

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/

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Website www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk

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Sunday 21st + FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - CHRISTMAS TIME

Sunday 21 Dec	9.30 am	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Kathleen Metcalfe [LD]
Monday 22 Dec	-	Advent Weekday	09.30am*(Sowerby Bridge)
Tuesday 23 Dec	-	Advent Weekday	
Wednesday 24 Dec	-	<i>Vigil Mass of the Nativity of the Lord</i>	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 2025/26
Sunday 28 Dec	9.30 am	THE HOLY FAMILY	Sheila Jackson [A]
Monday 29 Dec	-	ST THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP AND MARTYR FEAST	
Tuesday 30 Dec	-	SIXTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE	
Wednesday 31 Dec	-	NO MASS TODAY	
Thursday 01 Jan		SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD 20+C+M+B+26	09.30am*(Sowerby Bridge)
Friday 02 Jan		Ss Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen	Yorkshire Brethren 2026 JAN
Saturday 03 Jan	10.00am	The Most Holy Name of Jesus	
Sunday 04 Jan	09.30am	SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY	Julie Talbot & family

**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 We are most grateful for the generous response to the Christmas Flower Collection, which raised **£180**. Sincere thanks to all who contributed so kindly, helping to adorn our church with beauty and reverence during the celebration of our Lord's Nativity.

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.

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**

14/12/2025 Week 37 Total £69.90 | WK36 CO £2.55 |

BANKED – 15 DEC 2025 - £70.00 | WK37CO £2.45 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.

QUIZ NIGHT - We are incredibly grateful to everyone who attended our fundraising quiz night and to all who helped make it such a wonderful success. Thanks to your generosity, we raised an amazing **£114** for the Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust (see Bethlehemcare&hospicetrust.org for further information). Your support of these social events means so much, and we truly appreciate your generosity!

LOURDES- Booking for 2026 Lourdes Pilgrimage is now open at <https://www.tangney-tours-and-pilgrimages/diocese-leeds/> If you feel that you could volunteer as a doctor, nurse or carer please get in touch with Julie at chief.nurse@dioceseofleeds.org.uk for further information. You will need to register as a volunteer prior to booking a place.

THE NOVEMBER DEAD LIST Masses will be offered faithfully throughout the coming year 2025/26. List is printed and framed in the sacristy. 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.

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

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.