



St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish

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[facebook.com/people/St-John-the-Baptist-Roman-Catholic-Church-Normanton-Parish](https://www.facebook.com/people/St-John-the-Baptist-Roman-Catholic-Church-Normanton-Parish)

Website: www.stjohnthebaptistnormanton.org.uk

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Day	Time	Liturgical Celebration week beginning 31/01/26	Intention
SAT	6pm	Vigil for the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time	James & Mary Monaghan
SUN	10am	4th Sunday in Ordinary Time	People of the Parish (Missa pro Populo)
Mon	12noon	Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas)	Bernadette Richardson
Tues	9:30am	St Blaise (Blessing of Throats)	Jackson family (Foundation Mass)
Wed	12noon	Feria	Langley Family (Foundation Mass)
Thurs	9:30am	St Agatha	Pat Coe
Fri	9:30am	Sts Paul Miki and companions (1st Friday –Adoration to 10:30)	Dorothy Holley
SAT	6pm	Vigil for the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Michael and Bridget Bourke
SUN	10am	5th Sunday in Ordinary Time	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



NEXT WEEKEND: SECOND COLLECTION FOR THE LOURDES FUND

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, Jimmy Bradley, John O'Hara, Barry Mumby, John McGowan

In your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of:
Mary (Bernie) Ball and Anthony Bills (Cecilia's brother)
May they rest in peace.



Confirmation:

Congratulations to all those who were Confirmed by the Bishop last week.
My thanks to our Catechists who made this possible by their hard work and commitment.

1st Sacraments 2026:

Applications close THIS weekend. Applications after this will be held over until next year.

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.



Monday, 2nd Feb, is Candlemas Day and Mass will be 12 noon
beginning with the Blessing of Candles and procession.

Tuesday, 3rd Feb, is St Blaise Day and Mass will end with the traditional Blessing of Throats.

For those unable to make the feast in Church, the Blessing will be available after the Vigil and Sunday Masses this weekend.



Thank you to the Repository ladies for a donation of £300 towards the new curtain for Our Lady's Shrine and to Angela for organising and arranging The Curtain Shop (Normanton) to make and install them.

DIOCESAN

ANNUAL LOURDES DINNER DANCE: Friday 13th February 2026 at the Met hotel in Leeds. Tickets are available from Phil Marshall at £45 or £400 for a table of 10. The ticket price includes reception drink, a 3 course Meal, Tea & coffee, DJ and entertainment throughout the evening. To secure your tickets for this popular event, contact Phil on 07766 148375 or email philmarshall49@outlook.com. All profits at the event go to the Diocesan Lourdes fund.

IRISH NIGHT FUNDRAISER: in aid of the Little sisters of the Poor rebuild fund February 27th 2026, Irish Centre, York Road, Leeds commencing at 7.30pm. Irish meal soda bread and Irish dessert, music and dancing. Auction, raffle and football card, tickets on sale in Irish Centre and also contact Sister Christina email funds.leeds@lsplondon.co.uk

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 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.

THE DIOCESE OF LEEDS COMMUNITY CHOIR: welcomes all parish musicians and parishioners, all choir parents and friends, and all school and Diocesan staff to come together and sing! Rehearsals work towards singing Mass in Leeds Cathedral. Rehearsals will take place from **2.30pm - 4pm 25 January, 8 and 22 February, 8, 15 and 22 March** at the Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Moortown.

To sign up please email: office@dioceseofleedsmusic.org.uk

VIVALDI'S GLORIA WITH GABRIELI ROAR: Hear Vivaldi's ever-popular *Gloria* in a vibrant performance by Gabrieli Roar, bringing together Gabrieli's professional singers and orchestra with young singers from choirs across the Diocese of Leeds Schools Singing Programme. The programme opens with Baroque favourites by Monteverdi and Purcell, showcasing music written nearly 350 years ago and still thrilling young singers today. Sat 7 Feb, 7.45 pm

Leeds Cathedral. Book here: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/gabrieli/baroque-masters-with-gabrieli-roar/e-xpbxzv>

NEW MEN'S GROUP: The Oratory of St Joseph, for young Catholic or other interested laymen aged between 21 & 35. Monthly meetings at Hinsley Hall LS6 2BX, for prayer, Benediction, talks, social time & free supper. Inaugural meeting Thursday 26th February, 6.30-8.30pm. Contact: benjamin.hilton@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2026: The 2026 Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place Friday 3rd to Thursday 9th 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).

VACANCIES

SENIOR GRANTS AND FUNDRAISING OFFICER VACANCY: The Finance Department of the Diocese of Leeds, is recruiting a Senior Grants and Fundraising Officer. Based at Hinsley Hall, Leeds. More details at www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk/vacancies/. Application Deadline is Friday, 30 January 2026 and first interviews to be held on Wednesday, 4 February.

HEAD OF FINANCE VACANCY: Ten: Ten Resources, a provider of online Catholic teaching content is recruiting. Please visit <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/recruitment/head-of-finance/> for more details.

MARRIAGE CARE VACANCY: Marriage Care is delighted to share that we are currently looking for a Practice and Safeguarding Coordinator to play a vital role in supporting and strengthening our relationship counselling services. For more details and how to apply, please visit <https://www.marriagecare.org.uk/currentvacancies/practice-and-safeguarding-coordinator-administrator/>

Reflection

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year A. Gospel: Matthew 5:1–12

Jesus begins the Sermon on the Mount not with commands, but with blessings. The Beatitudes reveal God's heart and invite us into a way of life shaped by humility, compassion and courage.

The "poor in spirit" are blessed because they know their need for God. Those who mourn discover God's nearness in their sorrow. The meek show strength guided by gentleness rather than force. Those who hunger for righteousness refuse to settle for injustice. The merciful widen the circle of compassion. The pure in heart seek God with integrity.

Peacemakers reflect Christ's own mission of reconciliation. And those who suffer for doing what is right share in the life of the Kingdom.

The world requires 'niceness' over right, courage, standards, true justice and responsibility. The Beatitudes demand challenge, determination and integrity of heart, mind and spirit.

The Beatitudes are a portrait of Christ and a roadmap for discipleship. They remind us that God's blessing often appears in unexpected places, especially where life feels fragile. This week, we are invited to ask where God is blessing us, which Beatitude is calling us to grow and how we might bring Christ's compassion into the world.

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



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