

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish

Newland Lane. Normanton. WF6 1BA. PP: Rev. Fr. Mark Naughton MA. KHS.




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Day	Time	Liturgical Celebration week beginning 29/11/25	Intention
SAT	6pm	 Vigil for the First Sunday of Advent—YEAR A	Mark and Cecilia Williams
SUN	10am	 First Sunday of Advent—YEAR A	People of the Parish (Missa pro Populo)
Mon	9:30am	Advent week 1	Pascalina Notsi
Tues	9:30am	Advent week 1	Damien Swann
Wed	12noon	Advent week 1	Margaret Lunn
Thurs	9:30am	Advent week 1	Kevin Joyce
Fri	9:30am	Advent week 1 (1st Friday—Adoration to 10:30)	Rev. Fr. M. Powell
SAT	6pm	Vigil for the Second Sunday of Advent—YEAR A	Harry and Gertrude Raby
SUN	10am	 Second Sunday of Advent—YEAR A	People of the Parish (Missa pro Populo)

Confessions: Before Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:15—5:45pm or on request in Church

Alms Box supporting - Bethlehem Hospice

QR Scan for Parish website



Sick List: Please remember in your prayer: Molly Newton, George & Kaye Gunn, Marie Vella, Connor Harrington, Dianne and Simon MacDermott, Dr John Gallagher, Trevor Durant, John Ellis, Eddie Gillen, Peter Farrell, Ann Cunningham, Julie Morrison, Pascalina Notsi, Leslie Beaton-Brown, Shelia Kaye, Lynne Hartill, Justin Martin, Margaret Wilmott, Maurice Nixon.

In your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of
Rev. Fr John B Murphy (96yrs) and Rev. Fr David Bulmer (60yrs)
both of whom died this past week. *May they rest in peace.*

Thank you!

to everyone who organised, ran, donated and supported the Advent Fair.

Last year we raised, £2,252. This year we raised £2,295!

To have maintained this figure at a time of real hardship and austerity is remarkable and I am very grateful for your support and all the hard work to make the Fair a success.



Confirmation:

for Year 6 and above will be on January 28th, at Sacred Heart Parish, Hemsworth.

Application Forms are available from Fr Mark after Vigil and Sunday Masses

for **one more week only**. The mandatory preparation day will be January 17th.

PLEASE COLLECT YOUR WORKBOOKS FROM THE SACRISTY AFTER MASSES.

1st Sacraments 2026: Applications available in January 2026

Required Preparation Day for 1st Confession (Year 4 and above) will be 21st March.

Required Preparation Days for 1st Holy Communion will be 25th April and 9th of May 2026.

Once they have completed the required Preparation Days, dates for 1st Holy Communion throughout the summer months may be booked.



St Wilfrid's:

You are invited to St Wilfrids Catholic High School for an Advent Tea Party on Tuesday 2nd December.

It will start at 2.30pm and run until 4pm. There will be a raffle in aid of our Pilgrimage to Lourdes and "Mary's Meals", Christmas songs from the choir, bingo and a quiz. If you would like to join us, please contact Ms A Mason 6th form SSO, on 01977 691000 extn 278 or email almason@st-wilfrids.bkcat.uk to secure your seat.



Altofts and Normanton Brass Band Christmas Concert:

St John's, Friday 5th December at 7pm. Entry £7. Raffle and Refreshments.

Call 07921 318465 or pay on the door.

Safeguarding: Please pass any safeguarding issues to Matthew Harris at PSR.Mharris@dioceseofleeds.org.uk



CHRISTMAS RAFFLE -



this weekend and drawn at Christmas:

Large Laithwaites Luxury Case of Wine and other prizes.

Tickets available in the narthex from Kath or Angela. Proceeds will go to the relighting.

DIOCESAN

LIVE NATIVITY: The Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal are hosting a live nativity at Corpus Christi church, Neville Road Saturday 20th December, 2pm including real animals, party afterwards refreshments, activities for children. All welcome.

PRIESTLY VOCATIONS DISCERNMENT MEETING: Time for prayers, questions, input from a priest and social time. There are two groups meeting simultaneously; under 18s and over 18s. Fridays 6.30pm-8.15pm: 19th December (Venue TBC). Under 18 participants must complete and return a permission form prior to attending. For permission forms and to notify of attendance (all participants) please contact Vocations Promoter, Fr Simon Lodge vocations@dioceseofleeds.org.uk.

LEEDS CATHEDRAL VACANCY: Leeds Cathedral is recruiting a part time caretaker to work with a small dedicated team. For an application form and further information, please e-mail your contact details to recruitment@dioceseofleeds.org.uk. Or alternatively for an informal chat, please phone 0113 245 4545. Closing date for applications is Friday 12th December.

CATHOLIC CARE IS RECRUITING: Adult LD support workers – Dewsbury – Full & Part time & fixed term maternity cover. Salary £24,892 - £26,096 pro rata. Also Care Bank Support Workers (Dewsbury) and Care Bank Residential Childcare Workers (Keighley) needed: £14.12 inclusive per hour plus sleeps. Please email CV to recruitment@catholic-care.org.uk

CATHOLIC CARE CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2025:

Catholic Care are supporting over 700 families this Christmas with special Christmas Eve Boxes filled with items to bring joy and togetherness. We're kindly asking for donations of chocolates or sweets to include in the boxes, or a cash donation to help us purchase items. To donate or learn more, please call 0113 388 5400. Thank you for helping us make Christmas brighter for those who need it most.

Masses:

There are envelopes in the Narthex for Mass Intentions.

Also, if you want a Mass but do not mind it not being on the Bulletin then it can also be offered by a retired priest including the odd Canon and Mgr. Please use the ordinary Mass Intention Envelope and mark it '**Retired Priest**' and we will forward them immediately.



**200 Club: The Grand Draw is approaching—
please remember we have to be paid up to date to win!**

Reflection for the 1st Sunday of Advent—Year A— St Matthew

Advent begins with a wake-up call: *"Stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming"* (Matthew 24:42). The Church invites us to start the new liturgical year not with noise or celebration, but with watchfulness, anticipation and hope.

Isaiah, in the first reading, gives us a vision of all nations streaming to the mountain of the Lord, where there is peace because they are in the presence of the Lord. St. Paul urges us to *"put on the Lord Jesus Christ"* and live as people of the light. Advent is not just waiting—it is active discipleship, embodying Christ's presence here and now.

Jesus reminds us in the Gospel this weekend that His coming will be sudden—so we must be ready. In this sense our whole lives are an Advent, a preparation to meet Him at the moment of our death, His return in glory and the general judgement. Each of us must be ready to *"give and account of our lives"* as St Paul writes to the Romans. The loving warning is that we must be always ready for that moment, meeting and judgment. Do not put it off until tomorrow because there may not be a tomorrow!

Advent is not passive waiting. It is active preparation: prayer, awareness and Confession of sin, generosity and attentiveness to the things of God and those in need. Each candle we light on the Advent wreath is a sign that Christ's light is drawing nearer; a reminder that the light will always triumph over darkness and Christ is that triumphant light, without whom we remain in the dark. Let us begin this season by asking: Where am I spiritually asleep? How can I be prepared for the meeting with Christ?



Bishop Marcus' Prayer for Vocations:

The Bishop has asked that we pray this prayer at Mass from 1st Sunday of Advent through to the Solemnity of Pentecost (24th May 2026). Prayer cards are available at the back of the Church

Our Lady of Unfailing Help!
Pray that the Lord
of the Harvest will send
labourers into His harvest
and that He will grant
an abundance of vocations
to the priesthood, diaconate
and religious life within the
Diocese of Leeds, and
throughout the world.
Amen.



EASYFUNDRAISING, a fantastic online platform that enables you to raise **FREE donations with every purchase you make - it won't cost you a penny!** With 8000+ participating retailers, each purchase earns a free donation for our church restoration! Signing up is easy - just use this link: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/cause/st-john-the-baptist-catholic-church-normanton/>
Thank you to all who support the Parish using EASYFUNDRAISING



QR code in the narthex for those who wish to donate to the Parish via the internet, or scan here: