

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish

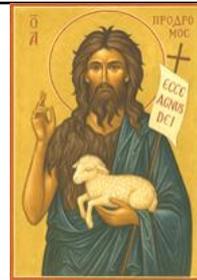
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Website: www.stjohnthebaptistnormanton.org.uk

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



Day	Time	Liturgical Celebration week beginning 14/03/26	Intention
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
Mon	9:30am	Weekday of Lent	Hilary Macauley
Tues	11am	Requiem Mass (St Patrick)	George and Kaye Gunn
Wed	12noon	Weekday of Lent	Rose Hartley
Thurs	9:30am	Solemnity of St Joseph (11:30 Funeral Service for Gillian Kinsey)	Lilian & Thomas Naughton
Fri	9:30am	Weekday of Lent - followed by Stations - also at 7pm	Yorkshire Brethren
SAT	10am	Weekday of Lent - With 1st Confession candidates	Yorkshire Brethren
SAT	6pm	Vigil for the 5th Sunday of Lent	Gordon Douglas
SUN	10am	5th Sunday of Lent	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, 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.

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

Those not attending will be held over until next year.

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).

Would those to be Baptised, Received into Full Communion and Confirmed please speak to Fr Mark after either weekend Mass.

CATHOLIC CARE ANNUAL APPEAL - THIS WEEKEND - SECOND COLLECTION

Safeguarding: Please pass any safeguarding issues to Matthew Harris at 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 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 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).

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. Applications close on 6th April. For any queries, please contact KeziaH@svp.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

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



Easter Egg and Wine Raffle:

There are three hampers with (very nice!!) bottles of wine and Easter Eggs in the Easter Raffle. Tickets are £2 each or 3 for £5. Funds to the Lighting Appealing. Tickets on sale in the Narthex.

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 to 60 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.

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 Seasonal decorations. 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!

Reflection for Laetare Sunday:

Lent can sometimes feel like a long road: prayer that stretches us, sacrifices that pinch, and a steady call to conversion that asks more of us than we expected. Lent rarely works out the way think it will or should. But today, mother Church pauses and invites us to breathe. Laetare—"Rejoice"—is not a command to pretend everything is easy. It is a reminder that God's grace is already at work, even in the places we still struggle to see clearly.

In the Gospel, Jesus heals the man born blind, restoring not only his sight but his dignity. Everyone else debates, doubts and dissects the moment. The man simply receives the gift and grows into it. He shares his joy with others, he shares the Good News with others. His journey from darkness to light mirrors our own: God's work in us often begins quietly, then slowly reshapes how we see the world, ourselves and one another.

Laetare Sunday invites us to notice the signs of grace already unfolding—small reconciliations, the ability to move forward, to see things from a different perspective, the courage to be a disciple rather than an attendant, renewed hope, a softened heart, a fresh desire to pray. These are glimpses of Easter breaking in early. Since 'the days of the Paschal feast are now approaching', as we continue through the remaining weeks of Lent, may we walk with the confidence of those who know that the light is coming, and in fact, is already here, that light is in truth, a person.

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: