

# The Good Shepherd

Roman Catholic Diocese of Leeds | Registered Charity No. 249404

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**DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING** [www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk/safeguarding/](http://www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk/safeguarding/)

**Safeguarding Team** - 0113 2618046

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

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## Sunday 8th + SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday 08 Dec	9.30 am	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Missa pro populo
Monday 09 Dec		IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	
Tuesday 10 Dec		Advent Weekday	
<b>Wednesday 11 Dec</b>	<b>12noon</b>	<b>Advent Weekday</b>	<b>Marilyn Swann [LD]</b>
Thursday 12 Dec		Advent Weekday	
Friday 13 Dec		St Lucy, Virgin and Martyr	
<b>Saturday 14 Dec</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>St John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church</b>	<b>Nov Dead List 2024/5</b>
<b>Sunday 15 Dec</b>	<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	<b>Elizabeth Gould [LD]</b>
	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Reception into church for Marilyn Swann RIP</b>	-

**PARISH NEWSLETTER** Please submit notices (by Wednesday 8pm) - to Fr Larkin by email at [pp.thegoodshepherd@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:pp.thegoodshepherd@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)

**PARISH OFFERING** - Average monthly SO **£1,912** - Thank you for your support.

24/11/2024 Week 34 - Total £172.60 | Coffee £6.35 | Candles £13.90 | WK33 CO £2.10

Collection for the Catholic Youth Service £82.35

01/12/2024 Week 35 - Total £110.80 | Coffee £0 | Candles £9.80 | WK34 CO £4.70

YEAR BOOKS 2025 - £20.00

**BANKED –02 December £115.00** | WK35 CO £0.50 Carried over.

**PARISH GIVING** If you wish to set up a standing order account detail:

**Good Shepherd - Sort Code 40-27-15 - Account No. 21023209**

Thank you for your support it is very much appreciated.

**2025 DIOCESAN YEAR BOOKS** for sale at £5 each.

## + FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR – Marilyn Swann R.I.P.

**Reception** into church - **Sunday 15 December** - 6:00pm

**Requiem Mass - Monday 16 December** - 10:30am followed by Burial - St Michael's Church Yard - 12Noon - Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER COLLECTION** here will be a collection for flowers for Christmas next weekend, 14/15 December, Thank you for your continued support. Thank you, Doris.

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF ALAN OSWIN** The new Parish Mass Book: *Advent - Year C, Volume 1* (Revised Edition) has been generously donated to the church in memory of Alan Oswin. As we use these books for the first time to celebrate and pray the Holy Mass, let us remember Alan in our prayers. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Lynda for this beautiful and thoughtful donation.

**FR DONALD (DON) CLEMENTS** It is with great sadness to inform you that Fr Donald (Don) Clements died in the early hours of Friday 22 November 2024. Fr Clements was a priest of the Diocese of Portsmouth who, in retirement, moved to the Little Sisters in Headingly before moving to a care home in Ipswich. Please pray for the repose of his soul and for his family and friends. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

**THE NOVEMBER DEAD LIST** the list has been closed, printed and on display in the sacristy. During 2024/25 - **45 Masses** will be offered for the deceased relatives and friends listed. We received £450 in donations. Thank you.

## **ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2024 - Verbum caro factum est**

As we journey through Advent, we reflect on the profound mystery of the Incarnation, encapsulated in the words of St. John's Gospel: "Verbum caro factum est" – "**The Word became flesh**" (John 1:14). This inspiring truth reveals the immeasurable love of God, who entered into our humanity to redeem and restore us. In becoming flesh, Christ embraced the fullness of our human experience, bringing hope, peace, and the promise of eternal life. As we prepare our hearts for the celebration of His birth, let us marvel at the humility of the Word made flesh and seek to embody His love in our lives and our world.

Some Music to play from your streaming service.

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? (What do you ask for, son?) by Richard Pygott (ca.1485-1549)
4. Stille Nacht (Silent Night) - Vienna Boys Choir

If you have the time search for the Classic FM 30 greatest Christmas carols of all time.

**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, Bradford Baby Bank Catholic Care

Each Advent we collect baby items for this project. As from Sunday 01 December, the customary Moses basket will be at the back of church and will remain throughout Advent for your kind donations. This year we are asked to provide baby and mother toiletries, nappies, shawls and knitted items.

- We will of course be continuing our support of the Halifax foodbank. 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 – thank you.

**THE GOOD SHEPHERD LUNCHEON CLUB** A reminder to all our guests that our Christmas meal will be held on Wednesday 11 December at our usual time of 12.30. Please do not arrive before 12.30 as mass may still be in progress and noise can carry into church. This will be our last meal together before our Christmas break and we will reopen on Wednesday 08 January. We look forward to welcoming you back on the 8 of January 2025. Best wishes - Anne Plunkett

**CHRISTIAN AID BIG SING** - 11 December in church, refreshments available. 7.00pm start.

**HEBDEN BRIDGE BRASS BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT** - Sunday 15 December 2pm start

### **ADVENT CONFESSIONS FOR THE DEANERY**

Saturday 14 December - St Mary's from 9-00a.m. to 4-00p.m.

I warmly invite all parishioners to take part in this Advent Confession on 14 December. Let us embrace this time of penance and grace as we ready ourselves to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, renewed in spirit and heart.

### **CHRISTMAS 2024**

CHRISTMAS EVE + 4.30pm Tuesday 24 December + THE CAROL SERVICE

CHRISTMAS DAY + 09.30am Wednesday 25 December + THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

**CHRISTMAS FOOD BANK -15 DECEMBER** Winter is coming soon, a challenging time for hard pressed families and those living alone. Advertisers are heavily promoting expensive gifts and luxury foods out of reach of so many That's why supporting the food bank if you can this month and throughout the winter is more urgent than ever. The gift of food or a small treat could mean a great deal and lift the spirits of someone you may never meet. Barry will be making his last pre-Christmas delivery to the Food Bank in the week starting 15 December. Please leave all contributions in the porch as soon as you can. Thank you

**CALDERDALE HOSPITAL** Because of modern data regulations it is not always guaranteed that those who work in hospitals or nursing homes will know that you are a Catholic and would like a visit from a priest and to receive of the sacraments. As such, there are cards at the back of church for you to take away and keep in your wallet and purse. You need to sign and date them and keep them on your person. They state explicitly that you are a Catholic and give permission for a priest to be called to you in an emergency. There are plenty of cards available so please feel free to take them for family and friends who may wish to make use of them as well.

**NEW MASS BOOKS** As you are probably already aware from the beginning of Advent this year, we will be moving to a new lectionary which will mean a whole new set of Mass books. The previous sets are now outdated and effectively useless. We have hopefully got someone who will take them away to be recycled however we wondered if people would like to have a set at home- the readings themselves have not changed but the new ones are more authentic to the original texts. These will be available on the 01 Sunday of Advent, they will be on the spare chairs underneath the Peace window, they will only be there for 2 weeks and then will be recycled.

**SOCIAL MEDIA USE** All content on a Parish social media site is ultimately the responsibility of the Parish Priest. Any indication of risk or harm mentioned on Parish social media must be reported to the Safeguarding Team. Immediate harm should be reported to the Police (999) and then to the Safeguarding Team. - Safeguarding is a collective responsibility.

### **Safeguarding Training**

I have written to the flower and music group to complete level 1 safeguarding training. This will only take approximately 15 minutes to register and complete. If you have not received an email from myself, please can you firstly check your junk email section and if there is still nothing, please can you let me know. Thank you, Julie.

**WILDLIFE CALENDARS** If anyone is interested, we have some wonderful wildlife calendars which local photographer Roger Docherty has produced, they are £10 each and all money received will be going to charity. Our local food bank and Medical Aid for Palestinians. If you would like one see Jo after church

**WE CAN STILL DEFEAT ASSISTED SUICIDE** There is a clear path toward the assisted suicide Bill being defeated at Third Reading. Early analysis shows that at least 36 MPs supported the Bill but have concerns that mean they may vote NO at later stages.

Just 28 MPs switching their stance to NO would ensure it is defeated at Third Reading. We need MPs to know that their constituents want them to vote NO at Third Reading.

Please take action now and visit [www.righttolife.org.uk/ASvote](http://www.righttolife.org.uk/ASvote) to find out how your MP voted and ask them to vote against the Bill at Third Reading.

### **DATES FOR THE SACRAMENTS 2025**

First Reconciliation 29 March 2025 at 11am St Bernard's

Deanery Confirmation | Venue: St Malachy's Nursery Ln, Halifax HX3 5NS

Rehearsal: 25 February 2025 at 7pm | Confirmation: 4 March 2025 at 7pm

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION** Children who are in Y3 are old enough to make their First Reconciliation, Y4 for First Holy Communion and Y6 for Confirmation. If your child is in one of these year groups and you think they're ready for this next step in their faith journey have a chat with Jo or contact on 07725 854932. If your child/young person is older than this but wants to take part they're also very welcome, I try hard to tailor the sessions to suit everyone.

**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.