



Welcome to St Joseph's Catholic Church Bilton, Harrogate



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"Before all else, the Gospel invites us to respond to the God of love who saves us, to see God in others and to go forth from ourselves to seek the good of others." Pope Francis

SERVICES & MASS INTENTIONS

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

Sunday 27th December 2020 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph



5.30pm (Saturday) Vigil Mass (George Daly [RIP])
8.00am Mass (PARISH)
11.00am Mass (Susan Sheridan [LD])
2.00pm - 4.00pm Church Open for Private Prayer

Monday 28th December The Holy Innocents

12.00noon Mass (Tony Richardson [LD])

Tuesday 29th December St Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr

12.00noon Mass (Stanley Molloy [LD])

Wednesday 30th December Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas

12.00noon Mass (Fr Elliott Wright [Sp Int])

Thursday 31st December Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas

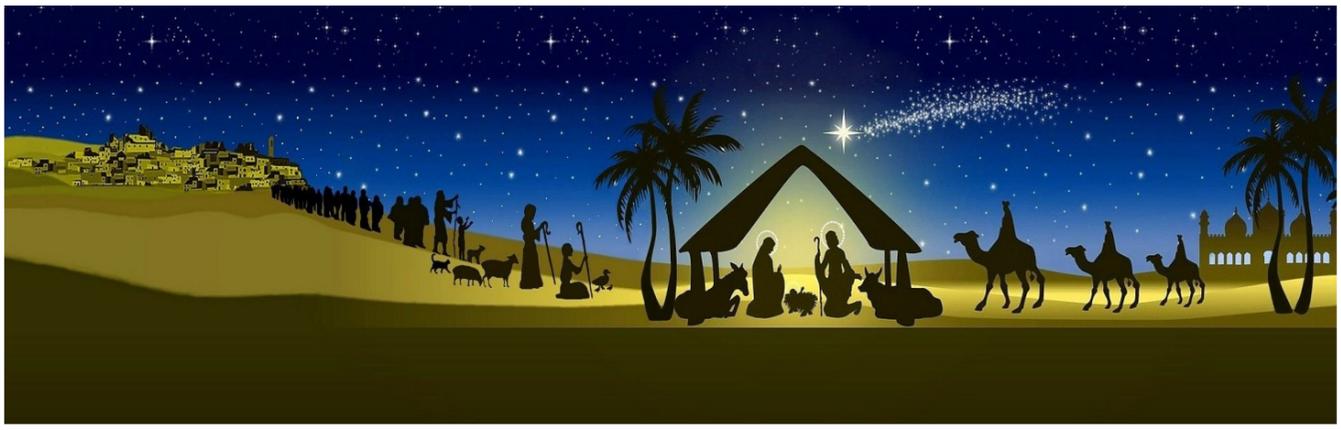
12.00noon Mass (Canon Jim Callaghan [Sp Int])

Friday 1st January 2021 Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

12.00noon Mass (Albert Powell [RIP])

Sunday 3rd January 2021 Second Sunday after the Nativity

5.30pm (Saturday) Vigil Mass (Brindley & Dodds Families [Sp Int])
8.00am Mass (PARISH)
11.00am Mass (Mr & Mrs Costar [RIP])
2.00pm - 4.00pm Church Open for Private Prayer



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

Mass Intentions Received Recently:

Tony Richardson (LD); Bernard Frost (B'day A); George Daly (RIP); Stanley Molloy (RIP); Albert Powell (RIP); Canon Jim Callaghan (Sp Int); Fr Elliott Wright (Sp Int).

Thank you all!

All who have visited St Joseph's these past days, or have visited virtually online, cannot help but notice how beautiful our church looks for the celebration of Christmas - this did not just happen! A sincere thank you to the talented and socially distanced team of flower arrangers who came in during the days before Christmas to beautify the church. Thank you too to our trusty band of cleaners, who also came to prepare our church as a fitting place to celebrate the feast. Our liturgies have been simpler this year - but always beautiful and fitting - sincere thanks to Gill and our 'socially distanced' choir, to our altar servers and MCs and of course to our band of stewards, without whom we would be unable to open our church for Mass. Thank you to all who have in any way worked to prepare our church for Christmas, and of course all those who perform these duties and ministries throughout the rest of the year, thank you all...and bless you all! Fr Stephen.

More Thanks!

Sincere thanks to all who have been so generous towards me this Christmas with gifts and cards...Pablo is very excited by the numerous squeaky toys he has been gifted (Fr Stephen, less so!) but the presbytery is certainly alive with the sound of squeaking. Thank you too for your generous Christmas Offerings which are, of course, gratefully received. May God bless each one of you this Christmastime, and in the coming New Year. Fr Stephen.

Festival of Lessons & Carols:

This year, our carol service was prepared for us by St Joseph's school, and features traditional and contemporary carols and readings, recorded by our school community in line with present Covid restrictions. The service is still available on our parish YouTube Channel.

Celebrating the Octave of Christmas:

It was not possible for every member of our parish family to come to St Joseph's for one of the Masses on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day...and so, the Bishop is encouraging us to see the Feast as an Octave, and not just one day. If you are able to attend Mass, and are not shielding or self-isolating, then please book tickets for one of the Masses which will be celebrated daily from Monday 28th December until Friday 1st January at 12.00noon - these Masses are a continuation of the Christmas Day Masses, and a celebration of the various feasts which follow Christmas Day.

Resources for the Octave of Christmas:

The Diocese has prepared a number of resources for the celebration of the Christmas Octave - some of these resources are available at the back of church, others are available online, using the link below: www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk/youth/links-resources-youth/

Church Opening - Stewards Required:

Now that we are able to offer public Mass once again, and in order to ensure that we can open for more Masses over Christmas and the New Year, we really do

need to encourage people to offer their time as a Steward. Please, if YOU can help, contact Elaine Flannigan on 07791 500359, training will be given!

Confirmation 2021:

Year 6 Children and above - the date for Confirmation is being set as Saturday 13th February (depending upon Covid restrictions in place at the time). An email will be sent out to parents this week who have already enrolled their children previously (for Reconciliation and First Holy Communion) - there are also application forms available for those who have not yet enrolled, please collect one from the sacristy.

Harrogate Homeless Project:

Dear All, just a note to say thank you, to all who have contributed to the raffle, to raise funds for Harrogate Homeless Project. I am thrilled to say that we raised £1011. This was possible because of your generosity. Val Burdon (On Behalf of the Italian community LA BUONA NOTIZIA, Harrogate)

Friends of the Holy Land – Update:

As a Parish we will once again support the work of Friends of the Holy Land with our particular Crib Offerings - from Christmas Eve, and throughout the Octave there will be a box available to place in your offerings for Friends of the Holy Land close to the crib. If you place any offerings into the main collection box, specifically for FHL then please place them in an envelope and clearly mark it FHL. Thank you for your support.

Diocese of Leeds Year Book 2021:

Copies of the Diocesan Year Book have now arrived, they are available upstairs in church at a cost of £4.00 per copy...an ideal "stocking filler"!!

Holy Innocents Feast Day:

Leeds People for Life's vigil is on Monday 28th December from 11.00am – 12.00noon. Please join in spirit, to pray for the unborn and for all those affected by abortion.

Relax and Revive with Catholic Care

Join Janet Kent from Catholic Care every Monday afternoon at 4pm for a friendly online relaxation group. For more information call Janet on 07739975008. Just cut and paste the link below to join in. Sessions will last 30 minutes. Join Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 742 8178 5015 Passcode: 9Td1UL

Catholic Care Community Response Service:

Are you finding lockdown isolating and would welcome some support? Catholic Care have organised a number of initiatives that are designed to help. We have weekly relax and revive sessions, a telephone befriending service or an online social group with different themes and speakers each week. For more details contact Catholic Care 0113 3885400 or Janet 07739 975008.

Parish Finance:

Thank you to everyone who continues to support the work of our parish through weekly or monthly giving, your generosity is greatly appreciated, please don't forget us over the coming four weeks of lockdown! You are able to leave donations in Church during Opening Times, or through the Presbytery letterbox at any time. Standing Order forms are available at the back of Church. Thank you, and bless you! Fr Stephen.

Pope Francis' "Urbi et Orbi":

"To us a child is born, to us a son is given" (Is 9:6). The theme of the Pope's Christmas message looks at how Jesus was born for everyone, "the 'Son' that God has given to the entire human family"

Pope Francis gave his traditional Christmas message and Blessing Urbi et Orbi ("To the City [of Rome] and the World"), offering words of hope and consolation, saying a birth is always a source of hope, and "this Child, Jesus, was born 'to us' ... without any borders, privileges or exclusions."

He pronounced his message in the Hall of Benediction of St. Peter's Basilica, the upper area just behind the central loggia where he would usually have delivered his message. The pandemic and safety measures in place led to a decision to avoid the risk of large public gatherings in St. Peter's Square and hence to broadcast live his message from inside the Basilica.

Pope Francis' Christmas Message and Urbi et Orbi Blessing

We are all brothers and sisters.

The Pope underscored that thanks to the Christ Child "we can all call one another brothers and sisters" even as we hail from every continent, every language and culture, with our own identities and differences. He said this fundamental reality is something we can all build on to address the monumental challenges we are facing at this moment in history, such as the ecological crisis and serious economic and social imbalances worsened by the coronavirus pandemic.

God has made this fraternal unity possible, by giving us his Son Jesus

The unity we need and seek as brothers and sisters, God has made possible, the Pope said, "by giving us his Son Jesus", a fraternity that is "grounded in genuine love", where we can encounter others who are different, feel compassion for their sufferings, and draw near and care for them even if they "do not belong to my family, my ethnic group or my religion."

The Pope prayed that the Child of Bethlehem might help us open our hearts to help the vulnerable, the sick, those unemployed and affected by the pandemic, as well as women who have suffered domestic violence during the lockdowns. He also called for a spirit of international cooperation starting with health care to ensure all will have access to vaccines and treatment.

Pray for the suffering and work for peace

"In everyone, I see reflected the face of God, and in those who suffer, I see the Lord pleading for my help. I see him in the sick, the poor, the unemployed, the marginalized, the migrant and the refugee."

Looking at the lights and shadows in our world, the

Pope offered his prayers and encouraged all people to offer theirs to remember the many children worldwide who are victims of war, especially in Syria, Iraq and Yemen. He called on courageous efforts to work for peace there and throughout the Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean, and that the Infant Jesus might heal the wounds of the beloved Syrian people and bring comfort to Iraqis and those working for reconciliation, recalling especially the Yazidis who have suffered greatly.

He prayed that peace may take root in Libya and that Israelis and Palestinians might regain mutual trust to continue dialogue to overcome grievances. He encouraged the Lebanese to keep hope alive and for leaders to work for reforms so that the country can persevere in its vocation of freedom and peaceful coexistence.

Looking at other areas of the world, he prayed that the international community be supported in efforts to continue the ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh, eastern Ukraine. And in areas where armed conflicts and humanitarian crisis persist, he remembered Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Ethiopia, Mozambique, South Sudan, Nigeria, and Cameroon and for their suffering to finally end.

The Pope remembered the American continent, especially affected by the coronavirus pandemic, and for a calming of tensions in Chile and Venezuela. He recalled the victims of natural disasters, especially in the Philippines and Vietnam. He noted the suffering of the Rohingya people and that they might find respite and hope.

Despite the great difficulties we are facing, the Pope noted that the Christ child "tells us that pain and evil are not the final word", and he remembered as examples those who "instead work to bring hope, comfort and help to those who suffer and those who are alone."

In conclusion, Pope Francis recalled families who are unable to unite today due to the pandemic. He prayed that Christmas might help us rediscover "the family as a cradle of life and faith, a place of acceptance and love, dialogue, forgiveness" and "source of peace for all humanity".

Wishing all a Merry Christmas, he then gave his "Urbi et Orbi" Blessing:

May the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, in whose power and authority we trust, intercede for us before the Lord.

R: Amen.

Through the prayers and merits of Blessed Mary ever Virgin, Saint Michael the Archangel, Saint John the Baptist, the holy apostles Peter and Paul, and all the saints, may Almighty God have mercy on you and forgive all your sins, and may Jesus Christ bring you to everlasting life.

R: Amen.

May the almighty and merciful Lord grant you indulgence, absolution and the remission of all your sins, a season of true and fruitful penance, a well-disposed heart, amendment of life, the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit and final perseverance in good works.

R: Amen.

And may the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you forever.

R: Amen.