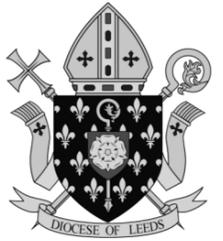




Welcome to St Joseph's Catholic Church Bilton, Harrogate



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St Joseph's Catholic Church
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Diocese of Leeds Registered Charity No: 249404

“Things have a price, and can be for sale; but people have a dignity which is priceless, and worth far more than things.” Pope Francis

SERVICES & MASS INTENTIONS

**** Please Note - as from 8th August face coverings are required to be worn in Church****

Sunday 30th August 2020	Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A	
Please book in advance to attend any of the Masses throughout the week	5.30pm (Sat Vigil)	Mass (Fr Phil Fitzgerald [LD])
	8.00am	Mass (In honour of the Immaculate Heart of Mary)
	11.00am	Mass (PARISH)
	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Church Open for Private Prayer
Tuesday 1st September	Weekday in Ordinary Time	
	7.00pm	Mass (Revv Callaghan, Hilton & Leavy [Sp Int])
Wednesday 2nd September	Weekday in Ordinary Time	
	9.30am	Mass (Bill Hird [A])
Thursday 3rd September	St Gregory the Great, Pope & Doctor of the Church	
	9.30am	Mass (Mrs Antram [A])
Friday 4th September	Weekday in Ordinary Time	
	9.30am	Mass (...)
Sunday 6th September 2020	Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A	
Please book in advance to attend any of the Masses throughout the week	4.30pm - 5.00pm	Confessions
	5.30pm (Sat Vigil)	Mass (Stuart Bell [LD])
	8.00am	Mass (PARISH)
	11.00am	Mass (Kathleen Keogh [A])
	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Church Open for Private Prayer

Please pray for...

Brothers and sisters, let us bring our prayers to God, who has always been our help.
For Christians who suffer — that the Church may help them bear their crosses (*pause*). Lord, hear us.
For people criticised for doing the right thing — that they may hold firm (*pause*). Lord, hear us.
For the grace to build real communities celebrating our uniqueness and diversity, and supporting all people in the hardships of life (*pause*). Lord, hear us.
For people suffering because of the pandemic; for those parts of the world ravaged by natural disaster, warfare or civil and political unrest (*pause*). Lord, hear us.
For all who struggle with illness, of mind or body (*pause*). Lord, hear us.
For the faithful departed, that sharing the cross of Christ they may also share his victory over death (*pause*). Lord, hear us.
O Lord our God, your love is better than life: come to our help, we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

 Please remember to turn-off mobile phones before Mass begins...Thank you!

Mass Intentions Received Recently:

Bill Hird (A); Kathleen Keogh (A); Jack Emmett (A); Stuart Bell (LD); David Hughes (LD).

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions):

It is not possible to use the small confessional to hear confessions at the moment, because of Covid restrictions, and the need to sanitise and ventilate enclosed areas between uses, however I am keen to make available the sacrament of Reconciliation each week. So as of next weekend, I shall be available in the south transept (close to the old confessional) to hear confessions on Saturday evenings before Mass between 4.30pm and 5.00pm.

Booking for Mass Online:

St Joseph's Catholic Church serving our local parish community within the Diocese of Leeds.

Due to COVID-19, it has become necessary for the parish to operate a registration system, in order for us to reduce the risk of infection for parishioners and visitors.

The registration system will allow individuals, families, and groups to secure a seat at Mass. It will also prove to be a useful tool which will help our stewards to co-ordinate visits safely on arrival.

Please note that one ticket is required for individuals, one ticket is required for households of 2, and only two tickets are required for households of 3 or more. Visitors will be able to select the number of tickets at the top right-hand corner of the registration page.

The system will also ask permission to share data with the parish, and so ensuring that data protection measures are maintained.

The Diocese Data Privacy Policy can be viewed at www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk/gdpr/

Before registering to attend Mass, please ensure:

- You do not have any symptoms associated with COVID-19 (e.g. fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, sneezing/runny nose or loss of sense of smell)
- You do not have COVID-19 nor are you awaiting the results from being tested for COVID-19
- You have not been in contact with any known or suspected cases of COVID-19 in the past 14 days
- You have not returned, or been in contact with anyone else who has returned, from overseas in the past 14 days.

We very much look forward to seeing you once again at Holy Mass

The God Who Gives Life:

The Year of the Word has now been extended due to the pandemic, and events will continue into 2021. Although our events were disrupted by the lock-down, we are delighted to announce that our 'The God Who Gives Life' series of talks on Flourishing in Scripture will be resuming online from next month. The talks will now be hosted live via Zoom meetings, and later available as recordings on the Diocesan Year of the Word YouTube Channel where previous talks are also available.

www.youtube.com/channel/UCQkXJV2l_tfKN8mprT5SNnA
The first talk will be given by John Newton (Senior Press Officer for Aid to the Church in Need), who will speak to us via Zoom on 'The God who Suffers: Flourishing in the Face of Persecution', from 7.00pm – 8.00pm on Wednesday 9th September 2020.

There is no limit on places, but to receive a link to

attend the Zoom meeting, please email gregory.stacey@dioceseofleeds.org.uk.

The Briery Retreat House to Re-Open:

We are pleased to announce that we will re-open on 3rd August 2020 with the following events:

25th - 27th September - Bereavement Weekend (*with opportunity for Day Guests*) Abi & John May run these gentle retreats for people of all ages who have suffered loss through bereavement. The goal is finding courage and hope as we continue our life's journey.

For more information contact Sr Susan at The Briery Retreat Centre, 38 Victoria Avenue, Ilkley, West Yorkshire, LS29 9BW. Tel: 01943 607287 www.briery.org.uk

Saints, Scholars and Spiritual Masters:

We will be offering a series of online talks, "Saints, Scholars and Spiritual Masters", over the next few months. Exploring some of the great figures of Western spirituality with well-known experts, the series is free to attend online. It will take place at 7:30pm on Thursdays, beginning on 3rd September and running through till 10th December. Simply register to receive a link, either online at <https://christianheritagecentre.com/event/saints-scholars-spiritual-masters/> or by email to events@christianheritagecentre.com

A Call for Love and Care:

In an article published in The Tablet online, the Lead Bishop for Health and Social Care, Bishop Paul Mason stresses that we must look at those living with dementia in care homes through the lens of love.

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Dame Barbara Windsor's husband, Scott Mitchell, recently spoke out about the pain he felt at leaving his wife in a care home due to her worsening condition with Alzheimer's. Speaking to the BBC, he said:

"I feel I'm on an emotional rollercoaster. I walk around, trying to keep busy, then burst into tears. It feels like a bereavement."

This feeling of bereavement has been accentuated during the COVID-19 pandemic for thousands of people who have partners, family members and friends with dementia living in care homes.

As COVID-19 restrictions gradually ease, more vulnerable members of society have been able to regain some of the crucial human connections which felt so distant at the height of the lockdown. If we are a country that is serious about preventing a mental health crisis in the aftermath of COVID-19, now is the time for us to start talking honestly and openly about the care sector and how we treat residents with dementia. They cannot be left behind.

Equal dignity and value

As Catholics our starting point is that we are all made equally in the image of God. Human value is not a measure of our mental or physical capacity, our societal function, our age, our health or of any other qualitative assessment.

God made each of us and in so doing gave us all equal dignity and value. It is the love of God and the love of those around us which ensure that this dignity is not lost at any point, especially during sickness and dying.

People suffering with dementia are some of the most vulnerable in our society and deserving of all the love and care we can muster. Yet, their care needs can be

neglected, and assumptions made about what is best for them and their relatives who wish to visit them.

An impaired ability to understand new situations or recall memories may seem inconsistent with the great depth of feeling which people with dementia can retain throughout their illness. However, it has been shown that when someone is living with dementia, meaningful human interactions can make a real difference to the rate of progression of this disease.

According to Julia Jones and Nicci Gerrard of John's Campaign, more than 70 per cent of the 440,000 people living in care homes are living with dementia and the majority are in the last years of their lives. While the average length of a stay in residential care is approaching two and a half years, in nursing care the average is 13 months. To have lost five months of such precious time is painful in the extreme, especially when there is no firm hope of reconnection until the loved one is dying, when a visit will finally be allowed.

Committed staff

One cannot deny the commitment which staff in care homes have shown their residents. Many carers became resident themselves, with some leaving their own families for weeks or even months, to look after those in their care. We recognise that these are great sacrifices, for which I thank every single member of staff in care homes. We continue to pray for the souls of those who, in their selfless acts of care, also tragically lost their lives as a result of COVID-19.

Though care home staff have taken on so much more over the last five months, we simply cannot expect them to be able to fill every role involved in caring for a resident. For many, more pressured and intensive schedules simply do not allow carers the time to sit with a resident for long periods, talk or read to them, play them music, hold their hand. This was the care typically provided by loving relatives, often on a daily basis. If relatives are not allowed to visit their loved ones in care homes for prolonged periods, we risk hastening the deterioration and, at worst, the death of people who could have had months of meaningful and loving care through to the natural end of their life.

Love – a crucial part of caring

The care provider Methodist Homes for the Aged has been one of the first to recognise this in recent times, and have formulated a new policy, More Than Just a Visitor, which aims to implement these learnings. The policy defines an essential family carer as "a resident's family member or friend whose care for the resident is an essential element of maintaining their mental or physical health. Without this input a resident is likely to suffer significant distress or continued distress."

Acknowledging that the care of relatives cannot be replaced demonstrates that love is a crucial part of care. The social doctrine of the Church explains that "in order to make society more human, more worthy of the human person, love in social life – political, economic and cultural – must be given renewed value, becoming the constant and highest norm for all activity."

The Government, local authorities and the care sector undoubtedly recognise that there is a fine balance to be struck between protecting vulnerable lives on the one hand, and on the other maintaining a sense of dignity and purpose for those living with a long term illness like dementia. Perhaps now is the time to ask if this line is currently in the right place?

Mental health and wellbeing

Greater encouragement for care homes to follow the lead of the MHA and facilitate family visits, for example, would be a first step towards a more loving attitude towards people with dementia.

Throughout the lockdown, the risks of a possible global mental health crisis have been cited by the World Health Organisation, leading mental health charities and other organisations.

Jones and Gerrard observe:

"Disconnection from the love of the essential relative, is effectively a disconnection from the inner self." This profound truth applies to both care home residents and their relatives on the outside. The mental health and wellbeing of a person with dementia is crucial to their experience of life with this disease. Dr Donald Macaskill, CEO of Scottish Care, has written of experiences of people with dementia in care homes dying of a broken heart due to a lack of contact with their loved ones.

The love which forms the bonds in a relationship goes both ways, and the continued separation of people from their relatives in care homes does not resonate with our national and global focus on improving mental health. We fail in our most basic duty of love and care when we begin to treat those who are sick and dying as dispensable, or worth less than those who are healthy. There is a line between the legitimate protection of others on the one hand and, on the other, what the purpose of being alive is in the first place. As time goes by that line inevitably takes in more of the latter.

When the choice is dying of a long-term degenerative disease or a broken heart, we must look at those living with dementia in care homes through the lens of love.

Right Reverend Paul Mason

Bishop of the Forces

Lead Bishop for Health and Social Care

Giving to St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who has continued to support St Joseph's week in and week out, especially those who have made new arrangements to donate towards the continuing work of our parish during these difficult times. It is possible to make your weekly or monthly offerings in several ways:

1. Set-up a Standing Order with your bank or building society. (GAD forms can be downloaded)
2. Make a one-off payment via internet or telephone banking to the Church using the details below:
Diocese of Leeds St Josephs Harrogate
Sort Code: 40-27-15 Account No: 11017500
3. Use the new text service, to donate £5 text CHURCH BILTON to 70500.
4. Leave a donation (cash or cheque) through the Presbytery letterbox.

Thank you all for your generosity and the support you give to your parish. Bless you all!

Your Parish Needs You!

If we are to be able to open our Church for Private Prayer and for Public Mass we need to increase our team of Stewards. If YOU are able and willing to help by becoming a Steward please contact Elaine Flanagan on 0779 150 0359