



St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish

Newland Lane. Normanton. WF6 1BA. PP: Rev. Fr. Mark Naughton MA. KHS.
Tel: 01924 892172. Email: office.stjohnthebaptist@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

Website: www.stjohnthebaptistnormanton.org.uk

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Day	Time	Liturgical Celebration week beginning 26/07/25	Intention
SAT	6pm	Vigil for the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Patrick Brooke
SUN	10am	17th Sunday in Ordinary	People of the Parish (Missa pro Populo)
Mon	9:30am	Feria	Sue Jones
Tues	9:30am	Sts Martha, Mary and Lazarus	Mary Wong
Wed	12noon	St Peter Chrysologus	In Thanksgiving
Thurs	7pm	St Ignatius of Loyola	Chris Gordon
Fri	9:30am	St Alphonsus Liguori (Adoration to 10:30am)	Tony Cunningham
SAT	6pm	Vigil for the 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Ann McDonnell
SUN	10am	18th 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



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, Brian Lavin, Ann Cunningham, Julie Morrison.

In your charity please pray for the repose of the soul of Mary Bruce
who died peacefully on Friday 25th July. Please remember her family and friends in your prayers.
May she rest in peace.



1st HOLY COMMUNION PARISH CELEBRATION: **10 am Sunday 7th September 2025.**

All those who have celebrated their 1st Holy Communion during the Summer will come together as a group (all dressed up) for the Parish celebration and receive their certificates at the Sunday Mass on the 7th Sept.

Parents and parishioners are asked to bring food along for a 'Shared Table' in the Hall after Holy Mass.

Thank you: to everyone who supported the Sponsored SVP event which raised £450.00 for their work.

Prince of Wales Hospice, Pontefract:

James will be abseiling down the tower of Wakefield Cathedral in aid of the Hospice, on 16th August, your sponsorship would be much appreciated. A sponsorship form is available in the Narthex.
Congratulations to his wife on her upcoming New York trip on the 17th August.

My thanks to St Austin's Parish for supplying the Vigil Mass this weekend as I will be celebrating the centenary of St Joseph's, Harrogate, a former parish of mine.

YORKSHIRE DAY - Friday 1st August - O Happy Day!

Gen 1:1 'In't beginnin, God med Yorkshire sayin, "Aye, that's reight grand". The End'.





BRINGING COMFORT AND CARE TO THOSE IN NEED

Please, support our hospice charity – where every donation makes a difference in providing compassionate end-of-life care.
Join us in making every moment matter.

WWW.BCANDHT.ORG



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

DIOCESAN:

JUBILEE YEAR PRAYER VIGIL: St Mary's, Batley are hosting a Prayer Vigil on the 1st Friday of each month in 2025 entitled; "Crucem, Hostia et Virginem" - *the Cross, the Host and the Virgin*. Opportunity for Confession/ receiving the Jubilee Indulgence. Next date Friday 1st August.

FOUNTAINS ABBEY MASS: Mass for the Feast of St Bernard, Wednesday 20th August, 12noon. All welcome.
<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/yorkshire/fountains-abbey-and-studley-royal-water-garden/events>

ST MARK'S WAY ON THE NATIONAL JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE OF HOPE: begins on Saturday 6 September with 8am Mass at Leeds Cathedral. Walk all or part of the way between the Cathedral and the Jubilee Pilgrimage Church of St Austin in Wakefield. [See Diocesan website for details of how to sign up.](#)

CATHOLIC CARE ARE RECRUITING: Social Media and Communications Co-ordinator - Salary: £28,726 - £30,163 (Pro Rata), based at Head Office in Leeds. Closing Date: 10 August 2025 please contact recruitment@catholic-care.org.uk for an application form.

First Reading - Genesis 18:20–32:

Abraham's daring intercession for Sodom reveals a profound truth: God invites us into dialogue, even when justice seems inevitable. Abraham, though "dust and ashes," pleads for mercy—not just for his kin, but for the righteous among the wicked. It is worth mentioning three early Church Fathers who wrote on this text and Abraham's pleading for mercy.

St. John Chrysostom praised Abraham's boldness, noting that true prayer is not timid but confident in God's mercy.

Origen sees Abraham as a prototype of Christ, interceding for sinners.

St. Augustine interprets the negotiation as a lesson in divine patience and the value of even a few righteous souls. "*Abraham did not presume, but hoped. He did not command, but pleaded.*" — *St. Augustine*.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that:

(CCC 2571): Abraham's prayer is a model of intercession, showing how prayer can be a dialogue with God.

(CCC 2634): Intercession is a prayer of petition which leads us to pray as Jesus did.

(CCC 2099–2100): True worship includes prayer, sacrifice, and intercession—Abraham embodies all three.

The Second Vatican Council, in its document on The Word of God (Dei Verbum) affirms that God reveals Himself progressively—Abraham's dialogue is part of that unfolding revelation.

We are called to stand in the breach, like Abraham, to intercede, to pray for others and for our communities. Divine Mercy means that God listens, even as judgment looms. We have a Moral Responsibility to do and say what is difficult, what others do not want to hear, to challenge and to call to repentance because silence in the face of evil is complicity and complicity means we share the judgement. Abraham begs the people to change their ways—so must we. Abraham's prayer teaches us that holiness is not passive. It is bold, persistent, and rooted in love for others. Even when we feel like "dust and ashes," we are invited to speak to the Judge of all the earth—not to change His mind, but to be changed ourselves. The world thinks it can save itself by means of politics, money, ideology, demonstrations, a change of religion, the ever more ridiculous promotion of the self. We would do well to look again at Abraham. Sure in his covenant relationship with the Lord, believing that the Lord always fulfils his promises, Abraham simply stands before the Lord acknowledging he has no right to make demands but still pleads for mercy to the God who alone can save. That salvation is not an ideology, manifesto pledge or focus group report, it is a person - Jesus, the one who saves and saves the undeserving.

N.B. During the summer vacation period Matthew Harris will be updating the DBS checks for those that have or are about to run out. Thank you for your help and patience.

Mr Matthew Harris is our Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator:

Safeguarding is important to us all and Matthew does an excellent job, which requires a great deal of time and skill, in keeping up to date with what is required and best practise.

Please note: no adult without a DBS should be in the Sacristy and no adult should be alone with a child or vulnerable adult. The Sacristy door should always be open when servers are present. The Sacristy has CCTV recording at all times and a register of those present in the Sacristy is kept. Photography of children, not your own, is not permitted without consent of the child's parent(s). If you have concerns please raise them with Matthew.

Safeguarding: Matthew Harris at PSR.Mharris@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

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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: