

# The Good Shepherd

Roman Catholic Diocese of Leeds | Registered Charity No. 249404

Royal Fold, New Road, Mytholmroyd, HX7 5EA

Parish Priest: Fr Larkin | Telephone: 01422 832085

Email: [pp.thegoodshepherd@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:pp.thegoodshepherd@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)

Website [www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk](http://www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk)

Facebook: [The Good Shepherd](https://www.facebook.com/TheGoodShepherd)

Website: [www.thegoodshepherd.org.uk](http://www.thegoodshepherd.org.uk)

Safeguarding: [psr.jtalbot@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:psr.jtalbot@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)

## Sunday 17th + GAUDETE SUNDAY+ SUNDAY YEAR B / WEEKDAY YEAR II Parish Mass Book Vol 1 p87f

<b>Sunday</b> 17 Dec	<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>GAUDETE SUNDAY</b>	<b>Anne Mackenzie</b>	<b>GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH</b>
Monday 18 Dec		Advent Weekday		
Tuesday 19 Dec		Advent Weekday		
Wednesday 20 Dec	NO MASS	Advent Weekday		
Thursday 21 Dec		Advent Weekday		
Friday 22 Dec		Advent Weekday		
<b>Saturday</b> 23 Dec	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Advent Weekday</b>	<b>November Dead List 2023/24</b>	<b>GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH</b>
<b>Sunday</b> <b>(Morning)</b> 24 Dec	<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B</b>	<b>Shirley Watkins [LD]</b>	<b>GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH</b>
<b>(Evening)</b> 24 Dec	<b>4pm</b>	<b>THE CAROL SERVICE</b>	-	<b>GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH</b>
<b>Monday</b> 25 Dec	<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>	<b>Missa pro populo</b>	<b>GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH</b>
Tuesday 26 Dec		ST STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR FEAST		
Wednesday 27 Dec	NO MASS	ST JOHN, APOSTLE, AND EVANGELIST		
Thursday 28 Dec		THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS		
Friday 29 Dec		ST THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP, AND MARTYR		
<b>Saturday</b> 30 Dec	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>SIXTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>	<b>November Dead List 2023/24</b>	<b>GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH</b>
<b>Sunday</b> 31 Dec	<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH</b>	<b>Missa pro populo</b>	<b>GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH</b>

After last year's leisurely four-week Advent the hurried nature of this year's Advent comes as a bit of a shock. Only three weeks and a day! A lot of activity must be compressed into a small space, so please accept this newsletter as my "Happy Advent" and "Happy Christmas" message combined. I would like to invite you to join with me at Holy Mass on **TUESDAY 26TH + ST STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR – 09.30am\***(Sowerby Bridge)

**PARISH NEWSLETTER** Please submit notices (by Wednesday 8pm) - to Fr Larkin by email at

## PARISH WEEKLY OFFERING

03/12/2023 Week 36 - total £157.55 | Candles £12.45 | Coffee £25.00 | Ordo £30.00

10/12/2023 Week 37 - total £115.10 | Candles £10.70 | Coffee £20.00 | Ordo £15.00

**BANKED – DEC 12:** £115 Thank you for your continued support.

Average monthly standing orders £2,075 (approx. £478 per week)

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING** Each year, the collection taken at Christmas, together with the collection taken at Easter, is the offering which forms an important part of the annual taxable income of priests. If you would prefer to make an offering by direct bank transfer to the parish bank account, please mark it '**Christmas Offering**'.

The Parish bank details are HSBC Bank PLC **Account name:** Good Shepherd Mytholmroyd  
**[Sort Code 40-27-15 | Account No. 21023209]** – thank you for your kind support.

**MAY SHE REST IN PEACE** It is with great sadness to inform you that **Shirley Watkins** died in the early hours of Wednesday 6 December. Funeral on Tuesday 9 January 2024 at Good Shepherd, Requiem Mass 11.15am followed by cremation at Park Wood at 12.45pm. May she rest in peace. Amen.

**PLEASE NOTE - NO MASS - WEDNESDAY, 20 DECEMBER, and 27 December 2023.**

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2023 Heavenly Peace

"Heavenly Peace," the chosen theme for Advent 2023 in our parish, embodies a profound and timeless message, resonating deeply within the Christian tradition. This Advent, as we anticipate the celebration of the Nativity of Christ, 'Heavenly Peace' invites us to reflect on the divine tranquillity that Christ's birth brings to a restless world. It is a call to embrace the serene assurance found in God's promises, a reminder of the angelic proclamation of 'peace on earth' heralded at Jesus' birth. In this sacred season, we are encouraged to seek and cultivate this peace in our hearts and extend it outward through acts of kindness, reconciliation, and love. In doing so, we not only prepare to welcome the Prince of Peace into our lives anew but also become beacons of His tranquil presence in a world yearning for true peace.

**ADVENT DAY BY DAY** I invite you to join me in reading the Advent Day by Day book – available at the back of church.

## ADVENT

- Advent giving, as in previous years we will be supporting the Gianna project run by Catholic Care at Bradford Baby Bank needs: Baby Toiletries / New Towels Sponges / Nappies of all sizes but especially 1st and 2nd sizes Baby blankets and shawls / Toiletries for Mothers.
- We will of course be continuing our support of the Halifax foodbank. Pre-covid 130 people were catered for weekly. Post-covid this has risen to 300 and led to shortages of food etc. Your donations make all the difference - one item per week would be a great help. In addition to food and toiletries – hats, gloves, scarves, warm socks would be most welcome – bank details **Happy Days [Sort Code 60-83-01 | Account No. 20325231]** or visit <https://happydaysuk.org/> - thank you.

## CHRISTMAS 2023

CHRISTMAS EVE + 9.30am Sunday 24 December + SUNDAY MASS

CHRISTMAS EVE + **4.00pm** Sunday 24 December + THE CAROL SERVICE  
CHRISTMAS DAY + 09.30am Monday 25 December + THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD  
**TUESDAY 26TH** + ST STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR – 09.30am\*(Sowerby Bridge)

Some Music to play from your streaming service over Christmas.

1. Verbum Caro Factum Est - Gregorian Chant, Catholic Hymns
2. Make We Joy Now in This Fest, Choral Society of Durham, Rodney Wynkoop
3. Quid petis, o fili? by Richard Pygott (ca.1485-1549)
4. "Nesciens mater" - Jean Mouton - The Monteverdi Choir/Gardiner
5. Stille Nacht (Silent Night) - Vienna Boys Choir
6. If you have the time search for the Classic FM 30 greatest Christmas carols of all time.

**SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER** the Hebden Bridge Brass Band Christmas in Concert at 2pm at Good Shepherd.

**2024 CALENDAR**, if anyone is interested in buying a beautiful calendar of local photographer Roger Doherty's bird pictures, they cost £10 and all money taken will go to support Calder Food Support, our local foodbank. These make excellent Christmas presents. Please see Jo Woodhead

**FOOTSTEPS CHRISTMAS BRUNCH** - Our young people invite you to brunch after Mass on Sunday December 17. They are raising money to give to St Augustine's centre for asylum seekers in Halifax. Donations welcome. Please come along and support them .

**FOOTSTEPS CHRISTMAS** If you are 1-6 years old, you are invited to Footsteps CHRISTMAS DRESS UP PARTY Sunday 17 December from 10.45am - 12pm RSVP: Cheryl 07730 414120

**THE GOOD SHEPHERD LUNCHEON CLUB** A reminder to all our guests that our Christmas meal will be held on Wednesday 13 December at our usual time. Please do not arrive before 12.30 as mass may still be in progress. We will then close for our Christmas break and we will reopen on Wednesday 10th January 2024. We look forward to welcoming you on the 13 December. Anne Plunkett

**DIOCESAN YEARBOOK 2024** The annual publication provides a very valuable physical record and guide to the life and mission of our Diocese, not only for immediate use but also for archival reference. Available for £5.

### **SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS**

Is your child in any of these age groups, do you think they're ready to take the next step on their faith journey? Reconciliation. Children in Y3 First Holy Communion, Children in Y4 Confirmation, Children in Y6 If yes then speak to Jo Woodhead after Mass or ring 07725 854932 for more information.

**CATENIANS** Any Catholic men wishing to learn more about the Catenians can call Membership Officer Dennis Donnelly on 01484 606042.

**STOP** the 14-day limit on experimenting on embryos being removed. The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) is pushing to remove the 14-day limit for experimenting on embryos, despite 97% of submissions from the general public to their consultation objecting to these plans.

Right To Life UK has launched an easy-to-use tool on its website that makes it easy for you to email your MP asking them to oppose a change to legislation that, if passed, would pave the way for the removal of the 14-day limit. Please visit [www.righttolife.org.uk/14days](http://www.righttolife.org.uk/14days) to contact your MP now. It only takes 30 seconds

**THE NOVEMBER DEAD LIST** the list has been closed, printed and on display in the sacristy. During 2023/24 - **43 Masses** will be offered for the deceased relatives and friends listed. We received £430 in donations. Thank you.

**CATHOLIC FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS** In the ebb and flow of life, there are some topics we instinctively shy away from, and one of those is the inevitable journey towards our own end. Though the thought of our mortality may be daunting, a small gesture of preparation can make a world of difference, particularly to those who mourn our passing.

By engaging in a heart-to-heart conversation with our loved ones about our final wishes, we can offer them comfort and clarity in a time of grief. Consider discussing preferences for your Requiem Mass or funeral Service, your chosen Hymns, and Scripture Readings. These intimate details will not only reflect your personal faith journey but will also provide solace and direction to those you leave behind.

Once decisions have been made, we recommend penning down these arrangements and placing them alongside your important documents in a safe location. In doing so, you provide a beacon of guidance when it's needed most, ensuring that, even in absence, your love and thoughtfulness continues to guide and comfort.