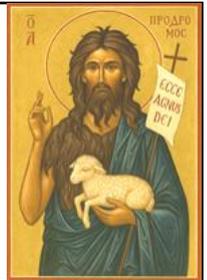


# St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish

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



Day	Time	Liturgical Celebration week beginning 07/03/26	Intention
SAT	6pm	Vigil for the 3rd Sunday of Lent	Sarah, Joseph & Thomas Martyn
SUN	10am	3rd Sunday of Lent	People of the Parish (Missa pro Populo)
Mon	9:30am	Weekday of Lent	Spencer Eggins
Tues	9:30am	Weekday of Lent	Matt & Gwen Kielty
Wed	9:30am	Weekday of Lent (Mass time change)	Brian and Sheila Naughton
Thurs	9:30am	Weekday of Lent	John Miskell
Fri	9:30am	Weekday of Lent - followed by Stations - also at 7pm	Maurice Nixon
SAT	6pm	Vigil for the 4th Sunday of Lent (Laetare)	People of the Parish (Missa pro Populo)
SUN	10am	4th Sunday of Lent (Laetare)	John Miskell

**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, 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, Grahame Walker, Margaret Crompton, Jimmy Bradley, John O'Hara, John McGowan

**In your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of: Mr & Mrs Kaye and George Gunn,** formally of Whindale, Normanton, who died within hours of one another. Please remember their family in your prayers. Their joint Requiem Mass will be Tuesday 17th March in St John's.

**In your charity please pray for the repose Gillian Kinsey** who died on Sunday 1st Feb. Gillian's Funeral Service will be Thursday 19th March in St John's. Please remember her family in your prayers.

**In your charity please pray for the repose of the soul of Donald Purdy.** Please remember his wife and family in your prayers. Donald's Funeral service will be on Monday 30th March at 1:45pm. May they rest in peace.



**Lenten Series - Tuesdays at 7pm in the hall.**

"The Holy Mass is the greatest act of love we can offer to God." – Saint Maximilian Kolbe. We will be having a series of reflections and discussions on the Mass - come to even one session to deepen your understanding of what we celebrate.

**Stations of the Cross after Friday morning Mass and at 7pm.**



**1st Sacraments 2026:**

**Required Preparation Day for 1st Confession (Year 4 and above) will be 21st March.** Children and parents should attend the Mass at 10am and will require a packed lunch, including a drink.

**CHILDREN SHOULD COLLECT THEIR BOOKS THIS WEEKEND AND COMPLETE CHAPTERS 1,2,3 BEFORE PREPARATION DAY ON THE 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.



**Fundraising and Social Group**

Would you like to support fundraising activities or lead events for the Church? After Sunday Mass on 22nd March at 11:15am in the Canon O'Grady Memorial Hall, meet the group and join us in generating ideas to support our parish community. If you're unable to meet and you'd still like to get involved please speak with Tina Connell or Adam Layland ([agclayland@gmail.com](mailto:agclayland@gmail.com)).

**Wine Tasting Night - Hold the Date!**

The annual Wine Tasting Night is back! Join us on Friday 10th April from 19:30 in the Canon O'Grady Memorial Hall. Tickets are limited and cost £10 per person. **Ticket sales commence before and after Sunday Mass from the 22nd March**, and the Sundays before the event - you can pay via card or cash.

**CATHOLIC CARE ANNUAL APPEAL - NEXT WEEKEND - SECOND COLLECTION**

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

## DIOCESAN

**LOURDES NURSES VOLUNTEER APPEAL:** Are you a qualified nurse? Would you like to join the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes (3-9 July 2026)? Please contact: [lourdes.enquiries@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:lourdes.enquiries@dioceseofleeds.org.uk) for further information.

We desperately need registered nurses to join the team to enable our assisted pilgrims to travel to Lourdes. This is a wonderful experience and many nurses return year after year. Please consider joining our friendly, happy team and enjoy a truly blessed week with our assisted pilgrims.

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2026:** The 2026 Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2026. It is hoped that there will be two flights from Leeds. The booking process is now open. Bookings can be made online on <https://www.tangney-tours.com/tours-and-pilgrimages/diocese-leeds/> or by phone direct with Tangney (01732 886666).

