

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**

Email: pp.thegoodshepherd@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

Telephone: **01422 832085**

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 14th + GAUDETE SUNDAY + ADVENT WEEK 4 + CHRISTMAS TIME

Sunday 14 Dec	9.30 am	GAUDETE SUNDAY	Michael Plunkett [LD]
Wednesday 17 Dec	NO MASS TODAY	Advent Weekday	-
Saturday 20 Dec	10.00am	Advent Weekday	Miss Gill [A]
Sunday 21 Dec	9.30 am	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Kathleen Metcalfe [LD]
Monday 22 Dec	-	Advent Weekday	
Tuesday 23 Dec	-	Advent Weekday	09.30am*(Sowerby Bridge)
Wednesday 24 Dec	-	NO MASS TODAY	5.30pm*(Sowerby Bridge)
Thursday 25 Dec	9.30 am	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	Elio and Maria Manfredi [A]
Friday 26 Dec	-	ST STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR FEAST	09.30am*(Sowerby Bridge)
Saturday 27 Dec	10.00am	STJOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST	November Dead List 2025/6
Sunday 28 Dec	9.30 am	THE HOLY FAMILY CLOSING OF THE ORDINARY JUBILEE OF THE YEAR 2025 IN THE DIOCESE	Sheila Jackson [A]

**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**

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

A LOT OF ACTIVITY must be compressed into a small space, so please accept this newsletter as my “Advent” and “Christmas” message combined.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER COLLECTION there will be a collection for flowers for Christmas today Sunday 14 December, Thank you for your continued support, Barbara.

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 the Moses Basket is at the back of church. The project would be grateful for baby toiletries, nappies and knitwear.

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**, 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.

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

07/12/2025 Week 36 Total £124.12 | WK35 CO £3.43 |

BANKED – 08 DEC 2025 - £125.00 | WK36CO £2.55 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

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’**. Thank you for your kind support.

THE NOVEMBER DEAD LIST closed this week, and the Masses will be offered faithfully throughout the coming year 2025/26. 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.

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

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.