

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/

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SEASON OF ADVENT

Sunday 30th FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday 30 Nov	9.30 am	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YR A	Marilyn Swann [A]
Monday 01 Dec		Advent Week 1	
Tuesday 02 Dec		Advent Week 1	
Wednesday 03 Dec	12noon	St Francis Xavier, Priest	Paul Burns
Thursday 04 Dec		St John Damascene, Priest and Doctor	
Friday 05 Dec		Advent Week 1	
Saturday 06 Dec	10.00am	Advent Week 1	Yorkshire Brethren 2025
Sunday 07 Dec	9.30 am	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Kathleen Metcalfe [LD]

Sunday Mass Times - Sacred Heart & St. Patrick Sowerby Bridge | Saturday 5-30pm | Sunday 11am
St Mary's Halifax – 9.30am & 11am | St Alban's 6pm

A WARM WELCOME to all during this blessed season of Advent. The gentle glow of the wreath's candles leads our hearts toward Christmas, when we rejoice once more in the Lord's nearness. In these precious days, we treasure the grace of being together sharing reverence, hope, and the quiet wonder that has marked the Church's keeping of Advent through the ages. May your journey from this holy place be sheltered in safety and in the abiding care of God.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2025 *"God with Us" Emmanuel*

As we enter this holy season, we turn our hearts toward the great mystery of *God with us*. In these weeks of watching and waiting, may we ponder the wonder of the Word made flesh and allow His abiding presence to shape our lives, our parish, and our world.

Music for the Season

If you enjoy sacred music at home, you might like to listen to *Classic FM's 30 Greatest Christmas Carols of All Time*—a lovely way to accompany your Advent reflections.

Advent Day by Day

You are warmly invited to join me in using the *Advent Day by Day* booklet as a daily companion on our journey towards Christmas. Copies are available at the back of church.

GIANNA PROJECT Our annual ADVENT collection of Baby Items in support of the Gianna Project will begin on **December 06** when the Moses Basket will be placed at the back of church. The project would be grateful for baby toiletries, nappies and knitwear.

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

PARISH OFFERING - Standing orders Total (Oct 2025) **£2047.54**

23/11/2025 Week 34 Total £189.73 | WK33 CO £4.80 |

Collection for the Catholic Youth Service £86.70 thank you

BANKED – 24 NOV 2025 - £190.00 | WK34CO £4.53 Thank you for your support.

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

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

FR JOHN BRENDAN MURPHY It is my duty to inform you of the death of Fr John Brendan Murphy who died peacefully on the afternoon (24th) at the Ouse View Care Home in York. Please pray for the repose of Fr John's soul and for his family and friends at this time. At the time of his death Fr Murphy was the longest serving priest of the Diocese of Leeds, having been ordained over seventy-one years ago. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

FR DAVID BULMER It is with great sadness to inform you that after a long illness Fr Bulmer died peacefully late evening (25th) at the Park Avenue Nursing Home, Roundhay, Leeds. Please pray for the repose of Fr David's soul and for his family and friends at this time. May he now rest in peace.

THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER is associated with prayer for the Holy Souls. Masses will be offered throughout the year for those whose names are on the November Dead List. Envelopes are available - please **print** the names of your deceased relatives, together with your offering. This can be handed to Canon Larkin. A total of 40 Masses were offered for the deceased relatives and friends of the parish 2024/25. Return the envelop today, First Sunday of Advent. Thank you.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS TO THE SACRED PRIESTHOOD Encouraged by the great success of our diocesan vocations promotion initiative that now sees more than 40 young men across the diocese actively exploring the possibility of a vocation to the Priesthood, the Bishop has asked the following prayer be said at the end of Mass in the diocese from next week, the First Sunday of Advent: *Our Lady of Unfailing Help! Pray that the Lord of the Harvest will send labourers into His harvest and that He will grant an abundance of vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life within the Diocese of Leeds, and throughout the world. Amen*

2026 DIOCESAN YEAR BOOKS The annual publication provides a very valuable physical record and guide to the life and mission of our Diocese, not only for immediate use but also for archival reference. Available soon.

LEEDS CATHEDRAL BBC Radio 4 recording of morning worship for Christmas day on Sunday 7 December: If you would like to come along and be part of the recording, the Cathedral doors will open at 3pm; please be seated by 3.30pm. All welcome.

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 and prepare your heart for the coming Feast.

ADVENT DEANERY CONFESSION This year, Advent Confession will take place at **St Mary's Halifax on Saturday December 20**, from 9:00am to 4:00pm. This sacred opportunity calls us to reflect on the transformative power of the Sacrament of Reconciliation; 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. Let us embrace this time of penance and grace as we ready ourselves to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, renewed in spirit and heart.

QUIZ NIGHT ALERT Mark your calendars for **Friday, 5 December** at 6:30pm — it's time for another *fun-filled evening of trivia, laughter, and community spirit*. As winter draws in, come and enjoy the warmth of great company and a buzzing atmosphere. Test your brainpower with rounds of general knowledge and rebus puzzles — who will be crowned this year's champions? We'll keep you fuelled with tea, coffee, juice, and a delicious pie & pea supper. Feel free to bring your own tipples. Tickets: £5 per person or £15 per family, available from Julie & Jo after Sunday Masses — virtual tickets available. Get your thinking caps on and join us for an unforgettable night of fun, food, and friendly competition.

LAUDATO SI' ADVENT ECO-FAIR, HINSLEY HALL, LS6 2BX, Saturday 13 December 10am to 3pm. FREE entry! Stalls, activities, advice, refreshments. PLUS, Adoration in the Chapel & (weather dependent) short Rosary Walk. If YOUR parish, business, or charity would like a stall, contact communications@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

FIRST RECONCILIATION NOTE - Reconciliation - 11.00am - 28 March 2026 at St Bernard's Halifax. 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 Jo at Mass or ring 07725 854932 if you are interested in this.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL Our preparation is well underway. Sacrament of Reconciliation (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 and we will get back to you.

ROGER O'DOHERTY is selling his bird/wildlife calendars for charity. All profits are split equally between Calder Food Support our local foodbank and Medical Aid for Palestinians - two incredibly worthy causes. The calendars are £10 each, please see Jo to buy one.

ADVANCE NOTICE Hebden Bridge Brass Band Christmas concert, Sunday 21 December.

FLOWER ROTA If anyone would like to join the flower rota, see Doris or Liz. Thank you.

JESUIT INSTITUTE ONLINE 2025-26 PROGRAMME The online public programme has been developed to share the riches of Ignatian spirituality with as many people as possible. All details and events on website <https://www.jesuitinstitute.org/events>

THE MAYOR, CLLR KEITH BUTTERICK will be holding a fundraising quiz for his chosen charity White Ribbon UK, on Thursday, 29 January 2026 at 7.30pm at the Shoulder of Mutton in Mytholmroyd, HX7 5DZ. The quiz is only £2 per person to enter with up to 4 people per team. Each team will receive a free pizza on the evening too. Please see attached and below, flyer with more details. If you would like to take part, please reply to info@hebdenroydtowncouncil.gov.uk

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.

LEEDS CATHEDRAL VACANCY Leeds Cathedral is recruiting a part time caretaker to work with a small, dedicated team. For an application form and further information, please e-mail your contact details to recruitment@dioceseofleeds.org.uk Or alternatively for an informal chat, please phone 0113 245 4545. Closing date for applications is Friday 12 December.