ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let my prayer come into your presence.
Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

COLLECT

Almighty and merciful God,
graciously keep from us all adversity,
so that, unhindered in mind and body alike,
we may pursue in freedom of heart
the things that are yours.
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 Wisdom 6:12-16

A reading from the Book of Wisdom.

Wisdom is radiant and unfading,
and she is easily discerned by those who love her
and is found by those who seek her.
She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her.
He who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty,
for he will find her sitting at his gates.
To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding,
and he who is vigilant on her account
will soon be free from care,
because she goes about seeking those worthy of her,
and she graciously appears to them in their paths
and meets them in every thought.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 63(62):2. 3-4. 5-6. 7-8. R. 2b

R: *For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God.*

1. O God, you are my God; at dawn I seek you;
for you my soul is thirsting.
For you my flesh is pining,
like a dry, weary land without water. R.

2. I have come before you in the sanctuary,
to behold your strength and your glory.
Your loving mercy is better than life;
my lips will speak your praise. R.

3. I will bless you all my life;
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet;
with joyful lips, my mouth shall praise you. R.

4. When I remember you upon my bed,
on you I muse through the watches of the night.
For you have been my strength;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. R.

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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

(for shorter from read between > <)

> We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. <
For this we declare to you by the word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL Matthew 24:42a, 44

R: *Alleluia, alleluia.*
Stay awake and be ready,
for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.
R: *Alleluia.*

GOSPEL Matthew 25:1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable, 'The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, "Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise answered, saying, "Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves." And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterwards the other virgins came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he answered, "Truly, I say to you, I do not know you." Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.'
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look with favour, we pray, O Lord,
upon the sacrificial gifts offered here,
that, celebrating in mystery the Passion of your Son,
we may honour it with loving devotion.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose,
near restful waters he leads me.

Or

The disciples recognised the Lord Jesus in the breaking of bread.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished by this sacred gift, O Lord,
we give you thanks and beseech your mercy,
that, by the pouring forth of your Spirit,
the grace of integrity may endure
in those your heavenly power has entered.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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Sunday Message

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AT THE READY

MATTHEW 25:1-13



I sometimes wonder about the difference between the five wise bridesmaids and the five foolish ones in today's Gospel. Why did the wise ones bring the extra oil? How come they were so prepared?

Amid the many preparations for the wedding, the getting ready, the mounting excitement and anticipation as the ceremony drew near, what possessed them to bring flasks of oil along with their lamps? It seems like an unusually careful thing to do.

Perhaps the difference between them and the other bridesmaids was that they had personal knowledge of the bridegroom. Maybe they knew that the bridegroom had a reputation for being late, that he was never on time for anything, that he was the type who would be late even for his own wedding. And so they thought it prudent to take precautions.

Maybe the other bridesmaids didn't know the groom all that well and so wouldn't have factored in the possibility that he might be late. Believing that everything would go according to plan, it wouldn't have entered their heads to go to the trouble of bringing extra oil. Why should they? By the time they realised their mistake, it was too late. When the ceremony eventually got under way, they weren't allowed to participate in the celebration. They were left outside the door. It seemed an extraordinarily harsh punishment.

Of course, a parable is a story told to make a point, and Jesus wanted to make his point absolutely clear.

The ten bridesmaids represent us – the Christian community – waiting for the Messiah's return. Some are wise and some are foolish; some are prepared for his coming and some are not, some have their lamps lit, others have not. Like the wise bridesmaids, we must be always prepared, alert, ready for when the bridegroom will come. We must always have our lamps lit, for we do not know the day or the hour. ■

PRAY

Today's first reading speaks of the importance of wisdom. Pray for the gift of wisdom, so that you will know what is truly important and what is not.

DO

Make an examination of conscience. Are you living in such a way that you are ready to meet the Lord whenever he calls you?

LEARN

The Christian must be ready for the Messiah when he comes in judgement at the end of time. If he does not find us ready, all he can say to us is "I do not know you." Like the wise bridesmaids, we must be faithful to our baptismal calling, people who trust in God at all times and live by the Christian values of justice, peace and love.

REFLECT

In today's second reading, St Paul offers wonderful words of assurance and consolation to the Christian community in Thessalonica. He tells them they need not grieve for those who have died because God will bring with him all who have died in Jesus. That is the hope and the promise of their faith.

It is the hope and the promise of our faith.

The gift of faith changes everything. In early 2022 Richard Gaillardetz was discussing with his wife what to do when he retired in a few years from his position as professor of systematic theology at Boston University. He had been dean of theology there as well as a former president of the Theological Association of America. He was a leading expert on Vatican II and had written and lectured widely on the Council and its impact.

Richard was planning for his retirement and then all changed utterly. On 22 February 2022, he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and given a maximum of 18 months to live. On that easy to remember date – 22/2/22 – all his plans, he said – for retirement, the books he was going to write, the places his wife Diana and he were going to visit – went out the window. He had to manage instead for his treatment and his death. Richard began to blog about his illness. This blog was published as a book following his death on 7 November 2023.

In *While I Breathe, I Hope,* he writes beautifully about the consolation his faith gave him as he approached his end, the precious gift that faith is. Richard believed wholeheartedly in the Gospel, and that belief sustained him to his dying breath.

As St Paul writes, our faith is a precious gift we should always treasure, always appreciate, always nurture, never take for granted.

The gift of faith changes everything. ■

SAY

"Lord, help me to be ever prepared for your coming. Deepen my faith in you. Amen."



The Parish of Our Lady Immaculate & St Robert Harrogate

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THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year A

Saturday 7th Nov	4 – 4.40pm 5.00pm	Confessions Mass	 Barbara Stitt (Birthday Remembrance)
Sunday 8th November 2026	9am 11am	Mass Mass	Watt Family (Bereavement) Pro Populo
Monday 9th Nov	12 Noon	Mass The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica - Feast	Pamela Fortune (Anniversary)
Tuesday 10th Nov	9am	Mass St Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church	Amelia Roberts & Richard Roberts Jnr (Anniversary)
Wednesday 11th Nov	12 Noon	Mass St Martin of Tours, Bishop	Captain Simon Culshaw (Anniversary)
Friday 13th Nov	11.30am 12 Noon	Exposition Mass	 Cath & Phil Binns RIP

Recent deaths: Fr John Anderson whose Requiem Mass will take place on Wednesday 18th November at 12 Noon

Mass intentions received for Lately Dead: Ray Carter

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.

Today is **Remembrance Sunday**, and the 11am Mass will begin, as always, with a short Act of Remembrance.

Children's Liturgy are very short of helpers. 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.

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.** Candles may be lit there for your intentions during the entire month.

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
9th 7pm Responding to the call of creation
13th 7pm Holy hour of Adoration
16th 1.30pm Mary's Angels
18th 12.30 Loss Support Cafe
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

Caring for our common home - Parish meeting - 7pm, Monday 9th November in the Parish Centre You are invited to an open meeting to explore how we can care for God's creation and live more sustainably as a parish community. We will explore how we might put our faith into action through CAFOD Live Simply Award, inspired by Pope Francis's '*Laudato Si'*. This initiative is also a response to the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales' document, The Call of Creation, which reminds us that care for the environment is not simply a matter of personal choice, but an integral part of our Christian responsibility towards God's creation, towards one another and towards future generations. Some preliminary work has already been undertaken to explore possible ways forward, and we hope this meeting will provide an opportunity to share ideas, bring together those with an interest in sustainability and begin a worthwhile new venture in the life of St Robert's. **Everyone is warmly welcome**, whether you have particular knowledge or experience to contribute, or simply an interest in helping our parish care more thoughtfully for our common home. Please do join us!

During this month of Remembrance and the Holy Souls, our parish **18–30 group invites everyone to join them for a Holy Hour of prayer for peace before the Blessed Sacrament**; a prayer for peace on Friday 13th November from 7pm to 8pm. Through prayer, reflections and moments of silence, we will remember those affected by war and conflict, pray for reconciliation throughout the world, and ask Christ, the Prince of Peace, to bring peace to our world, our communities, our families and our hearts. Everyone is warmly welcome, whatever age. Come for the full hour or for as long as you can, and spend some quiet time in the presence of the Lord, praying for peace.

The first of two **Advent Adoration** sessions will be held in the church on **Monday 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**. 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.

Building a Welcoming and Inclusive Parish What does it mean to be a truly welcoming parish where everyone feels they belong. Recent discussions at St Robert's, with contributions from Mgr Keith Barltrop and Sr Patsy MacDonald, have explored how we can remain faithful to the teachings of the Church while ensuring that everyone feels valued, respected and included. We reflected on how we welcome people from different backgrounds and circumstances, recognising that every person is created in the image and likeness of God. Our calling is not simply to open our doors, but to open our hearts through listening, understanding, compassion and accompaniment. This important conversation will continue at our next Parish Pastoral Council meeting. We would welcome your thoughts on how St Robert's can become a place where everyone experiences a genuine sense of belonging. If you have suggestions, experiences or reflections you would like to share, please email office.strobert@dioceseofleeds.org.uk. Together, we can continue building a parish community in which the truth of our faith is proclaimed with conviction, the love of Christ is expressed with compassion, and everyone who comes through our doors can experience both.

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.

St. Roberts Walking Group next walk, Thurs 12th Nov around the Burnt Yates Loop. Approx. 3.9 miles (a few fields to cross mainly flat with a short climb back to car park). Boots/shoes and poles are advisable. Meet at the back of Trinity Church at 9.55 for a prompt 10am departure. Parking at Burnt Yates Village Car Park adjacent to Cricket Club HG3 3EJ. New members are very welcome. Info George, 07946 532939.

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. To book your place on a tour, please use the link https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/2002615184927?aff=oddtdtcreator

Catholic Care Christmas Appeal 2026 – Boxes of Joy Each year, our Christmas Appeal supports families across our Diocese who need it most, offering support that makes the festive season one filled with hope, love and togetherness. This year, we want to focus our Christmas Appeal on bringing families together and creating moments of joy. We are therefore once again launching our Christmas Appeal, Boxes of Joy, and asking for your parishioners' generous support. This year, we are creating special Christmas Eve boxes for families, filled with baking kits and ingredients to encourage parents and children to spend quality time together, have fun and create special memories during the festive season. We are asking for donations of easy bake mixes, baking decorations, small baking equipment, cosy fleeces and chocolates/sweets that can be included in these boxes, helping families enjoy time together. **A box will be in the Narthex until 22nd November for donations**.

Deanery day of renewal Saturday 14th November 11.30am to 3.45pm in St. Aelred's church hall. Speaker is Rev. Darren McClintock, Chaplain at Harrogate District Hospital. Title of talk is, "Presence, Peace and Power of the Holy Spirit."

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. The recommended flights are Jet2 from Leeds Bradford to Split, and the coach transfers are timed to tie in with them. If you wish, you can add days at either end or fly from a different airport. Details are on **www.aglowpilgrimages.com**. For questions, call JC Tours on 01886 812862, Richard on 07970 198096 or Katherine on 07974 941441.

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