

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.
O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of mercy to all who call to you.*

COLLECT

God of might, giver of every good gift,
put into our hearts the love of your name,
so that, by deepening our sense of reverence,
you may nurture in us what is good
and, by your watchful care,
keep safe what you have nurtured.
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 Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29

A reading from the Book of Sirach.

My son, perform your tasks in meekness; then you will be loved by those whom God accepts. The greater you are, the more you must humble yourself; so you will find favour in the sight of the Lord. For great is the might of the Lord; he is glorified by the humble. The affliction of the proud has no healing, for a plant of wickedness has taken root in him. The mind of the intelligent man will ponder a parable, and an attentive ear is the wise man's desire.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 68(67):4-5ac. 6-7b. 10-11. R.cf. 11b

R: *In your goodness, O God, you provided a home for the poor.*

1. The upright shall rejoice at the presence of God; they shall exult with glad rejoicing.
O sing to God; make music to his name.
The Lord is his name. **R.**
2. Father of orphans, defender of widows:
such is God in his holy place.
God gives the desolate a home to dwell in;
he leads the prisoners forth into prosperity. **R.**
3. You poured down, O God, a generous rain;
when your heritage languished, you restored it.
It was there that your flock began to dwell.
In your goodness, O God, you provided for the poor. **R.**

SECOND READING Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

Brothers and sisters: You have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them.

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL Matthew 11:29ab

R: *Alleluia, alleluia.*

Take my yoke upon you, says the Lord,
and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart.

R: *Alleluia.*

GOSPEL Luke 14:1. 7-14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

One Sabbath, when Jesus went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully.

Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honour, saying to them, 'When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honour, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, and he who invited you both will come and say to you, "Give your place to this person", and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, "Friend, move up higher." Then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at table with you. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.'

He said also to the man who had invited him, 'When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends, or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbours, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May this sacred offering, O Lord,
confer on us always the blessing of salvation,
that what it celebrates in mystery
it may accomplish in power.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*How great is the goodness, Lord,
that you keep for those who fear you.*

Or

*Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called children of God.
Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake
of righteousness,
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Renewed by this bread from the heavenly table,
we beseech you, Lord,
that, being the food of charity,
it may confirm our hearts
and stir us to serve you in our neighbour.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sunday Message

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • 31 August 2025 • Psalter Week 2

IT'S HARD TO BE HUMBLE!

LUKE 14:1. 7-14

Today's readings focus on humility. In the book of Ecclesiasticus, the author advises that the greater someone is, the more humbly they should behave. There is no cure for the proud person's malady, since an evil growth has taken root in him.

In the Gospel, Jesus advises that if you're a guest at a party, sit at the lowest place, so that when your host arrives you may be told to move higher. When you hold a party, he goes on, don't invite those who are rich and influential, who can repay you, but rather those who are poor and insignificant.

Jesus' point is clear: the Christian mustn't be concerned with image, power or status, but with service. Service of God and neighbour is what counts.

Jesus is the best example of humility. He identified with the least of all. He chose the sick over the healthy, the weak over the powerful, the poor over the rich, sinners over the pious. He washed feet. He mixed with outcasts. He emptied himself, taking the form of a servant. He shows us how to live.

Still, it's difficult to be humble in today's social-media world, with its focus on beauty, bigness and bling. Our competitive environment promotes individualism, vanity, vaulting ambition. To succeed in life, you are told you must be aggressive, driven, ruthless.

Humility is different. Humility is the opposite of Me First. It's the ability to stand in the other's shoes; to consider experiences that are not our own. It is revolving our actions around others rather than ourselves. It is being least, being servant, being little, being last. Live like that, Jesus tells us, and heaven awaits us. ■

REFLECT

To be humble is to have four attitudes writ large.

First, it is the honest recognition we are not perfect. Despite our best intentions, we sin all the time. Whatever our rank in society or church, we are not perfect. We know we're not perfect. And so the humble person doesn't have a big head. The humble person doesn't rush to judge, doesn't discriminate against, bully, hurt or exclude. How can I look down on another when I know how imperfect I am?

We acknowledge this at Holy Communion when we say, "Lord, I am not worthy..." I'm not worthy that you should come into my house. I'm not worthy to be in your presence. I don't deserve you. The journey to perfection will never be complete this side of the grave. Humility is honest awareness of my imperfection writ large.

