

Fourth Sunday of Advent 24th December 2017

St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Bilton, Harrogate

Sunday 24th December 2017

6:30pm Saturday (Vigil)
Intention: John Collinson (A)
Reader:

9:30am Sunday Mass
Intention: People of the Parish
Reader: Greg Warren



The Nativity of the Lord

Christmas Eve

5:00pm Christmas Eve Vigil Children's Mass –
Father's Intention

11:30pm – Carols followed by Midnight Mass.
Father's Intention

Christmas Day

8am – Father's Intention
11am – Father's Intention

Readers at Mass - next week

Saturday (Vigil): Alicia Player

Sunday 8.00am: Teresa Carmody

Sunday 11:00am: Gosia Smith & Greg Warren

Devotion

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament before each Mass.
Rosary recited after each Mass.

Confessions

5.30pm – 6.00pm

Saturday evening or by appointment.

Marriage and Baptism

By appointment and after preparation. Marriages require a minimum of 6 month notice.

Please remember in your prayers:

Those who are sick: Jean Harston, James Mularkey, Georgina McCaul, Baby Elspeth Morris, Gemma Smith, Alex & Mary Hobson, Father Angelo, Monsignor Philip Holyroyd. Anne Hennigan, Jacqueline Scruton, Carol Wood, Arthur Thompson, Mary Hammond.

Those who have died

Tuesday 26th December 2017

Feast: *St Stephen, the First Martyr*

Intention:

No Mass

Wednesday 27th December 2017

Feast: *St John the Evangelist, Apostle*

Intention: Charlie Doherty

10:00am Mass

Thursday 28th December 2017

(HMP Wetherby Young Offenders)

Chaplaincy

Friday 29th December 2017

Feast: *St Thomas Beckett, Bishop & Martyr*

Intention: Helena Ford

10:00am Mass

Parish Priest: Rev. Father Neil Byrne

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Welcome – If you are a visitor to our Parish St Joseph, on behalf of the parishioners we want you to know how welcome you are – whether you are from another parish in the diocese, or from another part of the country. A special welcome to you if it's been a long time since you have been to Mass – it's good to have you here with us. Welcome one and all. Welcome Lord Jesus.

CRIB OFFERINGS: Once again this year, with the encouragement of Bishop Marcus, our parish will be donating crib offerings to Friends of the Holy Land. Every penny will help the poorest Christian families, especially in and around Bethlehem, the West Bank, Gaza and Israel, with education, employment, health and housing initiatives. FHL is apolitical and ecumenical. For further information, please take a look at the poster on the notice board and please keep our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land in your prayers at this time.'

I would like to thank you all so very much for your many kindnesses throughout this last year and for your generosity and affection during this holy season. I wish you all a very holy and enriching Christmas and a peaceful New Year. May the Christ child bless you and your families and may His holy angels guard and protect you today and always.

Sacramental Preparations: The Bishop has determined that the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is to be prepared for and celebrated in Year 3 of Primary School, and First Eucharist (Holy Communion) in Year 4. The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated in Year 6 for this cohort, with some preparation in Year 5. Next year, 2018, Confirmation will be celebrated for candidates in Year 7 and 8. Parents who have children in our Catholic School will receive further information directly from the school in due course. Parents who have children in schools other than St Joseph's or St John Fisher should provide their contact details and the name and DOB of the children to be prepared. We will then arrange a meeting for all parents to enrol their child onto the programme. The programme for Sacramental Preparations in accordance with the Diocesan recommendations are as follows:

- **Year 3 Parents Meeting:** Thursday 18th January 2018
- **First Reconciliation Class for Year 3 Children:** Saturday 17th March 10am-3pm
- **Celebration of Reconciliation:** Thursday 22nd March 2018 – 6pm-7:30pm.
- **Confirmation for Year 7 Children:** Class: Saturday 21st April 2018 – 10am-3pm.
- **Confirmation Mass:** Thursday 3rd May 2018 at 7pm here at St Joseph's Church.

Parish Christmas walk. Thursday 28th December Ripon Rowels along the canal and paths to Bishop Monkton and return via Littlethorpe around 5 miles easy going. Meet Church car park for 9.30 depart to Ripon St Marygate lower car park. Contact John Tweddle 523332 for further details.

Boxing Day Pilgrimage from Ripon Cathedral. Last year an estimated 1500 people, including many Parishioners, took part in the Annual Boxing Day Pilgrimage from Ripon Cathedral to Fountains Abbey. Tuesday 26th December leaving the Cathedral around 10.15. approx. 4 miles, group returning via banks of river Skell. Contact John Tweddle 523332 for further details.

Christmas 'Hamper's Squares - Thank you to all who contributed to the 'Christmas Hampers'. Because of your generosity we were able to make up twenty hampers. The total money raised was **£968** which will go to parish funds. Thank you to all who supported this parish fundraiser.

Christmas Offering: The offering given during the Christmas Masses is YOUR personal gift to me, your priest and forms part of the annual income of priests. Along with the offering at Easter it makes up a significant proportion of our yearly income. If you are a taxpayer and would like to gift aid your offering (the gift aid element is retained by the Parish). Envelopes are available.

HOLYDAYS OF OBLIGATION: The Bishops' Conference of England & Wales has decreed the following changes to the observance from 2018: The Epiphany, currently kept on the first Sunday after New Year, will be celebrated on 6th January (or on the nearest Sunday if the 6th falls on Saturday or Monday). The Ascension, currently kept on the Sunday before Pentecost, will be celebrated on the Thursday after the 6th Sunday of Easter, that is, 40 days after Easter Sunday.

Feast of the Epiphany will be celebrated on Sunday 7th January 2018.

**MAY YOU HAVE A VERY
HAPPY & HOLY CHRISTMAS**



May God bless you, your family and friends, on this feast when He sent His Son to show us how much He loves us.

**Last Week's Collection: Loose: £376.47 – Envelopes: £373.50 – Total: £749.47 - (Weekly S/O's: £442.00)
200 Club Winners: To be announced – Retiring Collection for Flowers raised; £168.45. Thank you.**