


St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish

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Day	Time	Liturgical Celebration week beginning 14/02/26	Intention
SAT	6pm	Vigil for the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Patrick and Eileen Lyons
SUN	10am 12noon	6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Wedding Service	People of the Parish (Missa pro Populo)
Mon	9:30am	Feria	John McGowan's Intentions
Tues	9:30am	Feria	Alan Hepworth
Wed	12noon 7pm	 ASH WEDNESDAY Day of Fast and Abstinence from meat	Mary Fox Rev Fr Terence Boyle
Thurs	9:30am	Thursday after Ash Wednesday	Sheila Travis
Fri	9:30am	Friday after Ash Wednesday — followed by Stations	Kim Tai Wong
SAT	6pm	Vigil for the 1st Sunday of Lent	Harold Massey
SUN	10am	1st 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 Windale, Normanton, who died within hours of one another.

Please remember their family in your prayers.

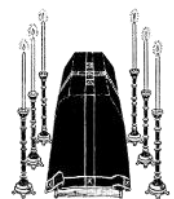
Their joint Requiem Mass will be Tuesday 17th March in St John's.

In your charity please pray for the repose of the soul Barry Mumby who died peacefully at Wakefield Hospice. Barry's Requiem Mass will be on Wednesday 4th March at 11am in St John's.

Please remember Pat and her family in your prayers.

In your charity please pray for the repose of Mary Gallagher, (sister of Dr John Gallagher) who died recently. Please remember her family in your prayers.

May they rest in peace.



PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS A WEDDING ON SUNDAY AT 12NOON. SINCE THE TURN AROUND TIME BETWEEN MORNING MASS AND THE WEDDING IS TIGHT THE CAR PARK IMMEDIATELY IN FRONT OF THE MAIN WEST DOOR WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR THE MORNING MASS.

Please pray for Adam Shaw and Valeria Polanco Zevallos who will be married in St John's at 12noon on Sunday 15th February.



The Great Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday 18th of February.

It is not a Holy Day of Obligation but it is a day of both Fasting and Abstinence from meat. Those over eighteen are bound by the law of fasting until the beginning of their sixtieth year (59), while all over fourteen are bound by the law of abstinence.

All the Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence (14+) from meat and where possible fasting from food or some other act of penance is strongly recommended.

Ramadan also falls on Ash Wednesday, Muslims fast which means they change the time of eating to the hours of darkness, breaking the 'fast' at sunset. The Lenten fasts are a denial of food or other activity and the time or money is then given to those in need. This can be done via the box for the Bethlehem Hospice, SVP or other charity. Self-denial is a key element of the great season in preparation of the Easter mysteries, it is not easy but it focuses the heart and mind by mastery of the body. In a world obsessed with the purely earthly and physical it is a practical and spiritual exercise of reliance upon the grace of God. Confession, fasting, abstinence and alms giving have always been, and remain, a powerful help to the spiritual battle of Lent.

There will be a 12noon and 7pm Mass with Confessions before / after each Mass on Ash Wednesday

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

1st Sacraments 2026:
Applications have closed for this 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.



DIOCESAN

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

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.

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).

FLAME 2027: The largest Catholic youth event in England and Wales is back! Join thousands of young people for a day of music, prayer, worship, talks from great speakers and much more at the OVO Arena, Wembley on Saturday 6th March 2027. Passes are currently at the super early bird rate of £75 per person, which includes return coach travel to/from the Diocese, until 31st July 2026. Email youth@dioceseofleeds.org.uk to book yours!

VACANCIES

HEADTEACHER VACANCY: St Thomas à Becket Catholic Secondary School, Wakefield. Start: September 2026 or earlier. Closing date: Monday 23rd February 2026. For an informal and confidential conversation about the role, please contact Rob Barraclough, Acting CEO, The Bishop Konstant Catholic Academy Trust on 01924 802285, rbarracough@bkcat.uk Visit <https://www.bkcat.co.uk/vacancies/> for more details and to apply.

HEADTEACHER VACANCY: St Paulinus Catholic Primary School, Dewsbury. Start: September 2026. Closing date: Sunday 1st March 2026. Visit <https://mynewterm.com/jobs/148485/EDV-2026-SPCPA-18824> for more details and to apply.

Reflection:

Jesus continues the Sermon on the Mount by going straight to the heart. "You have heard... but I say to you." He isn't abolishing the law; He is revealing its deepest purpose. God's commandments were never meant to be a checklist but a path toward a transformed heart.

Sirach reminds us that God sets before us life and death, blessing and curse. Not as a threat, but as a profound affirmation of our dignity: we are free, capable of choosing the good, capable of becoming people whose actions flow from love rather than obligation.

Jesus invites us to look beneath the surface of our lives. Anger, resentment, grudges, quiet contempt—these may never make headlines, but they shape the world around us. The Kingdom grows when reconciliation becomes more important than being right, when fidelity is cherished, when our words carry truth and gentleness.

This Sunday asks us to consider: Where is Jesus inviting me to go deeper—not just avoiding what is wrong, but choosing what is life-giving? What relationship needs healing? What hidden attitude needs His grace? Holiness is not about perfectionism. It is about letting Christ reshape our hearts so that love becomes our instinct and thereby challenge the nonsense of a bankrupt culture.

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: