

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;
I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.*

COLLECT

O God, who show the light of your truth to those who go astray, so that they may return to the right path, give all who for the faith they profess are accounted Christians the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ and to strive after all that does it honour. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Isaiah 55:10-11

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord:

'For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 65(64):10a-d. 10e-11. 12-13. 14 R. Luke 8:8

R: Some seed fell into good soil and yielded its fruit.

1. You visit the earth, give it water;
you fill it with riches.
God's ever-flowing river brims over
to prepare the grain. **R.**
2. And thus you prepare it:
you drench its furrows;
you level it, soften it with showers;
you bless its growth. **R.**
3. You crown the year with your bounty.
Abundance flows in your pathways;
in pastures of the desert it flows.
The hills are girded with joy. **R.**
4. The meadows clothed with flocks.
The valleys are decked with wheat.
They shout for joy; yes, they sing! **R.**

SECOND READING Romans 8:18-23

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters: I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption, and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

R: Alleluia, alleluia.

The seed is the word of God, Christ the sower;
all who find him will live for ever.

R: Alleluia.

GOSPEL Matthew 13:1-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

(for shorter form read between > <)

>At that time: Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear.' <

Then the disciples came and said to him, 'Why do you speak to them in parables?' And he answered them, 'To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: "You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive." For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them. But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.'

'Hear then the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look upon the offerings of the Church, O Lord, as she makes her prayer to you, and grant that, when consumed by those who believe, they may bring ever greater holiness. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*The sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for her young:
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.*

Or

*Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood
remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having consumed these gifts, we pray, O Lord, that, by our participation in this mystery, its saving effects upon us may grow. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sunday Message

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 12 July 2026 • Psalter Week 3

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

MATTHEW 13:1-23 (MATTHEW 13:1-9 SHORTER FORM)



In this passage, Jesus tells the Parable of the Sower, describing how the message of the kingdom of heaven is received differently by different people. The sower scatters seed widely, illustrating God's generous offer of the Gospel. The focus is not on the sower, but on the soil – the hearts of those who hear the word.

The parable identifies four types of soil: the path, where the seed is quickly snatched away; rocky ground, where the word springs up but withers without deep roots; among thorns, where cares and desires choke growth; and rich soil, where the seed bears abundant fruit. Each soil represents a condition of the human heart, reminding us that the reception of God's word is affected by openness, perseverance, and priorities.

Jesus explains that the "seed" is the word of the kingdom, and the varying results show both the promise and the challenge of discipleship. Some hear but do not retain; others accept superficially; others are distracted by worldly concerns. Yet, when we are prepared to listen, the word produces abundant growth, revealing God's patience and the transformative power of his message.

The parable encourages self-reflection: are our hearts like rich soil, ready to receive, nurture, and bear fruit from the word of God? ■

REFLECT

Jesus reminds us today that hearing the word of God is only the beginning. The seed falls widely, generously, but the fruit it bears depends on the condition of the soil – the openness of our hearts. Some hearts are like the path: the word is quickly lost, easily distracted. Some are like rocky ground: initial enthusiasm fades without deep roots. Others are choked by the worries and desires of life, leaving little room for growth.

Yet the parable also shows hope. Where hearts are receptive, the seed produces abundant fruit – thirty, sixty, even a hundredfold. God's word is powerful, patient, and persistent. Discipleship asks us to cultivate our hearts: to listen, reflect, and nurture faith, allowing it to take root deeply.

This Gospel encourages honest self-examination. How do we respond when God speaks to us? Are we attentive and committed, or do we let life's distractions prevent growth? The promise is clear: when we open ourselves fully to God, his word transforms us, shaping our thoughts, actions, and relationships. Like rich soil, our hearts can bear fruit that endures, showing the power of God's kingdom in everyday life. ■

DO

This week, take a moment each day to reflect quietly on God's word, asking how it can take root in your life.



LEARN

God's word is powerful and fruitful, but it requires openness, attentiveness, and care in our hearts to bear the fruit of discipleship.



SAY

"Lord, make me a good and faithful servant of Your Word."
St Francis de Sales



The Parish of Our Lady Immaculate & St Robert Harrogate

Robert Street, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG1 1HP
Telephone: 01423 504988

Web: <https://www.strobertsharrogate.co.uk/>
Diocese of Leeds Registered Charity Number 249404



Parish Priest: Very Rev. Simon Bradbury VF
simon.bradbury@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Caroline Walker
office.strobert@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

15 th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year A			
Saturday 11 th Jul	4 – 4.40pm	Confessions	
	5.00pm	Mass	Elise Stitt (Anniversary)
Sunday 12 th July 2026	9am	Mass	Elena & Marc (25 th Wedding Anniversary)
	11am	Mass	Pro Populo
Monday 13 th Jul	12 Noon	Mass	Mrs McNeill RIP (Lately Dead)
Tuesday 14 th Jul	9am	Mass	Paul Fitzpatrick (Lately Dead)
Wednesday 15 th Jul	12 Noon	Mass <i>St Bonaventure, Bishop & Director of the Church</i>	Patrick Viles (Anniversary)
Friday 17 th Jul	11.30am	Exposition	
	12 Noon	Mass	Joan Dickinson (Anniversary)

Recent deaths: Jacob Temporal whose Funeral Service will take place on 15th July at 1.15pm
Antonio Iavagnilio whose Requiem Mass will take place on 16th July at 12.30pm

Mass intentions received for Lately Dead:

**Please remember in prayer all those who have died this week, may they rest in peace.
Please pray for all the sick of the Parish and those for whom Mass is offered this week
and those whose anniversaries occurs at this time**

REGULAR EVENTS

APF Red Mission – Michael Brennan
Presbytery 01423 504988

Children's Liturgy - Suzanne Walker

9am Choir – John Ibison
11am Choir – Lisa Madden
Presbytery 01423 504988

Churches Flower team – Sue Greveson
Presbytery 01423 504988

Gift Aid – Richard Boscoe
office.strobert@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

Mary's Angels Parent & Toddler Group -
1st & 3rd Mondays -
Katherine 01423 734828

Mothers' Prayers - meetings held
fortnightly. Jackie Tevlin 01423 529035

Parish Centre bookings
office.strobert@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

Phoenix (Bereavement Support) -
Presbytery 01423 504988

Piety Stall - Caroline Walker
office.strobert@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

Safeguarding Representative (Parish)
Mick Hopwood
psr.mhopwood@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

St Robert's Brownies - Wed 5.30-7.15
Sarah Mansfield 01423 566651

St Vincent de Paul Society - Mon 6pm
07442485316

St Robert's Walking Group - Second
Thurs of the month, contact George
Marczak 07905820864

St John Fisher - Mr S Mort
01423 887254

St Robert's Primary - Miss J Collins
01423 504730

St Roberts Club: open Mon-Fri from 7pm
(or by arrangement) –

200 Club - Caroline Walker
office.strobert@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS

This is not a full list and just gives a little
advance notice of events coming up.

JUL
13th – 6pm, Retirement Mass – Jill Collins
15th – Loss Support Café

SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH

FINANCIALLY. The most popular
way of ensuring that the Parish
benefits from whatever regular
giving you can afford, and where
possible, ensuring Gift Aid is
claimed (at no extra cost to you) is
by Standing Order. Forms can be
accessed by clicking the link
below, picking up a form at the
back of church or simply set up via
your own banking facilities.:

[Standing Order form](#)
[DOL Gift Aid Declaration form](#)

Account name:
DOL HARR OLI&STR

Sort Code: 40-27-15

Account No: 81017489

Or you can make a donation by
scanning this QR CODE



**A warm welcome to Mass this weekend and a special welcome to our visitors
Do join us for refreshments after Mass**

With very grateful thanks for your generous donations to the Parish.

There will be a **Retiring Collection** for **Stella Maris** (formerly Apostleship of the Sea) after all masses this weekend. Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all of our lives, but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions. Sea Sunday is when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Your support will make a big difference to seafarers and fishers in need. There are gift aid envelopes available in the narthex.

Please join us for a **Mass of Thanksgiving marking the forthcoming retirement of our school's headteacher, Miss Jill Collins** on Monday evening, 13th July at 6pm. It will be an opportunity to mark her tremendous contribution to the School and to Catholic Education over a period of many years, and to wish Miss Collins well in her retirement. Refreshments will be provided in the parish centre afterwards. All welcome.

Please come along and join us for the St Robert's Catholic Primary School **Year 6 Leavers Performance** in Church on Tuesday 14th July at 6pm. All welcome

Loss Support Café - Grief is a heavy burden to carry alone. This is a relaxed, welcoming drop-in where you can talk about loss or just sit with others who understand. Volunteer hosts are here to listen, not to diagnose or advise. You're welcome whether your loss was recent or years ago. The sessions will run fortnightly with the next one being on Wednesday, 15th July in the parish centre. Tea, coffee and cake will be provided.

Children's Bible Holiday Camp Please pray for the success of the forthcoming camp, designed to help children understand the purpose of prayer, and how to put prayer into action through the ups and downs of daily life. Unfortunately, all the places have now been filled but we hope to run the same next year so look out for places early in 2027! Thank you to all our experienced and willing volunteers who will help make this camp a success, for all their hard work and planning so far and for the generosity with which they have answered the call to help develop the faith of our younger parishioners.

The next **Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) meeting** is on Monday 20th July 2026. Any parishioner who would like to submit an item for discussion should do so to the parish office or to Fr Simon. The minutes from the previous meeting can be found on the parish website.

An individual well known to the parishes of our Diocese over many years has begun to present himself on occasion outside our church before and after some weekend Masses. He has been asking for money and causing distress to some parishioners through well documented **anti-social behaviour**. In this particular case, parishioners are requested to resist the natural urge to want to help someone in need and not give him financial assistance. The Diocese and local agencies are aware of the situation and appropriate support is given.

SVP Leeds Annual family sponsored walk in aid of the St Vincent's Support Centre. Sunday 19th July. There are 2 walks- either 3 miles or 9 miles, to suit all ages and abilities. Starting point- St Joseph's church Wetherby. Further details from Leigh Bradley LeighB@svp.org.uk/01132484126. Please support our unique Leeds based project helping the disadvantaged and those living in poverty throughout Leeds.

There is a collection box **near the Baptistry** for donations of tinned and packet food, as well as toiletries, for **Harrogate Foodbank**. At present, they are in particular need of toiletries, toilet paper, washing up liquid and washing tablets. Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

Mass prayers and responses – if you need some guidance on the responses during mass there is a sheet available at the back of church. The Nicene Creed has now been affixed to the inside front cover of the hymn books for easier reference during Mass.

All the diocesan notices can be found at <https://www.strobertsharrogate.co.uk/diocese-news>