



St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish

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Day	Time	Liturgical Celebration week beginning 13/09/25		Intention
SAT	6pm		Exaltation of the Holy Cross	Mary Thompson
SUN	10am		Exaltation of the Holy Cross	People of the Parish (<i>Missa pro Populo</i>)
Mon	9:30am	Our Lady of Sorrows		SVP Intentions
Tues	9:30am	Sts Cornelius and Cyprian		Josephine Pritchard
Wed	12noon	Feria		Mary Wong
Thurs	7pm	Feria		J B Naughton
Fri	9:30am	St Theodore of Canterbury (<i>Adoration-10:30</i>)		Private Intention
SAT	6pm	Vigil for the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time		Zbigniew Trybek
SUN	10am	25th Sunday in Ordinary Time		People of the Parish (<i>Missa pro Populo</i>)

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., Pascalima Notsi, Sarah Cowley and Leslie Beaton-Brown.



Holy Land Olive Wood:

Next weekend carved Holy Land Olive Wood will be on sale, carved by Christians in the Holy Land. With the dire problems in the Holy Land the Christian community has lost its main source of income for their families. This is a great way of supporting them

MASSES:

A Parish Priest is bound by Canon Law to offer one Mass on Sundays and Holy Days as a 'Pro Pop' Mass (Mass for his Parishioners), for us this means that only one other Mass each weekend is available for another intention.

We try very hard to accommodate requests, however, every weekend between now and the New Year is booked.

Mass requests are made using the envelopes in the Narthex and should be handed into the Presbytery or Sacristy. Alternatively, you may write the name or intention (clearly) on any envelope and hand it in.

Server's Bowling -

Parent's please note: you will need to collect a form from Fr Mark THIS WEEKEND for Bowling on Tuesday 16th September, 5 –7pm.

Please gather at the front doors at Xcape at 4:45pm so we are ready to go onto the lanes at 5pm.

Non- slip shoes are required! We will pay for the Bowling and food (*a nutritious soya bean salad, haggis fries and herbal tea*), you just have to get them there.

Race Night - Sponsored by: Manufacturing Consultants Ltd.

The Race Nights are very popular indeed and great fun!

The next is on Friday 10th October. 1st Race at 7.30pm.

Tickets - £10 which include Pie & Peas. Bar available. We are now looking for Race Sponsors and Owners please speak to David Hartill.

9 races - race sponsors £20, horse sponsors £10 - prizes for winners. Sponsorships & tickets on sale NOW!



Cake Stall will resume this Sunday, after Holy Mass.

Advance Notice:

Masses on 22nd, 23rd and 24th Sept will be at different times due to training or meetings which can not be changed.

FINAL CALL FOR RED BOXES: Please hand them in for counting NO LATER THAN NEXT WEEKEND. THANK YOU



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

DIOCESAN:

VISITATION OF THE CENTENARY PILGRIM STATUE OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY AND THE RELICS OF SAINT JACINTA AND FRANCISCO:

on Monday 13th October at Leeds Cathedral from 10.30am until 7pm. Please see the full programme on the poster at the back of church or the Cathedral website.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE 2025: Prayer, fasting and (current 'buffer-zone-law'-compliant) peaceful vigil in support of the unborn, their mothers, fathers and families. 7am-7pm daily from 24 September to 2 November. More info here: <https://www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk/event/40-days-for-life-2025/> Contact Chris via 07815 681343 & 40daysforlife@gmail.com

CATHOLIC SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS AGENCY (CSSA) SURVIVORS' SURVEY: As part of a thematic audit of survivor engagement, the CSSA is actively seeking insight from those who have lived experience of abuse and is carrying out a public call for information. This is an opportunity for anybody with information to share with the CSSA (anonymously if you wish). To find out more about the CSSA's current public call for information, and how you can complete a survey, please visit their dedicated webpage <https://catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/contact-us-and-other-information/public-calls-for-information/>

ANNUAL LEEDS DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM: The Annual Leeds Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham will take place this year on Saturday 27th September. 12:00Noon Angelus and the celebration of Holy Mass, 2:30pm Solemn Procession into the village of Walsingham, 3.30pm Vespers and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the grounds of the Ancient Shrine. Bring a picnic lunch!

CATHOLIC CARE RECRUITMENT - GIANNA BABY BANK ADMIN ASSISTANT: 16 hours per week Pay: £24,982 - £26,096 (Pro rata) Location: Bradford in our Community services. Please see website for further details www.catholic-care.org.uk or send CV to recruitment@catholic-care.org.uk

HEADTEACHER VACANCY: St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Brighouse. Start: January 2026. Closing date: Wednesday 17th September 2025. Apply at <https://mynewterm.com/jobs/148480/EDV-2025-SJCPA-69041>. For further information or an informal discussion, please contact Helen Blanchard, h-blanchard@bpstrust.org.uk



Today, we celebrate a paradox: the exaltation of an instrument of torture.

The Cross, once a symbol of shame and death, has become for us the tree of life, the throne of mercy and the sign of victory. The world wants us to hide the Cross because it may disturb people; and so it should. The Cross should never be mere decoration but a reminder of the cost of sin and alienation from God, the price paid to undo our foolish pride, the pettiness of our lives, the inhumanity of our greed, the injustice of our fallen state.

First Reading: Numbers - In the wilderness, the Israelites grumbled, afflicted by snakes. However, God gives them a remedy for those who believe and dare place their hope in Him, healing comes not by removing the serpents, but by lifting up a bronze serpent on a pole. Those who gaze upon it in faith are healed. This moment foreshadows the Cross. St. Augustine writes, *"The serpent signifies sin; Christ was made sin for us. Just as the serpent was lifted up, so was Christ lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may not perish."* The bronze serpent was not magic—it was a sign pointing to Divine Mercy. Likewise, the Cross is not merely wood, it points to it is the sacrament of salvation, the Saving Sacrifice of Christ.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:6–11 — In the second reading St. Paul gives us a hymn of divine humility. Christ, though equal with God, "emptied himself," taking the form of a slave, obedient even unto death—death on a Cross. This is the scandal and glory of Christianity: that God stoops so low to lift us so high. The Cross is not just the means of our redemption—it is the measure of divine love.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells Nicodemus that just as Moses lifted up the serpent, so must the Son of Man be lifted up. Why? "So that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life." Then comes the verse that has echoed through centuries: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son..." The Cross is not a tragedy—it is a gift. Not a defeat—but a triumph. Not a curse—but a blessing, indeed The Blessing to fallen but now redeemed humanity.

To exalt the Cross is not merely to admire it—it is to carry it. The Lord commanded us, "Take up your cross daily and follow me." That means embracing suffering with hope, loving when it costs us, forgiving when it wounds us. The bankrupt world tells us to run from the Crosses of our lives because they have no meaning or value. St. Edith Stein (St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross) was Jew who converted to Christ and died in Auschwitz wrote: *"The deeper one is drawn into the Godhead, the more one must go out of oneself, into the world, and offer oneself in love."*

Let us not flee the Cross. Let us lift it high—in our homes, our hearts, our choices. For in the Cross, we find not only Christ's suffering—but His glory.

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: