

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God;
turn your ear to me; hear my words.
Guard me as the apple of your eye;
in the shadow of your wings protect me.*

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
grant that we may always conform our will to yours
and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart.
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 45:1, 4-6

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped,
to subdue nations before him
and to loose the belts of kings,
to open doors before him
that gates may not be closed:

'For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name,
I name you, though you do not know me.
I am the LORD, and there is no other,
besides me there is no God;
I equip you, though you do not know me,
that people may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is none besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 96(95):1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10a, c, R. 7b

R: Ascribe to the LORD glory and power.

1. O sing a new song to the LORD;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory,
and his wonders among all the peoples. *R.*
2. For the LORD is great and highly to be praised,
to be feared above all gods.
For the gods of the nations are naught.
It was the LORD who made the heavens. *R.*
3. Ascribe to the LORD, you families of peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and power;
ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter his courts. *R.*
4. Worship the LORD in holy splendour.
O tremble before him, all the earth.
Say to the nations, 'The LORD is king.'
He will judge the peoples in fairness. *R.*

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians.
Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in
God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: grace to you and peace.

We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly
mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our
God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and
steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know,
brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you,
because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in
power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL Philippians 2:15d, 16a

R: Alleluia, alleluia.

Shine as lights in the world,
holding fast to the word of life.

R: Alleluia.

GOSPEL Matthew 22:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

At that time: The Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle
Jesus in his words. And they sent their disciples to him, along
with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are true
and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about
anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. Tell
us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or
not?' But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why put me to
the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin for the tax.' And
they brought him a denarius. And Jesus said to them, 'Whose
likeness and inscription is this?' They said, 'Caesar's.' Then he
said to them, 'Therefore render to Caesar the things that are
Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant us, Lord, we pray,
a sincere respect for your gifts,
that, through the purifying action of your grace,
we may be cleansed by the very mysteries we serve.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*Behold, the eyes of the Lord
are on those who fear him,
who hope in his merciful love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.*

Or

*The Son of Man has come
to give his life as a ransom for many.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord, we pray,
that, benefiting from participation in heavenly things,
we may be helped by what you give in this present age
and prepared for the gifts that are eternal.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sunday Message

THE WORD

Year A • 18 October 2026 • Psalter Week 1



TAXING QUESTIONS

MATTHEW 22:15-21

Today's Gospel has drawn conflicting interpretations throughout Christian history, especially when it has been invoked for guidance on relations between church and state.

'Rendering to Caesar' has sometimes been taken to mean that Christians should keep religion and politics strictly separate. But this isn't the point of this story. To understand it properly, we need to bear in mind that the heart of Jesus' preaching was that the kingdom of God is at hand.

That kingdom is not a place, but a call to submit every aspect of our lives to God's kingly rule. Until God's rule is fully realised, we live in provisional times. We live, for example, in a political world whose values often fall short of the values of God's kingdom and can even be directly opposed to them. 'Rendering to God the things that are God's' acknowledges that God has an interest in the human world, including the world of finance and politics, especially when it concerns itself with moral issues. To be a disciple of Jesus means that all other values, including our political allegiances, must always be weighed against Jesus' values.

As Christians, we know that everything we have comes from God. All is gift. We depend on God at every moment of every day. We must live in such a way that we do not allow money or material things to supersede our relationship with God and our commitment to God's kingdom. ■

REFLECT

In the 1960s, my aunt was one of a group of Irish Presentation sisters who established a new foundation in the United States. A bishop in Utah wanted to bring some teaching sisters to his diocese, and he came to Ireland in search of them. The Presentation Sisters in Co Tipperary answered his plea. They opened a parochial school in Salt Lake City. Utah was a strongly Mormon state, and most of the pupils were members of that religion. The sisters did not see their role as proselytising. They saw themselves as witnesses who would point to Jesus by the example of their lives.

It worked. These nuns made a big impact on all who encountered them. It was easy to see that they loved teaching and loved their pupils. They made no distinctions between Catholic pupils and others.

