

ENTRANCE ANTIOPHON

*O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
In his presence are majesty and splendour,
strength and honour in his place.*

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
direct our actions according to your good pleasure,
that in the name of your beloved Son
we may abound in good works.
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 9:1b-4

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

In the former time the Lord brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.
You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 27(26):1. 4. 13-14. R. 1a

R: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1. The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
whom should I dread? **R.**

2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
only this do I seek:

to live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the Lord,
to enquire at his temple. **R.**

3. I believe I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord; be strong;
be stout-hearted, and wait for the Lord! **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:10-13. 17

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgement. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarrelling among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each one of you says, 'I follow Paul', or 'I follow Apollos', or 'I follow Cephas', or 'I follow Christ.' Is Christ divided?

Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptised in the name of Paul? For Christ did not send me to baptise but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

cf. Matthew 4:23

R: Alleluia, Alleluia.

Jesus proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom
and healed every affliction among the people.

R: Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 4:12-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

(for shorter form read between > <)

> When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:
'The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,
the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles –
the people dwelling in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death,
on them a light has dawned.'
From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.' <

While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

> The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. <

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept our offerings, O Lord, we pray,
and in sanctifying them
grant that they may profit us for salvation.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIOPHON

*Look toward the Lord and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.*

Or

*I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will not walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that, receiving the grace
by which you bring us to new life,
we may always glory in your gift.
Through Christ our Lord.

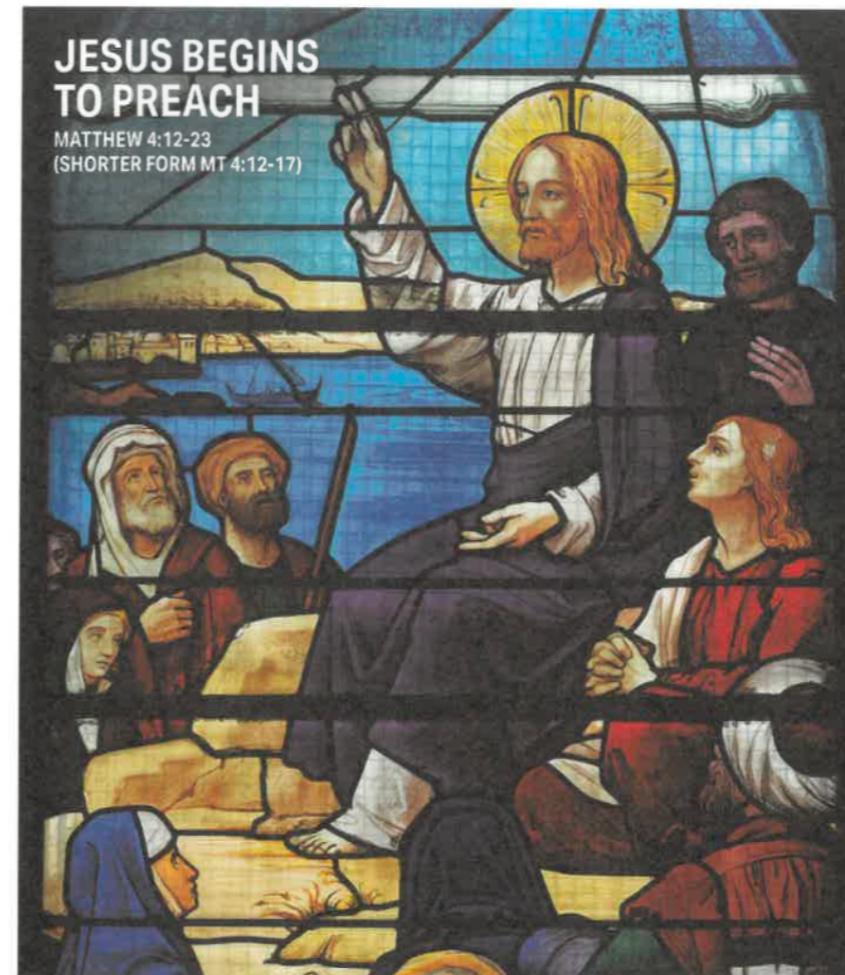
Amen.

Sunday Message

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Year A • 25 January 2026 • Psalter Week 3

THE WORD



This passage marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. After John the Baptist is arrested, Jesus leaves Nazareth and settles in Capernaum, a town by the Sea of Galilee. Matthew tells us this fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah: "The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light." Jesus brings light – hope, truth, and healing – to those who feel lost or forgotten.

From the very start, Jesus preaches a simple message: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Repentance doesn't just mean feeling sorry. It means turning around, reorienting your life, and making space for God's presence.

Then Jesus calls His first disciples – fishermen at work: Peter and Andrew, James and John. He invites them with just a few words: "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." Amazingly, they leave their nets, their boats, even their families, and follow Him. They don't yet know the full journey ahead, but they trust the One who calls.

This Gospel shows us that Jesus meets us in ordinary places – by the sea, at work, in everyday life – and invites us to follow Him. His light still shines in our darkness today, and His call still echoes: "Follow me." ■

DO

Read the Gospel passage slowly and prayerfully, then sit in silence for two minutes, simply saying in your heart: "Here I am, Lord – I want to follow You."

LEARN

Jesus calls us to follow Him with open hearts, to leave behind what holds us back, and to trust that His light will guide us into something greater.

REFLECT

Jesus begins His ministry with a message that's both simple and challenging: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand." That word – repent – can sound harsh, but it really means *turn around, change direction, come home to God*. Jesus doesn't begin with condemnation – He begins with an invitation.

Matthew tells us that Jesus brings light to those who sit in darkness. And we know that darkness – the darkness of fear, grief, failure, or loneliness. But Jesus enters into that shadow and brings hope. He comes to shine a light, not just for the world, but for each of us personally.

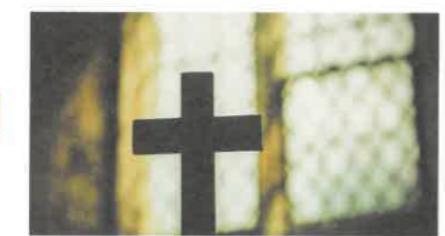
Then He calls His first disciples. They are fishermen – ordinary, hard-working people. Jesus doesn't ask for qualifications or perfection. He simply says, "Follow me." And they do. Not because they understand everything, but because something in His voice tells them this is the way.

Jesus is still calling today – not just the holy or the wise, but you and me. He meets us in our everyday lives, and says: *Come with me. I'll lead you into something deeper, something brighter.*

So if you feel stuck, tired, or uncertain – listen. His voice is near. The kingdom of heaven is close. And He is calling your name. ■

SAY

O good Cross, made beautiful by Christ's body,
you have been waiting for me.
Jesus, I followed you from the shore
when you called.
Help me now to follow you always –
with courage, with love, and with joy.
Amen.





The Parish of Our Lady Immaculate & St Robert Harrogate

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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



REGULAR EVENTS

APF Red Mission – Michael Brennan
Presbytery 01423 504988

Children's Liturgy - Suzanne Walker
swalker@systra.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 Tevin 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 6pm
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 Robert's Club: open Mon-Fri from 7pm
(or by arrangement) –
info@strobertclub.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.

FEB
11th – 10.30 Sycamore
15th – 5pm Sycamore

MAR
14/15th – Recommissioning of Readers

SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH

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[DOL Gift Aid Declaration form](https://www.strobertsharrogate.co.uk/dol-gift-aid-declaration-form)

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Sort Code: 40-27-15

Account No: 81017489

Or you can make a donation by
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A new series of **Sycamore**, the video presentations designed to teach and guide discussion about faith. The first session began with an introduction to prayer, looking at different ways to pray with the core messages that there is no one way and that the key thing is 'just do it!' The course is designed to help those who are beginning to learn about prayer as well as those seasoned in prayer. The titles include Prayers of Adoration, Praise and Worship, Prayers of Thanksgiving and Gratitude, How to Pray the Mass and Praying to the Saints. The next dates are Wednesday 11th February at 10.30am and the same session will be presented on Sunday 15th February at 5pm. All welcome.

An easy way you can **support St Robert's Church, Harrogate Building Fund** without spending any extra money. Here's how it works: Every time you shop online whether it's for groceries, gifts, clothes, or even booking a holiday 8,000+ retailers like Tesco, M&S, John Lewis, eBay, Argos, ASOS, Booking.com and many more, will donate to us for FREE through easyfundraising! It's simple: just sign up, shop as usual, and the donations will be collected automatically at no cost to you. We're at the halfway mark in our easyfundraising incentive. Huge thanks to those who have already joined; we passed the 10 new supporters milestone, which means easyfundraising will donate £15 to our Building Fund. If we gain 30 new supporters this week, we'll receive an even bigger bonus donation of £30. It only takes two minutes to sign up and make a difference. Register today! It's quick, easy and completely free to join. Please sign up <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/st-roberts-church-harrogate/> Feel free to share this with your friends and family. Thank you so much for your support.

Gift Aid - Many taxpaying parishioners already have a Gift Aid Declaration (GAD). This is a valuable source of income for the parish, enabling us to claim back 25p for every £1 donated. If you are a taxpayer, but don't have a GAD with the parish, or are unsure if you have a GAD, please complete a form here www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk/gift-aid-declaration/ (paper copies are also available at the back of church and can be returned in the weekly collection). If you have any queries or are unsure whether you can Gift Aid your donation, please consider contacting Louise Ward (Diocesan Gift Aid Administrator) on 0113 2618023 or louise.ward@dioceseofleeds.org.uk - this may be especially relevant to couples where only one person is a taxpayer. We can back claim up to 4 years' worth of donations, so a quick conversation could be worth a lot of money to the parish!

Sacrament of First Reconciliation – Parents of children in school year 3 and above who regularly attend Mass are invited to make an application for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The sacrament will be administered on Saturday 28th March 2026 at 3pm with preparation lessons taking place on Sunday mornings after the 9am Mass on 22nd Feb, 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd March. Attendance is expected at all sessions. A parent's session will be held on Monday 9th February, 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 hand in by 1st February 2026.

Sacrament of First Holy Communion – Parents of children in school year 4 and above who regularly attend mass are invited to make an application for the Sacrament of Holy Communion. A parents evening will take place at 7pm on Monday 13th April 2026 in the parish centre. Catechesis sessions will take place after the 9am Mass on the following Sundays: 19th April, 26th April and 10th May, from 10-11.30am. There will be a final session on 7th June, from 10-10.45am, which parents are asked to attend. Children will celebrate their First Holy Communion at their usual Mass time on the weekend of 14th 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 21st June. If you would like to enrol your child please complete the form in the narthex and hand to Fr Simon after Mass by 22nd March 2026.

200 Club the winning numbers for December are: £200 - 477, £20 Betty's Voucher – 476, £20 - 329, £20 M&S Voucher - 501. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to everyone who supports the 200 Club.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes Friday 3rd to Thursday 9th July 2026 - Bookings can be made by telephoning Tangney Tours, the telephone number is 01732 886666. When calling, mention that you are part of St Robert's, Harrogate, and they will try to accommodate you in the same hotel. Please have your passport details and GHIC card expiry date ready when you call. The deposit is £250, with the remaining balance due in April.

APF Mill Hill Red Box The recent collection came to £193.64. Thanks to all Red Box holders who put their box in this time. Please collect your box from the cupboard opposite the entrance door to the sacristy as soon as you are able. The next collection will be in March 2026.

Deanery day of renewal Saturday 14th February 11.30am to 3.45pm in St. Aelred's church hall. Speaker is Frances Mary Callan. Talk will be, "He came as witness" John The Baptist in the fourth Gospel.

There is a box in the Narthex for donations of tinned/packet food and toiletries for the **Harrogate Foodbank**. Thank you for your generous donations received so far. "On behalf of Harrogate District Foodbank I would like to say a very big THANK YOU to everyone involved in sending donations to the food bank during the last year. The total weight donated in 2025 was 319.5kg which would feed approximately 30 people for 3 days. Last year 26 different churches donated to the foodbank which amounted to 10.5 tonnes of food. Last year in our relatively wealthy town we fed almost 4,000 individuals, which seems so sad in this day and age. The fact is we are now seeing a large percentage of full time workers also coming through our doors who just cannot make ends meet. We operate with approximately 90 volunteers across 5 centres, 4 days a week in our district".

Bishop Marcus has asked us to pray for Vocations to Holy Orders and Religious Life:

Our Lady of Unfailing Help! Pray that the Lord of the Harvest will send labourers into His harvest and that He will grant an abundance of vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life within the Diocese of Leeds, and throughout the world. Amen

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

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year A			
Saturday 24 th Jan	4 – 4.40pm 5.00pm	Confessions Vigil Mass	Elizabeth Matthews
Sunday 25 th January 2026	9am 11am	Mass Mass	Pro Populo Repose of the soul of Agnes Agbor
Monday 26 th Jan	12 Noon	Mass <i>SS Timothy and Titus, Bishops</i>	John Hourigan (Anniversary)
Tuesday 27 th Jan	9am	Service of Word and Communion	
Wednesday 28 th Jan	12 Noon	Mass <i>St Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor of the Church</i>	Marcia Parry (Anniversary)
Friday 30 th Jan	11.30am 12 Noon	Exposition Mass	Irene George (Anniversary)

Recent deaths:

Ethel May Mackel whose funeral service will take place at 1pm on Monday 16th February
Stephen Rushton whose Requiem Mass will take place at 11am on Tuesday 17th February

Mass intentions received for Lately Dead: Albin Hanzely, Trudi O'Neill, William Noone

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.

The **Sacrament of Baptism** Seminar will take place on Sunday 8th February at 10am in preparation for the Baptism Mass at 11am on Sunday 15th February 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.

St John Fisher are holding a party for SVP and over 60s on Friday 13th February 1.40-3.00. Please let a member of the SVP know if you are attending or require a lift.

Ministry of Reader Grateful thanks to those parishioners who have indicated they would like to take up the ministry of reader within the parish. There will be refresher training for existing and new readers taking place in the parish centre at 5pm on Sunday 8th March and followed by a short (re)commissioning ceremony in the Masses on the weekend of 14/15th March.