaneously: under 18s and over 18s - Fridays 6.30pm- 8.15pm:

17 October (Hinsley Hall), 14 November (Cathedral Hall) | 19 December (Hinsley Hall).

Under 18 participants must complete and return a permission form prior to attending. For permission forms and to notify of attendance (all participants) please contact Vocations Promoter, Fr Simon Lodge simon.lodge@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

PERMANENT DIACONATE MASS As St Francis of Assisi's memorial, who was a deacon, is on Saturday 4 October, Bishop Marcus will be celebrating the 12.00 Mass at Leeds Cathedral in thanksgiving for the permanent diaconate in our Diocese.

ST ALBAN'S – A YEAR OF CATECHESIS *St Alban's Croft, Halifax HX3 0AZ*

"A Year of Catechesis" at St Alban's Halifax — a wonderful opportunity to deepen our knowledge of the faith, guided by the wisdom of our priests. Each evening will offer a chance to learn, reflect, and grow. The talks will take place in the parish hall on **Tuesday evenings at 6:00pm**, followed by **Holy Mass at 7:00pm**.

Programme of Talks 2025/26

- **14 October** – Fr Simon Lodge: *Marian Dogmas*
- **11 November** – Mgr. David Smith: *Death, Judgement, Hell and Heaven*
- **10 February** – Fr Benjamin Hilton: *The Saints*
- **10 March** – Fr David Reilly: *The Church's Faith*
- **28 April** – Fr Andrew Bowden: *The Good Life and How to Live It*
- **2 June** – Fr Sean Elliott: *The Sacred Liturgy*

Come and join in discovering the riches of Catholic teaching and how it shapes our lives today.

CATENIANS: FAITH, FAMILY AND FRIENDSHIP

Meet formally each month on the third Tuesday plus whenever another event has been arranged. Membership is open to any catholic men, but wives/partners are encouraged to always be involved. 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.

"WHEN SUFFERING HAPPENS, MAKE MEANING!" Dr Dorothy Jonaitis of Loyola University will lead a retreat afternoon offering an opportunity to reflect upon journeys of faith and how healing can take shape, using prayer, art and music. 1.00pm-5.30pm Sunday 5 October. £15pp at The Briery, Ilkley. For more information and to book, contact The Briery on 01943 607287 or admin@briery.org.uk

"DELVE INTO THE BIBLE" Dr Dorothy Jonaitis of Loyola University, Chicago, will lead a workshop exploring the reality of biblical authorship, the importance of context - audience, geography, and timeframe - and different translations. 10:00am - 3:00pm Saturday 11 October at Hinsley Hall. £20pp including lunch. For more information and to book contact catechist.christtheking@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE St Mary's Parish Ceilidh - Friday, 3 October at Pellon Social Club Halifax. *No dance experience?* No problem. You'll be guided through the easy-to-follow-dances. *Two left feet?* No problem. It adds to the fun factor. *Low on energy?* No problem. Half-time supper will be provided to recharge your batteries plus Bar available to keep you refreshed throughout the evening. Ticket price: £20 (inc. supper). Cash only please. As well as tickets being on sale after our Sunday Masses (9:30am and 11am St Mary's and 6pm St Alban's), tickets can be arranged by contacting Julie Anderson on 07599 084360.

STOP ASSISTED SUICIDE - FURTHER ACTION NEEDED As the assisted suicide Bill progresses through the Lords, Peers have made it clear that receiving physical letters will have the most influence at this stage of the process. Right To Life UK has launched a new *EasyAction* tool that creates a personalised letter to be sent in the post to a Peer highlighting a key concern with the Bill, selects a Peer to receive it, and customises the letter so that it is addressed from you. Please take action now and visit www.righttolife.org.uk/aspeersletter to send a letter to Peers asking them to oppose assisted suicide.

FAMILY AND GROUP STAYS AT CASTLERIGG MANOR THIS OCTOBER HALF TERM

Castlerigg Manor is a Retreat Centre in the Lake District, owned by the Diocese of Lancaster, and they are opening their doors to family groups, individuals and other small groups once again during October Half Term (Oct 27-31). A good option for anyone looking for a budget get-away in a beautiful part of the country. Book at <https://castleriggmanor.com/stay-with-us/> or contact director@castleriggmanor.co.uk

THURSFORD CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR – Join the Sacred Heart & St. Patrick's Ladies Group on a festive adventure! Our trip will take place from Sunday, 7th December to Tuesday, 9th December, at a cost of £345 per person (half-board). We plan to fill a 56-seater coach, allowing us to travel directly to our destination without any en-route pick-ups. For more details about the spectacular visit the Thursford website at www.Thursford.com or contact Marion (Chair of the Ladies Group) at 07873 907645.

Posters will be displayed at church where you can add your name and contact details to register your interest. We look forward to sharing this magical experience with you.

APPEAL FOR LUNCHEON CLUB HELPERS

We are all familiar with the gospel quotation from Matthew 9: 37-38 "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few".

As the current organiser of The Good Shepherd luncheon club I am once again appealing for "labourers" to help us maintain our weekly lunches. Lunches have been served in the church centre for over **30 years** and currently we have 36 regular guests.

Fewer than a third are parishioners from our two parishes, other guests are from the wider community so for many, we are the face of the Good Shepherd. As well as enjoying a good 4 course lunch cooked in our kitchen, guests come to enjoy the company of others. For some it gives a focus to their week and reduces isolation especially for those who live alone. For guests who are supporting or caring for others it offers a period of respite.

Currently we are a group of 16 volunteers, (4 of whom are not from the parish but from the community). Ideally we need 6 helpers each week. By and large we are a group of elderly volunteers serving elderly guests. 11 of us are well past our "three score years and ten" hence the need for more volunteers

I would stress that we are not presently looking for cooks but for helpers who can help serve lunch, wash up and clear away after lunch.

Even volunteering once a month between 12 and 2.30pm would reduce the need for current helpers to be on the rota as frequently as they are at present.

If you are interested, but unsure about helping, please feel free to come along one Wednesday lunchtime to see what your commitment would involve. As well as myself or Canon Larkin, others involved would be happy to give you more information.

Emma, one of the parish's young mothers involved in our children's liturgy, prepared a very powerful meditation for the annual Church Family Weekend. It was published in the parish newsletter. It was based on the story of Elisha and the widow's oil (2 Kings 4).

Emma wrote:

"God wants to work through us. So what have you got? What can you offer?

We may feel we have little to offer, but however small God can use it.....

When we offer God the little we have he can transform it into greater things, greater than we can ever imagine. So what have you got? Gifts, natural talents, skills, experience...

So ask yourself - What have I got?"

Ponder on Emma's words and If your talent, skill or experience is knowing how to use a tea towel, we need you urgently but full training can be given! Anne Plunkett

UK-MED is a medical aid charity born of the NHS, now helping in Gaza. There will be a fund-raising benefit to support their work on Saturday October 4, 6:30 - 11.00 at Wadsworth Community Centre, Billy Lane, Old Town HX7 8RY. Good food, great music and a chance to meet some UK-MED staff. £15 at the door or pay what you can.

ANNUAL SERVICE AT KILLINGBECK CEMETERY NOVEMBER – Month of the Holy Souls: Sunday 9 November at 2.30pm. All the Diocese are invited to come to the cemetery and pray for the deceased members of the Diocese and extended family. The service, led by Canon Patrick Wall, Dean of East Leeds, will be in the chapel with readings, hymns, and rosary. Weather permitting, we will walk around the clergy circle reciting the rosary.

CELEBRATING LAUDATO SI Mini-Pilgrimage to Kirkstall Abbey: Saturday 20 October 12:45 – 4pm. Join people from across the northern dioceses for this 4.7mile pilgrimage from Leeds City Station to Kirkstall abbey – mainly following the towpath of the Leeds & Liverpool canal. Full details on the Justice & Peace website www.leedsjp.org.uk

LEEDS CATHEDRAL GUIDED TOURS AUTUMN PROGRAMME Free Guided Tours will take place on the following dates: Saturday 4 October, starting at 2.00pm; Saturday 8 November, at 1.30pm; and Saturday 13 December, at 1.30pm. The tours last about 1 hour. No booking is required. On arrival, please gather by the Baptismal Font at the back of the Cathedral.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE 2025 Prayer, fasting and (current 'buffer-zone-law'-compliant) peaceful vigil in support of the unborn, their mothers, fathers and families. 7am-7pm daily from 24 September to 2 November. More info here: <https://www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk/event/40-days-for-life-2025/> Contact Chris via 07815 681343 & 40daysforlife@gmail.com

LIVING SIMPLY Many of us feel helpless in the face of the reckless plan to expand so many airports, especially now that we are acutely aware of the danger to health of air pollution and noise. One positive thing we can do is to stop flying. There are countless wonderful holiday spots in Europe easily reached by train. European trains are fast, reliable and they deposit you in the centre of your destination. Some who don't want to give up flying altogether have decided to stay grounded just for a year. If flight numbers fall, the argument against airport expansion will be strengthened. For more information see www.flightfree.co.uk.