

The Good Shepherd

Roman Catholic Diocese of Leeds | Registered Charity No. 249404

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DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk/safeguarding/

Safeguarding Team - 0113 2618046

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Facebook: The Good Shepherd

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Sunday 15th + GAUDETE SUNDAY + ADVENT WEEK 4 + CHRISTMAS TIME +

Sunday 15 Dec	9.30 am	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT GAUDETE SUNDAY	Elizabeth Gould [LD]
+	6.00pm	Reception into church for Marilyn Swann RIP	
Monday 16 Dec	10.30am	Requiem Mass	Marilyn Swann [LD]
Tuesday 17 Dec	-	Advent Weekday	-
Wednesday 18 Dec	12noon	Advent Weekday	Nov Dead List 2024/5
Thursday 19 Dec	-	Advent Weekday	-
Friday 20 Dec	-	Advent Weekday	-
Saturday 21 Dec	10.00am	Advent Weekday	Marilyn Swann [LD]
Sunday 22 Dec	9.30 am	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Anne Hodgson [A]
Monday 23 Dec	-	Advent Weekday	-
Tuesday 24 Dec	4-30pm	THE CAROL SERVICE	-
Wednesday 25 Dec	9.30 am	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	Missa pro populo
Thursday 26 Dec		ST STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR FEAST	09.30am*(Sowerby Bridge)
Friday 27 Dec	-	ST JOHN, APOSTLE, AND EVANGELIST	-
Saturday 28 Dec	10.00am	THE HOLY INNOCENTS	Nov Dead List 2024/5
Sunday 29 Dec	11-00am	THE HOLY FAMILY OPENING OF THE JUBILEE OF THE YEAR 2025 IN THE DIOCESE	Sheila Jackson [A]

TODAY Gaudete Sunday with great Joy we welcome Pauline into the church at Holy Mass

A LOT OF ACTIVITY must be compressed into a small space, so please accept this newsletter as my “Advent” and “Christmas” message combined.

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

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

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

08/12/2024 Week 36 - Total £79.25| Coffee £15.75| Candles £15.00| WK35 CO £0.50

YEAR BOOKS 2025 - £15.00

BANKED –09 December £75.00 | WK36 CO £4.75 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

CHRISTMAS FLOWER COLLECTION here will be a collection for flowers for Christmas – 15 December, Thank you for your continued support. Thank you, Doris.

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 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 see above. Thank you for your support it is very much appreciated.

CHRISTMAS 2024

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

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

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. 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 we will reopen on Wednesday 08 January 2025. We look forward to welcoming you back. Anne Plunkett

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

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

CAROL SERVICE & SOLEMN BENEDICTION Scarthingwell Church of the Immaculate Conception LS24 9PH. The Rudgate Singers will lead a Traditional Carol Service concluding with Solemn Benediction at this historic church on Saturday 21 December, 3pm. Refreshments afterwards. All are welcome.

2025 DIOCESAN YEAR BOOKS for sale at £5 each.

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR IN HALIFAX On Easter Sunday afternoon, The Victoria Theatre Halifax will be staging an amateur production of Jesus Christ Superstar. Tickets are selling quickly but I wondered if a group from the Parish might like to go? The Box Office staff will allow a provisional block booking, based on an estimate of numbers wanting to attend, to be made. The plan is to assess the level of demand (if any) this weekend so that such a booking could be made next week, before tickets run out. If you would like to go, please let me know either in person after Mass this Sunday (15 December) or by emailing oswinma2@btinternet.com by Sunday evening.

Details: Easter Sunday 20 April at 2.15pm | Ticket price: maximum £24.25

Singers/actors: Halifax Amateur Operatic Society

Venue: The Victoria Theatre, Halifax

For those wishing to book independently, the full list of scheduled performances is as follows: Maundy Thursday 17 April at 7.15pm | Good Friday 18 April at 7.15pm
Holy Saturday 19 April at 7.15pm | Easter Sunday 20 April at 2.15pm.
Many thanks. Linda Oswin

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.

ALL KINDS OF CATHOLIC by Theresa Alessandrio - Sean Morris was invited to take part in her podcast 'All kinds of Catholic'. Sean knew Theresa from work in the peace movement, which is the focus of the podcast in how his work is linked in with faith. Sean also talks about his personal faith journey. It goes live on 1 January but there is a link to the final edited version below.
<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2333035/episodes/16267956>

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 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.

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

JUST TO REPORT the donation to St Augustine's Centre from the ticket sales at the Shackletons' November 2024 gig was £910 and a letter was received with thanks from St Augustine's. Thanks those who supported the gig.