**SVP AND CAFOD WORK EXPERIENCE:** The St Vincent de Paul Society and CAFOD are working together to offer a week of free residential work experience for 20 young adults in England and Wales. The experience will run from 21st – 26th June in London. Candidates must be aged 18-25 years old, but priority will be given to those in their first or second year at university. Apply here: [https://svp1.formstack.com/forms/work\\_experience\\_application\\_form\\_2026](https://svp1.formstack.com/forms/work_experience_application_form_2026). Applications close on 6<sup>th</sup> April. For any queries, please contact KeziaH@svp.org.uk

**Bishop John Crowley 3-day preached retreat:** 17th -19th March at The Briery, Ilkley. You are invited to join Bishop Crowley for a short retreat during Lent entitled "Rest and you will see, see and you will love, love and you will praise (St Augustine)" £230pp fully inclusive or £110 non-residential. For booking or more information contact the administrator on 01943 607287 or email [admin@briery.org.uk](mailto:admin@briery.org.uk)

## VACANCIES

**CATHOLIC CARE IS RECRUITING:** Life Skills Mentor, Dewsbury, Full and Part time available. Salary £24,892 - £26,096 pro rata. Please email CV to [recruitment@catholic-care.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@catholic-care.org.uk)

**ASSISTANT HEAD OF CORE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION VACANCY:** Notre Dame Catholic Sixth Form College, Leeds. Start: As soon as possible. Closing date: 20 March 2026 Further info: please visit <https://www.notredamecoll.ac.uk/vacancies> To discuss or arrange a visit, contact Louise Jackson [l.jackson@notredamecoll.ac.uk](mailto:l.jackson@notredamecoll.ac.uk)

**At the Easter Vigil we will baptise, Confirm and Communicate one adult, receive into Full Communion, Confirm and Communicate another adult and Confirm another adult. If there are any other adults who have not yet been Confirmed and wish to be Confirmed, please speak to Fr Mark as soon as possible.**



## REFLECTION

Romans 5:1–2, 5–8 offers one of the most concentrated summaries of the Christian life in all of Paul's letters. For the 3rd Sunday of Lent, it becomes a quiet counterpoint to the Gospel: while John shows Jesus meeting a wounded heart at the well, Paul shows what that encounter does within us over time. The grace that stands beneath everything Paul begins with a bold claim: "We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." This is not a feeling but a new reality. Through Christ, the distance between God and humanity has been bridged. We stand not in fear or uncertainty, but in a relationship already secured by grace. This "standing" is important. Paul imagines grace not as a fleeting moment but as a place where we now live—like stepping into a new landscape where the air itself is different. Paul's next movement is deeply pastoral: "Hope does not disappoint us." He is not speaking of optimism or wishful thinking. Christian hope is rooted in something already given: "the love of God poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit."

Three things are happening at once:

- God's love is poured — not dripped, not rationed, but lavishly given.
- Into our hearts — into the very place where fear, shame, and longing live.
  - Through the Holy Spirit — God's own life dwelling within us.

This is why hope does not disappoint: it is grounded not in our strength but in God's initiative. Paul then shifts from the interior to the historical: "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." This is the heart of the passage. God's love is not a response to our goodness; it is the cause of it. Christ does not wait for us to be worthy. He comes "at the right time" — the moment when we could not save ourselves. Paul contrasts human love (rarely offered for the unworthy) with divine love (freely offered to the unworthy). The cross is not a reward; it is rescue. This reading reframes Lent not as a season of proving ourselves but of remembering what God has already done. Lent becomes less about striving and more about consenting—letting grace shape us from the inside out.

## Raffle Prize Donations – Wine Tasting Evening (Friday, 10th April)

For our upcoming Wine Tasting Evening, we will be holding a raffle to raise funds for the parish. Tickets will be available beforehand, and you don't need to attend the event to take part in the raffle. We would be very grateful for donations of prizes. Here are some ideas you could think about: Food & Drink: Homemade jams, chutneys, or preserves. Biscuits, cakes, or traybakes. Wine, liqueurs, or spirits, Tea, coffee, or hot chocolate sets. Chocolates or confectionery. Scented candles or tea-light sets. Handmade soaps or bath products. Decorative mugs. Seasonal decorations. Books (novels, children's books) Handcrafted items like cards, scarves.

**Please bring your contribution to the narthex, clearly marked "raffle donation."**

**Thank you for helping us make this a memorable and successful evening!**

**Remember,**  
**O most gracious Virgin Mary,**  
that never was it known  
that anyone who fled to thy  
protection, implored thy help  
or sought thy intercession,  
was left unaided.  
Inspired with this confidence,  
I fly to thee, O Virgin of virgins,  
my Mother.  
To thee I come; before thee  
I stand, sinful and sorrowful.  
O Mother of the Word  
Incarnate,  
despise not my petitions,  
but in thy mercy hear  
and answer me. 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.



**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—£994.00! Thank you!**



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