ENTRANCE ANTIPHON
*To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.*
*In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.*
*Nor let my enemies exult over me;*
*and let none who hope in you be put to shame.*

COLLECT
Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God,
the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ
with righteous deeds at his coming,
so that, gathered at his right hand,
they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
*Amen.*

FIRST READING Isaiah 63:16b-17; 64:1. 3b-8
A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

You, O LORD, are our Father,
our Redeemer from of old is your name.
O LORD, why do you make us wander from your ways
and harden our heart, so that we fear you not?
Return for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your heritage.

O that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake at your presence.
You came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From of old no one has heard
or perceived by the ear,
no eye has seen a God besides you,
who acts for those who wait for him.
You meet him who joyfully works righteousness,
those who remember you in your ways.
Behold, you were angry, and we sinned;
in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls upon your name,
who rouses himself to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.

But now, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
The word of the Lord.
*Thanks be to God.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 80(79):2ac. 3b. 15-16. 18-19. R. 4

R: *Bring us back, O God;*
*let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.*

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
enthroned on the cherubim, shine forth.
Rouse up your might and come to save us. R.

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore;
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the stock your right hand has planted,
the son you have claimed for yourself. R.

3. May your hand be on the man at your right hand,
the son of man you have confirmed as your own.
And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name. R.

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you
because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge – even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you – so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
The word of the Lord.
*Thanks be to God.*

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL Psalm 85(84):8
R: *Alleluia, alleluia.*
Show us, O Lord, your mercy,
and grant us your salvation.
R: *Alleluia.*

GOSPEL Mark 13:33-37
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning – lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.'
The Gospel of the Lord.
*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS
Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we make,
gathered from among your gifts to us,
and may what you grant us to celebrate devoutly here below,
gain for us the prize of eternal redemption.
Through Christ our Lord.
*Amen.*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON
*The Lord will bestow his bounty,*
*and our earth shall yield its increase.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
May these mysteries, O Lord,
in which we have participated,
profit us, we pray,
for even now, as we walk amid passing things,
you teach us by them to love the things of heaven
and hold fast to what endures.
Through Christ our Lord.
*Amen.*

redemptorist publications

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# Sunday Message

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## THE WORD






The word Advent is derived from the Latin adventus, meaning "coming," and refers to the four-week period of preparation for Christmas. Adventus is, in turn, a Latin translation of the Greek word parousía, which refers to the future coming or return of Jesus.

During the Season of Advent, we contemplate two different comings of Jesus into our world. The first refers to his birth over 2000 years ago in Bethlehem. The second refers to his future return in glory as judge at the end of time.

The theme of the readings during Advent is the preparation for Jesus' second coming at the end of time, while remembering his birth in Bethlehem.

There are many things in life that keep our attention fixed on the here and now – economic challenges, war and conflict in many parts of the world, our efforts to make ends meet, along with all the other day-to-day cares of living.

The Season of Advent calls for our hope-filled attention. It reminds us that, as daunting as our day-to-day worries are, we ultimately place our hope in the ever-loving and compassionate God. That is why with all Christians down through the ages we can cry out yet again in the Aramaic language of Jesus: "Maranatha, Come, O Lord!" ■

### DO

Make Advent a special time for your family. Prepare an Advent wreath. Decorate it. Pray around it each day.

### SAY

"Lord, help me to be aware of your presence with me today and every day. Amen."

### PRAY

Pray that throughout the Advent season the Lord will open your heart to the real meaning of Christmas, so that when Christ comes, you will be filled with a joy so strong it will remain with you for ever.

### LEARN

The season of Advent offers us an opportunity to stand back from the regular routine of life to reflect on our relationship with God and with each other. It is a time to be more conscious of God's presence, so that he will find us ready and waiting when he comes.

Being a faithful disciple does not simply happen. It requires care, attention, prayer, penance and constant watchfulness.



### REFLECT

One of the wonderful things about the seasons of the liturgical year is the sense of time, of journey, of pilgrimage.

Christianity has a particular sense of time. We journey. We move through the seasons of Advent and Lent with our eyes firmly fixed on Christmas and Easter.

For Christians committed to the celebration of the liturgical calendar, time has a spiralling dynamic that invites us to recall the past, abide in the present, and hope for a future in God's heavenly kingdom. You could say that for us time is supple and elastic, bending and folding, reaching back and stretching forward, proceeding towards its climax in an unimaginable eternity.

The season of Advent conjures up a special kind of triple waiting. We wait for the Christ who appeared in an obscure town in a faraway corner of the Roman Empire 2000 years ago. We wait for his coming in this in-between time to draw us ever more closely to him. And we wait for his return in glory as judge at the end of time. Advent, you could say, is a veritable school for Christian waiting.

The Advent wreath and Advent calendar symbolise this Advent waiting. Each newly lit candle, each newly unveiled day, is a symbol of time passing, a visual reminder of our journey through these four weeks, and the manifestation of our hope, born in a stable, sealed with Mary's kiss.

The liturgical seasons remind us that we Christians have a different way of viewing time, of measuring history. We work to build God's kingdom, but the complete transformation of humanity will not happen during history but only at its culmination in the embrace of God at the end of time. Only then will everything be subjected to Christ.

Our journey through these four weeks is an opportunity to reflect on how we use time and whether we use it wisely. Notwithstanding how young, old, or fit we are, we should live each day with the end in mind, asking how we wish to spend the time that is remaining to us.

Do I live each day purposefully? Are there obstacles or distractions that prevent me from putting God first? It's a call to always remember Advent's admonition: Stay attentive! Stay focused! Don't get distracted! Remember what's truly important. ■



# The Parish of Our Lady Immaculate & St Robert Harrogate

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*Diocese of Leeds Registered Charity Number 249404*

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

| FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Year B | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Saturday<br>28th Nov | 4 – 4.40pm<br><br>5.00pm | Confessions<br><br>Mass | <br><br>Tom Murray (Anniversary) |
| Sunday<br>29th November<br>2026 | 9am<br><br>11am | Mass<br><br>Mass | Pro Populo<br><br>Fred Needham (Anniversary) |
| Monday<br>30th Nov | 12 Noon<br><br>**7pm** | Mass<br>St Andrew<br><br>**Advent Adoration** | Michael Skubiak (Anniversary) &<br>Anna Skubiak (Lately Dead) |
| Tuesday<br>1st Dec | 9am<br><br>**7pm** | Mass<br><br>**Reconciliation Service** | Carvalho Wedding Anniversary &<br>Daughter's 18th Birthday |
| Wednesday<br>2nd Dec | 12 Noon | Mass | Stuart McCahey (Anniversary) |
| Friday<br>4th Dec | 11.30am<br><br>12 Noon | Exposition<br><br>Mass | <br><br>Mary Kate Booth (Anniversary) |

***Recent deaths:*** James Arthur Trodden whose Funeral Service takes place at 10am on 30th November
Mary Dilworth, June Privett

***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**

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

*If you need some guidance on the prayers and responses during Mass, there is a sheet available at the back of church.*
*The Nicene Creed is affixed to the inside front cover of the hymn books for easier reference during Mass.*

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

The Retiring Collection for the **Catholic Youth Service** raised £487.80.

The **SVP Annual Appeal** will take place after all Masses, next weekend 5th/6th December. This collection is gift aidable and there are special envelopes available at the back of Church.

The **SVP** invite you to a light lunch Wednesday 9th December. All welcome, please sign up on list in Narthex.

There is a **Pastoral Letter** from Bishop Marcus on the website for **Vocations to the Ordained Priesthood**.

The **Piety Shop** is now stocked with a lovely selection of Advent and Christmas cards, candles, Nativity sets and little gifts – perfect for Secret Santa surprises or stocking fillers!

**REGULAR EVENTS**

APF Red Mission – Michael Brennan
Presbytery 01423 504988

Children's Liturgy - Suzanne Walker

9am Choir & 11am Choir
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 A Rhodes
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.

**NOV**
30th 7pm Advent Adoration

**DEC**
1st 7pm Reconciliation Service
2nd 12.30 Loss Support Café
7th 1.30pm Mary's Angels
13th 5pm Apologia
14th 4.30pm Diocesan Children's Concert
15th 7pm Advent Adoration
16th 12.30 Loss Support Cafe
20th 6pm Carol Service

**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

The first of two **Advent Adoration** sessions will be held in the church on **Monday evening, 30th November from 7pm until 8pm**, the second taking place on Tuesday 15th December**.** It will be an opportunity to prepare ourselves for the Christmas season through quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

A number of priests will be present in church for an hour from 7pm on **Tuesday 1st December** for **Advent confessions**. During the hour there will be continuous adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. An Examination of Conscience is available in the Narthex to help us prepare for this sacrament to ready us for the great feast of Christmas. People can attend as they are able any time within that period of an hour.

