



# St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish

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

BACS/SO/DD - Sort: 40-27-15 Acc No: 11018094



Day	Time	Liturgical Celebration week beginning 03/01/26	Intention
SAT	6pm	Vigil for the 2nd Sunday after Christmas	Very Rev. Peter, Canon, Maguire
SUN	10am	2nd Sunday after Christmas	Missa pro Populo (MK)
Mon	9:30am	Weekday after Christmas	Sarah Cowley
Tues	9:30am 12noon 7pm	School Church Solemnity of the Lord's Epiphany (Holy Day of Obligation)	Yorkshire Brethren People of the Parish (Missa pro Populo) Harry Wilson
Wed	11am	Requiem Mass	Maurice Nixon
Thurs	9:30am	Thursday after Epiphany	Sheila Cowley
Fri	10am	Friday after Epiphany	SVP Intentions
SAT	6pm	Vigil for the Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord	Alan Epton
SUN	10am	Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord	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, Shelia Kaye, Lynne Hartill, Justin Martin, Margaret Wilmott, Grahame Walker, Margaret Crompton.



**Ave, Regina caelorum**

Ave, Regina caelorum,  
Ave, Domina Angelorum:  
Salve, radix, salve, porta  
Ex qua mundo lux est orta:  
Gaude, Virgo gloriosa,  
Super omnes speciosa,  
Vale, o valde decora,  
Et pro nobis Christum exora.

**Hail, O Queen of Heaven**

Welcome, O Queen of Heaven.  
Welcome, O Lady of Angels  
Hail! thou root, hail! thou gate  
From whom unto the world,  
a light has arisen:  
Rejoice, O glorious Virgin,  
Lovely beyond all others,  
Farewell, most beautiful maiden,  
And pray for us to Christ.

In your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of  
Maurice Nixon (Requiem 11am Wednesday 7th Jan),  
Fr David Bulmer (11am, Monday 12th Jan) and  
William Barry (Reception 4pm, 21st and Requiem 11am 22nd Jan).  
May they rest in peace.

## 200 Club

Congratulations to the winners! The 200 Club is a great and easy way to further support the parish and this year it has generated almost £4000 towards parish funds! It is £1.00 per week and can be paid annually, monthly or quarterly.

The new series starts on the 3rd January 2026 with the first draw on the 31st January.

In the new year the existing members will be able to continue with their standing orders/ cash/ or cheques (made payable to **St John the Baptist Parish**) as well as bank transfers. If you no longer wish to be a member of the 200 club please let Sarah know.

As always thank you for your generosity it is greatly appreciated.

## Confirmation:

for Year 6 and above will be on January 28th, at 7pm in Sacred Heart Parish, Hemsworth.

The mandatory preparation day will be January 17th.

PLEASE BRING YOUR WORK BOOKS WITH YOU  
ALSO A PACKED LUNCH AND DRINK

PLEASE COLLECT YOUR WORKBOOKS FROM THE SACRISTY AFTER MASSES.



Adults to be Confirmed—

Please speak to Fr Mark after weekend Mass.

**Safeguarding:** Please pass any safeguarding issues to Matthew Harris at [PSR.Mharris@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:PSR.Mharris@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)

### REFLECTION:

Today's readings invite us to linger in the mystery of Christmas a little longer. While the world has already moved on, the Church draws us deeper. John's Gospel takes us behind the scenes of Bethlehem to the very heart of eternity: "In the beginning was the Word." The Child in the manger is the eternal Word through whom all things were made. The Wisdom praised in Sirach, who pitched her tent among God's people, now takes flesh and dwells among us. St Paul reminds us that Christ comes not only to reveal who God is, but who we are meant to be: "He destined us for adoption as His children."

Christmas is not simply a tender story; it is a revelation of our dignity. If God has chosen to dwell among us, then no life is insignificant, no moment is without grace, no darkness is final.

At the beginning of a new year, with two more feasts of Christmas to celebrate (the Epiphany and Baptism of the Lord), the Gospel places a simple question before us: Will we make room for the Word?

The Word became flesh so that our own daily lives—ordinary, imperfect, often complicated and beautiful—might shine with God's presence. May His light guide our steps in the days ahead.



### Reflection for the Epiphany of the Lord.

The Epiphany celebrates the great manifestation of Christ to the nations. The Magi arrive from distant lands, guided only by a star and a restless longing in their hearts. They have no Scriptures, no prophets, no covenant. And yet they come. They come because God has already begun stirring in them a desire for truth, for goodness, for a light greater than any they have known. Epiphany reminds us that God's grace is always reaching outward. Christ is not revealed only to the familiar, the prepared, or the religiously fluent. He is revealed to seekers, wanderers, outsiders—anyone whose heart is open enough to notice the star God places before them.

The Magi teach us four movements of discipleship:

**They look up.** They pay attention to the signs of God's presence in the ordinary rhythms of life.

**They set out.** Faith is not an idea but a journey, often long and inconvenient.

**They bow down.** When they finally meet Christ, they offer not only gifts but themselves.

**They return "by another way."** An encounter with Christ always changes our direction. We cannot go back unchanged. Politics, certainly Party politics, manifesto, ideology, Corporations, focus groups, or technology can not save us, can not replace encounter with the living God. They may make us feel better about ourselves, important and influential, but it is the relationship with the God made flesh which changes us at the core of our nature and prepares us for eternity.

May we, like the Magi, have the courage to follow the light we are given, trusting that it will always lead us to the One who is Light itself.



**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 through-**  
**out the summer months may**  
**be booked.**

**Prayer to St. Michael for**  
**persecuted Christians and**  
**for the restoration of the**  
**Christian faith in our**  
**country.**

**Saint Michael,**  
the Archangel, defend us in  
the day of battle,  
be our safeguard against  
the wickedness and snares  
of the devil.

May God rebuke him we  
humbly pray; and do thou,  
O Prince of the Heavenly  
host, by the power of God,  
thrust down to hell Satan  
and all wicked spirits who  
wander through the world  
for the ruin of souls.  
Amen.

**Bishop Marcus'**  
**Prayer for Vocations:**

*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.



"Don't  
believe  
everything  
you read on  
the internet."  
- George  
Washington

"The  
difference  
between  
stupidity  
and genius  
is that genius  
has its limits."  
Albert Einstein

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<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:

**Applications available in January 2026**  
**Day for 1st Confession (Year 4 and above)**