



Welcome to St Joseph's Catholic Church Bilton, Harrogate



St Joseph's Catholic Church
www.stjosephsharrogate.org.uk
Diocese of Leeds Registered Charity No: 249404

Parish Priest: Fr Stephen Webb
St Joseph's Presbytery
281 Skipton Road
Harrogate HG1 3HD
Tel: (01423) 504124
e-mail: stephen.webb@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

"Dear sister, dear brother, even if in your heart you have buried hope, do not give up: God is greater. Darkness and death do not have the last word. Be strong, for with God nothing is lost!" Pope Francis

SERVICES & MASS INTENTIONS

**** Please Note - as from 8th August 2020 face coverings are required to be worn in Church****

Sunday 2nd May 2021	Fifth Sunday of Easter - Year B
	4.30pm - 5.00pm (Sat Eve) Confessions
	5.30pm (Saturday) Vigil Mass (Canon Phil Fitzgerald [RIP])
	8.00am Mass (PARISH)
	11.00am Mass (Chris, Nick, Helen & Kate [Sp Int])
	2.00pm - 4.00pm Church Open for Private Prayer
Tuesday 4th May	The English Martyrs
	7.00pm Mass (Thanksgiving to St Anthony)
Wednesday 5th May	Weekday of Easter
	9.30am Mass (Burns Family [Sp Int])
Thursday 6th May	Weekday of Easter
	9.30am Mass (Eddie McGourty [LD])
Friday 7th May	St John of Beverley, Bishop
	9.30am Mass (George Daly [RIP])
Sunday 9th May 2021	Sixth Sunday of Easter - Year B
	4.30pm - 5.00pm (Sat Eve) Confessions
	5.30pm (Saturday) Vigil Mass (Henry Santos [LD])
	8.00am Mass (PARISH)
	11.00am Mass (Duffin Family Departed [RIP])
	2.00pm - 4.00pm Church Open for Private Prayer

We Pray For...

Praising God for the wonders of creation, we bring our prayers to the Lord.

For all the baptised, that we may never be separated from Christ, the true vine (*pause*). Lord, hear us...

For people suffering with COVID-19, particularly those in India and Brazil (*pause*). Lord, hear us...

For the success of the vaccine programme, both here and abroad (*pause*). Lord, hear us...

For a safe re-opening of our society (*pause*). Lord, hear us...

For all who are sick, at home or in hospital (*pause*). Lord, hear us...

For those who face exams and assessments this summer, that God may be with them (*pause*). Lord, hear us...

For all whose pilgrimage on earth is over, especially those who have died recently, that they and all the faithful departed may reach their final destination, at the Father's house (*pause*). Lord, hear us...

God our creator, we praise you for your mighty deeds: hear the prayers your faithful people make, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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



The Regina Coeli

**Regina coeli, laetare, alleluia.
Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia.
Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia.
Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.**

Gaude et laetare, Virgo Maria, alleluia.
Quia surrexit Dominus vere, alleluia.

Oremus.
Deus, qui per resurrectionem Filii tui, Domini nostril Iesu Christi, mundum laetificare dignatus es: praesta, quaesumus; ut per eius Genetricem Virginem Mariam, perpetuae capiamus gaudia vitae. Per eundem Christum Dominum nostrum. Amen.

Mass Intentions Received Recently:

Clarence (Bob) Antram (A); Thanksgiving to St Anthony; Thanksgiving to St Joseph; Leo Maguire (A); Eddie McGourty (LD); Henry Santos (LD)

First Reconciliation - Year 3 and above:

Congratulations to our Young People who made their First Reconciliation last Wednesday - we celebrated three very prayerful liturgies. Thank you to parents and carers, catechists, stewards and teachers for helping to make the liturgies so meaningful.

Confirmation - Year 6 and above:

The Confirmation Masses are on **Saturday 15th May**. Please keep all our young people in your prayers as they make these preparations. Parents and Carers, I will be in touch via email regarding the arrangements for the day.

First Holy Communion - Year 4 and above:

Parents of children in Year 4 and above, who have not yet made their First Holy Communion - please look out for more information in the coming weeks - but for your diaries, the date of First Holy Communion is planned for **Saturday 12th June**, when we will have to celebrate more than one Mass to comply with covid-safe regulations

Caritas Leeds:

Virtual workshop on 'Life in Prison' led by Chris White, Catholic Prison Chaplain at HMP Leeds. Wednesday 12th May 6.30pm - 8.00pm. Part of the action plan developed following the publication of the report 'Justice and Mercy' the Criminal Justice Inquiry. To register please use the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/caritas-leeds-31188104135>

Virtual workshop for Dementia Action Week, Saturday 22nd May, 2.00-3.30pm. To book a place and your choice of workshop please email gregory.stacey@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

Mental Health in Education: A Catholic Approach:

An online conference for those involved in the education or catechesis of young people. Friday 28th May 2021, 9am-3.30pm (online) Hosted by Leeds Trinity University. Input from Christian psychiatrists, psychologists, counsellors, academics, clergy, media professionals and students. Places are limited, so book early to avoid disappointment. More information: email Hannah Hayward at h.hayward@leedstrinity.ac.uk or www.leedstrinity.ac.uk/events/

Counselling Service:

Catholic Care are offering a free and confidential

counselling service to members of our Catholic community, if you free that you, a family member or friend might benefit from counselling support please contact us on 01133885400, 07739975008 or email counselling@catholic-care.org.uk.

Antenatal Programme:

Catholic Care's Gianna Baby Bank Plus project are offering a free Antenatal Hypnobirthing programme suitable from 20 weeks pregnant onwards. Initially on line and then in person when allowed. Approximately 4-7 weeks to complete the programme. Contact Janet Kent at Catholic Care on 07739975008 or email at Janet.kent@catholic-care.org.uk.

Vocations Music Award 2021:

Do you like to make music and wonder what God's plan is for you? Share your thoughts about your calling by composing an original song. You have a chance to have your song produced and win cash prizes. All details at www.vocation-music-award.com/uk

Bereavement Retreat:

Living with Loss, 21st – 23rd May, 2021 led by Abi & John May. The aim of this retreat is to better equip ourselves to deal with life-changing loss. The offering is £160 for the weekend with full board and en-suite accommodation. For further details and a booking form please email: briery@btconnect.com or telephone: 01943 607287.

Spark Social Justice:

People under 30 who are passionate about social justice are invited to send in a 2 minute video about issues which concern them. £25 will be paid for every video used on social media. Go to: jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

As part of our SPARK Social Justice project, aimed at 18–30-year-olds in the Leeds Diocese, we are offering people in this age group the opportunity to be sponsored to attend the Catholic National Justice & Peace Network (NJPN) Conference in July of this year. We have funding to sponsor about ten people.

The Conference theme is "Action for Life on Earth". The Conference Chair for the weekend is Christine Allen, Director of CAFOD. The conference will include a number of keynote speakers, various workshops and Bishop John Arnold, Bishop of Salford, will be the lead celebrant at the main conference mass. It takes place from teatime on Friday 23 July to lunchtime on Sunday 25 July at the Christian Conference Centre in Swanwick.

Anyone who is interested just needs to go to our website, www.leedsjp.org.uk and follow the link to the webpage with more details and the online application form.

Short Online Course on the Early Church:

The Church that Follows Jesus Christ, covering the early life of the Church leading to the Council of Nicea (325CE) is now available as six 30-minute recordings available on the diocesan website at: www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk/education/finding-out-more/resources/

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.

Post-Pandemic Recovery in the Church:

"The Day of the Lord"

Gathering as Bishops in Conference this week, we wish to pay tribute to all in the Catholic community who have shown such courage, generosity and understanding in the face of adversity this past year. Across England and Wales, families and parish communities have risen to the challenge of sustaining one another through times of great isolation, loneliness and grief in an impressive variety of ways, spiritual, emotional and practical. We thank all who have worked tirelessly in prisons, in hospitals, care-homes and across the medical profession for giving of themselves so generously. We thank all who have worked valiantly in our schools, facing unforeseen demands and meeting them with characteristic professionalism and dedication.

We wish also to pay tribute to those who have given of their time and energy to keep open our churches as havens of peace and prayer. Churches up and down the land have realised the vision of Pope Francis that they be like village-wells where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey; and centres of "constant missionary outreach." We thank all who have developed diverse new patterns of outreach – of prayer, catechesis, study and spiritual solidarity; all who have made participation in the Mass possible through the internet.

Also prominent in this tribute should be thanks to all who have contributed to the immense effort of providing food for those most in need. The generosity shown in the distribution of so very many meals has given eloquent expression to the mercy, love and compassion which are at the very heart of God. Many have been touched by the joy of meeting Christ in the poor; and many of the poor by the joy of meeting Christ in selfless parishioners. The provision of food is often the first step into a deeper relationship of help and accompaniment, including the sharing of the gift of faith in our Blessed Lord.

'Vibrant' is a word which seems to have characterised so many of our parishes throughout the pandemic. We wish to salute our priests in particular for the leadership they have shown in this time of crisis. We thank them for their deep devotion to both the liturgy and to their parishioners. We commend every priest who made of his parish "a 'sanctuary' open to all" and with a particular care for the poor; and the many Deacons who have exercised with such generosity their mission of charity.

What will be the pace of our emerging from this pandemic remains as yet unclear. What is clear is the challenge we face of bringing our communities and the practice of the faith to a still greater expression and strength. As your bishops, we are aware of a threefold pattern to this challenge.

a) There are the fearful and weary, anxious about coming into the enclosed spaces of our churches; those who have simply lost the habit of coming to church. Personal contact, clear reassurance, and sensitive invitations will all be needed.

b) There are those who will have reassessed their pattern of life and priorities. The practice of faith within the community of the Catholic Church may not be

among those priorities. A gap may have opened up, or widened, between the spiritual dimension of their lives and any communal expression of that spiritual quest.

They represent a particular focus and concern for our outreach.

c) There are those whom we might describe as the 'Covid curious', those who have come into contact with the Catholic Church through our presence on the internet – a contact we may be able to develop through our continuing presence across diverse media platforms.

In facing these challenges, we are endowed with veritable treasures which serve to resource and enrich us. Among them are our schools, in which so many are regaining confidence to come together with others. We believe our schools can indeed be bridges back to church. There is also the remarkable work of social outreach which has grown exponentially during these long months of pandemic. On this, too, we must build. But the greatest treasure is, of course, the sacramental life of the Church, and, pre-eminently, the Eucharist.

It is the Eucharist, the celebration of the Mass, that makes the Church; and it is the Church, in the gift of the Holy Spirit, which makes the Eucharist. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the lifeblood of the Church. It requires our active participation and, to be fully celebrated, our physical presence.

At this moment, then, we need to have in our sights the need to restore to its rightful centrality in our lives the Sunday Mass, encouraging each to take his or her place once again in the assembly of our brothers and sisters. We face the task of seeking to nurture the sense of Sunday as "a weekly gift from God to his people", and something we cannot do without; to see Sunday as the soul of the week, as giving light and meaning to all the responsibilities we live out each day; to see the Sunday Eucharist as food for the unique mission with which we have been endowed.

In the time to come we can do no better than to rekindle in our hearts, foster and encourage, a yearning for the Real Presence of the Lord and the practice of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, a gift so deeply appreciated in these times of lockdown. We need to begin by fostering this in ourselves. For the Eucharist should be the cause of our deepest joy, our highest manner of offering thanks to God and for seeking his mercy and love. We need to make it the foundation stone of our lives.

The invitation to Sunday Mass resonates all the more deeply when we consider, as Pope St John Paul II reminds us in the Encyclical Letter *Dies Domini*, that the Sabbath rest is nothing if not a call to remember the gift of God's Creation. The Eucharist is indeed a celebration of the created world, called into life by the Eternal Word, for the bread and wine of the earth becomes the Body and Blood of Christ who is that same Lord of all life. The Christ to whom we come so close in the Eucharist must be the foundation of our strivings, not least in the urgent task we face of caring for creation and our environment. Pope St John Paul II spoke of our amazement at the gift of the Mass and the abiding Presence of our Blessed Lord in the Sacrament of the Altar. Herein lies our treasure, enriching our relationship with Jesus and bringing together every aspect of our life and mission. This is such an important focus for our task in the coming months.