Several years ago, my aunt, Sr Josephine, died, and shortly afterwards, the principal of her school in Salt Lake City received an email. This is what it said:

'Many years ago, I attended your school for just one year, after spending three years in the public school system. That one year was the most important in my education. I learned how to read that year, and I learned self-respect and respect for others. I learned about God. I am forever grateful to the nuns and teachers there. I attended Fifth Grade in 1972. Sr Josephine was my teacher. I just want to state how grateful I am to her and how much she meant to me and how I still hold her in my heart.'

Twenty-four years after I attended your school, I converted to Catholicism. My two daughters are Catholic and attending

DO

Speak to somebody about your faith. Explain why it's important to you.

SAY

'Lord, help me to be an effective witness to you today and every day. Amen.'

PRAY

Remember those missionaries who travelled to every corner of the world to proclaim the Good News. Thank God for them. Remember all those who instructed you in the faith. Thank God for their witness.



LEARN

Being a missionary has nothing to do with being a priest or religious or with leaving home to preach the Gospel. The church is missionary by its very nature, and all of us by virtue of our baptism are called to be missionaries. All we have to do is to witness to the love of God by the way we live our lives.

Catholic school. At your school, a seed was planted, and I find that the gifts from that seed are plentiful and richly rewarding...'

My aunt had no idea of the impact she made on that young pupil, but I am not surprised. That was the kind of person she was. Even without explicitly stating it, she was a missionary. Even without preaching about the Gospel, she lived the Gospel. In everything, she radiated love.

This Mission Sunday is a reminder that we are all called to be missionaries. We don't have to join the priesthood or religious life to be missionaries. We don't have to give up our work, home or family. We don't have to move to a far distant country. All we have to do is to witness to our Christian calling as best we can. Imagine how different our world would be if everybody lived like that. ■



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

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year A			
Saturday 17 th Oct	4 – 4.40pm	Confessions	Pro Populo
	5.00pm	Mass	
Sunday 18 th October 2026	9am	Mass	Frank Tierney (Birthday)
	11am	Mass	Birute RIP
Monday 19 th Oct	12 Noon	Mass	Thanksgiving Wedding Anniversary
Tuesday 20 th Oct	9am	Mass	Joseph Booth (Anniversary)
Wednesday 21 st Oct	12 Noon	Mass	Ted & Elizabeth Costar RIP
Friday 23 rd Oct	11.30am	Exposition	Cathy Binns (Anniversary)
	12 Noon	Mass	

Recent deaths:

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**

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

There will be a **Retiring Collection** after all Masses for **World Mission (Association for the Propagation of the Faith)**.

Gift Aid Letters Thank you for your parish donations, which you have kindly Gift Aided. The Diocese has provided letters detailing your donations and the tax reclaimed during the 2025/26 tax year. Unfortunately, a system glitch meant that donations made via Dona/Web have not been included within your letter. Amended letters are being prepared and will be with us shortly. If you haven't made any donations via Dona/Web, your letter can be collected from Richard in the Narthex after the 9am Mass, or from Caroline after the daily Masses. If you do not currently Gift Aid your donations, and would like to, please complete the online declaration form at <https://www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk/gift-aid-declaration/> Alternatively, paper forms are available in the Narthex. Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

We warmly welcome Amelia, Inigo, Isaac, Jacob, Joshua, Kaifechukwu, Milena, Milo, Nainsí, Nathaniel, Sofia, Whitney and Zayelle who will receive the **Sacrament of Baptism** at the 11am Mass this morning. Please keep them and their families in your prayers as they begin this beautiful journey of faith.

Apologia session, looking at aspects of the Catholic faith on Human Sexuality, takes place for parishioners in the parish centre **today, Sunday 18th October at 5pm**, with invited speaker, Monsignor Keith Barltrop.

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.

OCT

18th Baptism Mass 11am
Apologia 5pm
19th Mary's Angels 1.30-3pm
21st Loss Support Café

NOV

1st 12.30 Blessing of graves
2nd 7pm All Souls' Mass
9th 7pm Responding to the call of creation

DEC

1st 7pm Reconciliation Service
13th 5pm Apologia
14th 4.30pm Diocesan Children's Concert
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



Leeds, Middlesbrough & Hallam Consultation 2026 A copy of the report sent to the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, at the end of August regarding the potential unification of the Dioceses of Leeds, Middlesbrough and Hallam is now available. You can access the report [here](#) or via the homepage of the parish website.

Children's Liturgy will be taking a break for half term so will not be running on the 25th October or 1st November. We will be back from the 8th November and will run right up to the 20th December. We are very short of helpers so if any parishioner is willing to support with helping to keep our group running, please get in touch with Suzanne Walker to have a chat about how you can get involved.

Mary's Angels - parent and baby/toddler group Mum's and children are valued members of our church family so come and join us in the parish centre, for friendship fun and refreshments. All free! All children from 0-4 years welcome. Dads and grandparents welcome too! The next session is 1.30-3pm on Monday 19th October.

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 **this Wednesday**, 21st October in the parish centre. Tea, coffee and cake will be provided.

November Dead List Envelopes are available at the back of church. If you wish to use them, please list the names of departed relatives and friends into the envelope with your offering. Envelopes can be returned either in the offertory collection bags, or through the Presbytery letterbox.

All Saints Day Party - Calling all little saints-in-training! There will be an All Saints Day party on Sunday 1st November in the parish centre immediately following the 9am mass. Children are encouraged to dress as their favourite Saint and participate in a parade. There will be prizes for best dressed, fun games, crafts and food. Please sign up your child(ren) on the list in the Narthex.

Fr Simon will be at **Stonefall Cemetery** on **Sunday 1st November from 12.30pm to bless the graves** as directed by any families who wish their loved ones' graves to be blessed. It's an opportunity to remember our loved ones and pray for their souls at the beginning of the month of November, dedicated to the Holy Souls.

As in previous years, there will be a special **All Souls' Day Mass at 7pm on Monday 2nd November**, where the families of those whose funerals have taken place in the parish during the past year are invited to bring up a candle to the sanctuary in memory of their loved one. After Mass, there will be refreshments available in the parish centre including 'soul cakes'. Soul cakes are small, round, spiced cakes traditionally made for All Souls Day to celebrate and commemorate the dead. The custom of giving and receiving soul cakes dates back to the Middle Ages in England. Traditionally, soul cakes were given to children and the poor, known as "soulers", who went from door to door, asking for a "soul cake" and, in return, promised to pray for the household's deceased family members and their release from purgatory. Come and celebrate this wonderful Catholic tradition with us! If you would like to volunteer to bake a batch of soul cakes, please contact Suzanne Walker or Caroline in the parish office who will be happy to provide a recipe.

As we remember our deceased loved ones in November, we invite you to **bring a photo of your loved one to place on St. Joseph Altar** after the All Souls Day Mass. Candles may be lit there for your intentions during the entire month.

Responding to the Call of Creation: What Can We Do at St Robert's? For those who have expressed an interest in exploring this area in a parish context, please do read <https://irp.cdn-website.com/ce14e047/files/uploaded/Call-of-Creation-2022b.pdf> and, if you are able, come along to the initial meeting in the parish centre at 7pm on Monday 9th November.

Reception 2027 Open Day If your child will be 4 years old by 31st August 2027 and you are looking for a school place, we warmly invite you to attend our Open Day on 12th November as St Robert's Primary School. This is a wonderful opportunity to tour our school, meet our dedicated staff, and discover why our children are our very best ambassadors. See the school in action, explore our beautiful learning environment, and find out more about our ambitious curriculum and the exciting opportunities we offer. To book your place on a tour, please use the link <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/2002615184927?aff=oddtcreator> We would be grateful if you could also share this information with family and friends who may be looking for a Reception place. We look forward to welcoming you.

The Lourdes Roadshow & Quiz Night Want to know more about the Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes? Then come along to Lourdes Quiz/information sharing night plus Pie & Peas supper from 7pm at St Josephs Church, Wetherby (in the Hall) on Friday 23rd October. More info & tickets available from Phil Marshall (07766 148375). **We're hoping to put together a team from St Robert's.** Everyone is welcome, whether you've been to Lourdes before or are interested in going in the future. It's a great opportunity to share experiences, find out more about the pilgrimage and enjoy a fun evening together. If you'd like to join, please speak to Caroline in the parish office.

Diocese of Leeds, **Justice and Peace Commission** latest newsletter can be found [here](#)

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 is 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>