Second, humility is simplicity of life. It's an attitude Pope Francis has trademarked since his election – his refusal to live in the papal apartments. His refusal to wear flashy vestments. His use of ordinary language.

Our world is greedy and grasping, constantly insisting we need to look young

and perfect, never to be content with how we look, to always want more, to always be optimising, believing we can never have enough.

Humility is being satisfied with sufficient. It's knowing our biggest treasure, our ultimate security, is God. Always wanting more gets in the way of putting God and others first.

Simplicity of life is also a way of cherishing our endangered earth, and of showing solidarity with those who through others' greed are denied life's basic comforts. Humility is simplicity of life writ large.

Third, humility is prayerfulness. Archbishop Fulton Sheen once said: "Only the humble can pray, for prayer presumes we need someone and something." When we ask God for something, when we thank God for something, we are admitting our dependence on God, that on our own we can do nothing. And so we turn to God in our need, our gratitude, our joy, our heartbreak. We place ourselves before the God who is our strength. Humility is prayerfulness writ large.

Fourth, humility is knowing I don't know everything. The reservoir of human learning

SAY

"Lord, I know the values of your kingdom are different from those I see around me. Yours are the values I would like to have. Help me to have an attitude of humility and of gratitude. Amen."

DO

Examine your values, your attitudes. Do you always expect to be treated better than others? What sort of opinion do you have of yourself?

PRAY

During Mass, pray for a greater awareness of your utter dependence on God.

LEARN

The Christian is always humble.

The Christian trusts in God's goodness and love.

All are equal in the eyes of God.

is larger now than ever in our history, and expands every day. We have access to more knowledge than ever before – about the brain and matter and the origins of things. Ask Siri or Alexa almost any question, and they'll supply an instant answer. Everyone is now an expert, or thinks they are. This is especially true on platforms like X, TikTok and Facebook. Few on social media admit to being wrong. You follow those you agree with; you unfollow those you disagree with. We have become more testy, insistent, dogmatic, strident.

Humility is acknowledging I don't know everything and that that's okay. It's how it should be. The poet TS Eliot said, "The only wisdom we can hope to acquire is the wisdom of humility." Humility is admitting my limitations writ large.

Today's readings aren't about shunning the limelight, being invisible, staying silent. They're not about not taking legitimate pride in positive achievements – like a loved one's success. They are, rather, a summons to a wholesome, selfless, generous way of living that imitates Jesus, our model, the Servant King. ■



The Parish of Our Lady Immaculate & St Robert Harrogate

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22 nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year C			
Saturday 30 th Aug	4 – 4.40pm	Confessions	George & Gill Marczak - Golden Wedding Anniversary
	5.00pm	Vigil Mass	
Sunday 31 st August 2025	9am	Mass	Sarah Ann & Joshua White (Anniversary)
	11am	Mass	Pro Populo
Monday 1 st Sept	12 Noon	REQUIEM MASS	Margaret Rogers
Tuesday 2 nd Sept	9am	Mass	Mary Houlihan
Wednesday 3 rd Sept	12 Noon	Mass <i>St Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church</i>	Peter & Jennifer Hannon
Friday 5 th Sept	11.30am	Exposition	Philip Binns (1 st Anniversary)
	12 Noon	Mass	

<p>Recent deaths: please pray for Margaret Rogers whose Requiem Mass will take place at 12 noon on Monday 1st September Greg Crayford whose Requiem Mass will take place at 12 noon on Monday 8th September Theresa Young, Catherine Murphy</p> <p>Mass intentions received for Lately Dead: Margaret Rogers, Theresa Young</p>

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**

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

After a successful **RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)** course which started last September, eight people were received into the Church at Easter this year. We are planning a new RCIA course, the initial meeting for which will be on Tuesday 2nd September at 7pm in the Presbytery. Please speak to Fr Simon after Mass.

REGULAR EVENTS

APF Red Mission – Michael Brennan
Presbytery 01423 504988

Children's Liturgy - Suzanne Walker
swalker@sysstra.com

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 Tewlin 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

SoulCore - Monday 9.30 - Marie Baker
mbaker0813@gmail.com

St Robert's Brownies - Wed 5.30-7.15
Sarah Mansfield 01423 566651
mansfield.sarah@gmail.com

St Vincent de Paul Society - Mon 7pm
Katherine Merton Jones 01423 522731
Furniture – 0113 245 0800

St Robert's Walking Group - Second
Thurs of the month, contact George
Marczak 07905820864 or
george@vbs-computers.com

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) –
info@strobertsclub.co.uk

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.

SEPT
12th -14th Retreat to Ampleforth
15th – 7pm – New parishioners event
19th – 1-3pm Heritage Open Day
21st – 5pm Apologia

OCT
5th – 11am International Mass

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:
Diocese Leeds Our Lady
Immaculate St Robert H'gate

Sort Code: 40-27-15

Account No: 81017489

Or you can make a donation by
scanning this QR CODE



Our **children's liturgy** sessions will start back again on the 7th September during 9am mass. Sessions will run weekly until the half term holidays, the last CLG session for this half term will be 19th October.

Many will remember that, in 2023, we published a **directory of parishioners** with names and photographs in order to help build a sense of community. As the book is a couple of years old now, we are seeking to update it. Look out for the opportunity to have your photo updated or, if you were not in the original book and would like to be in the new one, to have your photo taken for the first time. As before, the book will be available for any parishioner who wishes to take a copy for a nominal fee to cover production charges but it will not be printed online or available in any other form. We are hoping to start taking photos in the Lady Chapel after Masses starting some time in September - keep an eye out in the bulletin for more information.

We invite **all parishioners new to the parish** in the past couple of years to join us for a welcome event hosted by members of the Parish Pastoral Council from 7pm on Monday 15th September in the parish centre. It will be an opportunity to meet representatives from the various areas of parish life and to ask any questions you may have about how the parish community can best serve you and you them. Please do register your interest with the parish office, [here](#) if you would like to attend or mention it to Fr Simon after Mass in order that we can cater for some drinks and nibbles. To add you onto the parish database please complete the [Parish Registration Form](#)

Apologia - Learning how to understand and defend our faith. A group of parishioners are planning to lead a series of sessions discovering more about various aspects of the Catholic faith in the coming weeks. The sessions, named 'Apologia', will begin at 5pm on Sunday 21st September with an exploration of the various elements of the Mass. Beginning in church, we will move across to the parish centre where refreshments will be served and there will be opportunities for discussion and to ask questions on the substance and form of the Catholic Mass. Do join us for the first of these informative sessions designed to help us deepen, together, our Catholic faith.

International Mass and Luncheon celebrating our diverse cultural parish community on Sunday, 5th October at 11am. Parishioners are encouraged to volunteer to serve that day representing their country of origin. In addition, we invite anyone who would like to offer a tasting of an authentic meal from their country to bring a dish to share at a meal after the Mass in the parish centre. A donation from those wanting to taste the different meals will be accepted and donated to the church building fund. If you would like to participate or have any questions, please contact Marie Baker mbaker0813@gmail.com

The **Baptism Seminar** will take place on Sunday 12th October at 10am in preparation for the Baptism Mass at 11am on Sunday 19th October when children will be baptised into the Church and our parish family. Please pray for our children to be baptised, their parents and godparents as they all prepare, together, for this momentous day in the spiritual journey of these little ones. Please hand the completed enrolment form, which is available at the back of church, to Fr Simon.

APF Mill Hill Red Box Collection The latest Missio magazine is now available for collection at the back of church. Please can you bring your Red Box to St Robert's between **6th and 20th September 2025** and leave it in the sacristy. The boxes will be emptied during this period and the money sent to APF/Mill Hill. Your Red Box will be available for collection in the sacristy after **27th September 2025**. The next Red Box collection will be in December 2025

March for Life – a coach is leaving from St. Robert's to attend the march in London on 6th Sept, setting off at 5.30am. The cost of the coach is £40 per person. There are limited spaces on the coach, please contact Marie Baker mbaker0813@gmail.com or 07479 029327 to reserve a seat or for further details.

Harrogate foodbank relies on goodwill and support. Over 90% of the food distributed by foodbanks in [The Trussell Trust](#) network is donated by the public – food donations are absolutely vital to give everyone referred a balanced and nutritious three day supply of food. They are in desperate need right now of the following items:- strong carrier bags, table sauce, washing up liquid, UHT milk, tinned meat, cereals, sponge puddings, rice pudding, custard, female deodorant, toiletries, toilet rolls. There is a box in the Narthex to place any donations, thank you.

Deanery day of renewal Saturday 13th September 11.30am to 3.45 pm in St. Aelred's church hall. Speaker is Fr. Chris Thomas. The theme of his talk is "Human and Alive."

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