**Christmas Wreath Making -** After last year's popularity, wreath making sessions will once again take place after the 9 o'clock and the 11.00 o'clock masses on Sunday 13th December 2026 in the Parish Centre. Please bring a pair of secateurs or strong scissors if you have them. Places are limited so please sign up on the list in the Narthex. For any further details contact Rachael Park on 07944 575356.

The next **apologia session will explore the Infancy Narratives**. Taking place on **Sunday 13th December at 5pm** in the parish centre, we will explore how best to understand the gospel passages about the birth of Jesus and how we can use them in prayer today. This session will be led by Holy Child sisters Judith Lancaster and Carmel Murtagh. More details to come.

**Sacrament of First Reconciliation** – Parents of children in school year 3 are invited to make an application for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The sacrament will be administered on Saturday 13th March at 3pm with preparation lessons taking place on Sunday mornings after the 9am Mass on 31st Jan, 14th, 21st and 28th Feb and 7th March. Attendance is expected at all sessions. A parent's session will be held on Monday 18th January, 7-8pm in the parish centre. If you would like to enrol your child for preparation for First Reconciliation, please complete the form in the narthex and return to Fr Simon by 10th January 2027.

**Sacrament of First Holy Communion** – For children in school year 4 and above who made their reconciliation in 2026 or earlier. A parents evening will take place at 7pm on Monday 10th May in the parish centre. Catechesis sessions will take place after the 9am Mass on the following Sundays: 16th, 23rd and 30th May, from 10–11.30am. There will be a final session on 6th June, from 10–10.45am, which parents are asked to attend. Attendance is expected at all sessions. Children will celebrate their First Holy Communion at their usual Mass time on the weekend of 19th/20th June. A plenary mass, when all the children come together to be presented to the parish and receive their certificates, will take place at 9am on Sunday 27th June. If you would like to enrol your child, please complete the form in the narthex and return to Fr Simon by 18th April 2026.

**Sacrament of Confirmation** for children in School Year 6 and above and, who have made their First Holy Communion. The Sacrament will be conferred upon our young people at 7pm on Monday 8th March 2027. To help candidates to prepare to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, two preparation sessions will be held on Sunday 7th February and Sunday 21st February from 1–5pm. Attendance is expected at both sessions. Please complete the form in the Narthex and return to Fr Simon no later than 10th January 2026.

**Lent Project 2027** Having paused the Lent Project last year to focus on our own Building Fund, it is now time to start thinking about our next Lent Project. Parishioners are asked for their suggestions. Please see the poster in the narthex for the guidelines. Send details of your suggested project on one side of A4 paper to the Presbytery. Please mark your envelope 'LENT PROJECT 2027' by Sunday 10th January 2027.

The next **baptism Mass** is 11am on Sunday 21st February. If you would like your child to be baptised at this Mass, please complete the Baptism request form available in the Narthex. Once you have completed the form, please contact the parish office by phone or email to arrange an appointment with Fr Simon to discuss the sacrament.

A huge thank you to everyone who has signed up and uses **Easyfundraising** to support our Building Fund. We have received back £60.84 this time. Signing up is completely FREE and takes just a few moments https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/st-roberts-church-harrogate/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=pmc&utm_content=email-1

There is a collection box **near the Baptistry** for donations of tinned and packet food, as well as toiletries, for **Harrogate Foodbank**. Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

For those interested in travelling on the **Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes next year (July) as a nurse or volunteer with the hospitality team** there is an information evening being held at Hinsley Hall on Monday 7th December (6:30pm). For more information, please contact Phil Marshall on 07766 148375.

**Pilgrimage to Medjugorje** *with Aglow Pilgrimages · 9th–16th June 2027* For the first time, this is a land package only. It costs **£450** and covers seven nights' half board at Villa Grace, a guide and transfers. You book your own flights. Details are on **www.aglowpilgrimages.com**. For questions, call JC Tours on 01886 812862, Richard on 07970 198096 or Katherine on 07974 941441.

**Deanery day of renewal** Saturday 12th December 11.30am to 3.45pm in St. Aelred's church hall. Speaker is Rev. Leonora Wassell. Talk entitled "Angel Voices. Meditations on the Nativity encounters."

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