

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 – 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



Sunday 28th + THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

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 2026		SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD 20+C+M+B+26	<i>09.30am*(Sowerby Bridge)</i>
Friday 02 Jan		Ss Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen	
Saturday 03 Jan	10.00am	The Most Holy Name of Jesus	Yorkshire Brethren 2026 JAN
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

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

21/12/2025 Week 38 Total £352.55 | WK37 CO £2.45 |

BANKED – 22 DEC 2025 - £355.00 | WK38CO £0.00 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. Thank you for your kind support.

AS WE STEP AWAY from the festive warmth of Christmas, the Church invites us to fix our gaze upon one of the most enduring images of our faith: the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. In a mystery both profound and beautiful, the Son of God chose not splendour or privilege, but the simplicity of family life. He entered the world as every child does within the loving shelter of a home. By this divine choice, the humble household of Nazareth is lifted up as a light for every family, a living sign of hope, love, and unity for the world.

It was in Nazareth that the early years of our Lord's human life quietly unfolded. There, Jesus grew in wisdom and grace, surrounded by the steadfast love of Mary and the gentle, faithful protection of Joseph whose care reflected the tenderness and faithfulness of God Himself. Within those modest walls, daily life was sanctified by love, work, prayer, and trust in God's providence.

As we reflect upon the Holy Family, may their example dwell deeply within our hearts. Let us pray that Our Blessed Lady intercedes for every household in our parish, helping us to grow ever closer to the pattern of holiness first lived in Nazareth, so that our world may be renewed in unity and peace.

Prayer for the New Year

Come, Holy Spirit, be with us today and always.

Be our Light and our Guide,
our Comforter and our Strength.

May this new year be a time of spiritual growth:

a time to welcome your graces and gifts,
a time to forgive freely and love generously,
a time to grow more deeply in faith.

Come, Holy Spirit,
be with us today and always. Amen.

CHRISTMAS 2025 AND THE NEW YEAR 2026 As we celebrate Christmas together and look ahead to the New Year, I wish to express my sincere thanks for your kindness, your prayers, your cards, and your generous support throughout the year. I am deeply grateful for the spirit of faith and goodwill that marks our parish community here in Mytholmroyd. I take this opportunity to wish you, your families, and all within our district the rich blessings of Christmas, and a peaceful, New Year. With every good wish, my heartfelt thanks, and the assurance of my prayers for you and for those you hold dear. Canon Larkin

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.

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.