

The Good Shepherd

Roman Catholic Diocese of Leeds | Registered Charity No. 249404

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

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

Safeguarding Team - 0113 2618046 – Safe Spaces free helpline 0300 303 1056

Website www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk

Facebook: **The Good Shepherd**

Website: www.thegoodshepherd.org.uk

Safeguarding: psr.jtalbot@dioceseofleeds.org.uk



SEASON OF ADVENT- YEAR: A(II)

SUNDAY 7TH SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday 07 Dec	9.30 am	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	Kathleen Metcalfe [LD]
Monday 08 Dec			
Tuesday 09 Dec		Advent Week 2	
Wednesday 10 Dec	12noon	Advent Week 2	Canon Larkin [GH]
Thursday 11 Dec		Advent Week 2	
Friday 12 Dec		Advent Week 2	
Saturday 13 Dec	10.00am	St Lucy, Virgin and Martyr	Anthony Derwin [LD] of Dublin City
Sunday 14 Dec	9.30 am	GAUDETE SUNDAY	Michael Plunkett [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 *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, Creator of the Stars of Night, Hark, a Herald Voice Is Calling*, 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**

30/11/2025 Week 35 Total £128.90 | WK34 CO £4.53 |

BANKED – 01 DEC 2025 - £130.00 | WK35CO £3.43 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

CHAIRS REPORT - Thank you to everyone who stayed behind to hear the 2024/25 Chair's Report which was attached to last week's email newsletter. All questions raised have been noted and will be reviewed and discussed at the next Parish Council meeting on 20 January 2026, after which feedback will be shared with the parish.

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 now £5.

THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER As this sacred month of prayer for the Holy Souls draws to a close, a gentle reminder that our November Dead List will be close this week and the Masses will be offered faithfully throughout the coming year 2025/26. If you have not yet returned your envelope, please do so today. Thank you

JOIN BISHOP MARCUS IN PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS 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.

CAROL SERVICE AT THE BRIERY followed by mulled wine and mince pies - Wednesday 17 December 7.30pm at The Briery, Ilkley. All are welcome to attend this free event, but please book your place so we bake enough mince pies! 01943 607287 or admin@briery.org.uk

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.

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.

CATHOLIC DIOCESAN SUPPLY SERVICE We are looking for Teachers, Teaching Assistants and SEN Support Staff to work with schools across the Diocese. Please Call us on 0113 331 4121 or 01422 384 100

CATHOLIC CARE IS RECRUITING Support Ambassadors – Extra Care service - Skipton. Salary £26,096 pro rata. 35 hours per week plus on-call at £100 per shift. Flexibility re shift work and weekends and experience of working with older adults / vulnerable people required. Please email CV to recruitment@catholic-care.org.uk

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.