

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard;
proclaim to the ends of the earth:
The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.*

COLLECT

Grant, almighty God,
that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days
of joy,
which we keep in honour of the risen Lord,
and that what we relive in remembrance
we may always hold to in what we do.
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 Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.
In those days: Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralysed or lame were healed. So there was much joy in that city.

Now when the Apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 66(65):1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a, 16, 20, R. 1

*R: Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.
Or Alleluia.*

1. Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise.
Say to God, 'How wondrous your deeds!' *R.*
2. 'Before you all the earth shall bow down,
shall sing to you, sing to your name!'
Come and see the works of God:
his wondrous deeds among the children of Adam. *R.*
3. He turned the sea into dry land;
they passed through the river on foot.
Let our joy, then, be in him;
he rules for ever by his might. *R.*
4. Come and hear, all who fear God;
I will tell what he did for my soul.
Blest be God, who did not reject my prayer,
nor withhold from me his merciful love. *R.*

SECOND READING 1 Peter 3:15-18

A reading from the first letter of St Peter.

Beloved: In your hearts honour Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defence to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behaviour in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL John 14:23

R: Alleluia, alleluia.

If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord,
and my Father will love him, and we will come to him.

R: Alleluia.

GOSPEL John 14:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you for ever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

'I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May our prayers rise up to you, O Lord,
together with the sacrificial offerings,
so that, purified by your graciousness,
we may be conformed to the mysteries of your mighty love.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord,
and I will ask the Father and he will send you
another Paraclete,
to abide with you for ever, alleluia.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty ever-living God,
who restore us to eternal life in the Resurrection of Christ,
increase in us, we pray, the fruits of this paschal Sacrament
and pour into our hearts the strength of this saving food.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sunday Message

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE WORD

Year A • 10 May 2026 • Psalter Week 2



Today's Gospel is taken from Jesus' farewell to his disciples. As a farewell between friends who have spent years in each other's company, it has an especially intimate tone. It touches on four themes that were common in ancient farewell discourses.

The one who is departing usually asks those who will be left behind to guard their legacy. Jesus' legacy to his disciples is the teaching he has left them, his commandments, and so today's Gospel begins with a plea to keep the commandments.

The second theme is how those left behind will keep that legacy. We sometimes say that a group of people, such as the members of a religious order, have kept their founder's spirit alive. In the case of Jesus, this is even more true. The spirit he leaves them is not just good memories that will inspire them. The Spirit of Jesus will remain with them as a new form of presence. John calls this form of Jesus' presence the Paraclete. This is an unusual word we find only in the writings of John. It is not easy to find an exact English equivalent for it, so it is sometimes translated as 'advocate' or 'comforter'. The Greek word means literally someone you call to your aid. It could be used as a legal term for the lawyer of the accused ('advocate' in that sense) or for a friend who was prepared to give evidence on his behalf, a sort of character witness. It could also be used for someone who brought consolation or comfort to those who were downhearted. John probably intends all these meanings at once.

The Spirit that Jesus gives his followers will never desert them. We should keep in mind that the first readers of the Gospel lived in a hostile world where their faith might be put to the ultimate test by arrest, imprisonment and martyrdom. For many of them, the ordeal of appearing in a public court to give a defence of their faith must have been a nerve-racking possibility. What were they going to say, especially if they were not used to speaking publicly? Jesus assures them they will not be left alone: the Spirit of Truth will be their constant companion. Like the word of Jesus, the Paraclete will abide with them.

The third theme is Jesus' assurance to his own that he will not leave them orphans. Even though the world believes he has died, his risen presence will remain with them, more mysterious indeed, but no less real by not being visible to the eye. The eye of faith will be able to discern the presence of the risen one and will know that his departure to the Father is only a temporary arrangement.

The fourth theme is that the revelation of Jesus has not ceased because he is no longer there. The future will bring new challenges but if they continue to remain united with Jesus and through him to the Father, he will continue to reveal himself to them in many new ways. ■

LEARN

The Christian is one who does God's will.

Love is at the heart of the Christian life.

God will never abandon us.

DO

The Holy Spirit is the holy breath of God. As you breathe in and out, try to imagine your breath as the Holy Spirit, the breath of God, filling you with life every minute of the day.

SAY

**"Lord, I know you are with me.
Help me to be aware of your presence at all times. Amen."**

REFLECT

Towards the end of her life, my mother would often state that she always knew she was loved, that she had been surrounded by love throughout her 90 years. She appreciated just how fortunate she was.

To experience that kind of love is a very great blessing. Thank God, most of us have experienced the love of people close to us; we know what it is like to give and receive love.

But there are many whose experience is very different – people who have been abandoned, neglected, or taken for granted, people who have experienced the cold hand of rejection rather than the warm embrace of love and affection.

After the collapse of the Ceauşescu regime in Romania in 1989, aid workers discovered orphanages in which thousands of children and teenagers were kept in appalling conditions. They were malnourished, dressed in rags and locked in cages or rooms for hours on end. Many found it difficult to communicate and were suffering from what psychologists call 'skin hunger'. They lacked warm human touch. They didn't know what it was like to be kissed, embraced or held close. They didn't know what it was like to be loved. These orphans lacked the essential requirements to develop into healthy, loving, lovable human beings. They had been treated horribly.

There's nothing worse than the feeling of being abandoned, forgotten and alone.

In today's Gospel, Jesus promises that we will never be abandoned, forgotten and alone. "I will not leave you as orphans," he declares. "I will come back to you."

He will send the Holy Spirit to be our help and guide. It's a statement of the profound love he and his Father have for all of us. We are loved so much that we will never abandon us. No matter what difficulties we face, we can be certain we are not orphans. We are children of a loving God. ■

PRAY

Pray for those who feel lost, abandoned or unloved, that they may know that God is with them.



The Parish of Our Lady Immaculate & St Robert Harrogate

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SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – Year A			
Saturday 9 th May	4 – 4.40pm	Confessions	Pro Populo
	5.00pm	Mass	
Sunday 10 th May 2026	9am	Mass	Marie & Dave Baker
	11am	Mass	Paul & Cath Barry
Monday 11 th May	12 Noon	Mass	Bernard & Marcia Blomley (A)
Tuesday 12 th May	9am	Service of Word & Communion	
Wednesday 13 th May	12 Noon	Mass	Mary Wilkinson (A)
	7pm	VIGIL MASS The Ascension of the Lord	Hugh Godfrey Batty (RIP)
Thursday 14 th May	12 Noon	MASS The Ascension of the Lord - Holyday of Obligation	Jane Keating (RIP)
Friday 15 th May	11.30am	Exposition	Sarah (Sally) Kerr (RIP)
	12 Noon	Mass	

Recent deaths:

Mass intentions received for Lately Dead: Carol Holgate

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 **next weekend, for Catholic Communications**. The funds raised are to be devoted to the support and development of (social communications) organisations and initiatives set up by the Church for the needs of the Catholic Church in general.

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 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
Katherine Merton Jones 01423 522731
Furniture – 0113 245 0800

St Robert's Walking Group - Second
Thurs of the month, contact George
Marczak 07905820864 or

St John Fisher - Mr S Mott
01423 887254

St Robert's Primary - Miss J Collins
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.

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



We warmly welcome Leon, Luna, Lyndsea, Milo, Parker, Theodore, Vincent, 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.

As part of the **consultation currently taking place across the Dioceses of Leeds, Middlesbrough, and Hallam**, there is an opportunity for everyone to contribute by completing an online questionnaire. The questionnaire is available on the parish website and should be submitted no later than Friday, 22nd May 2026. <https://www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk/leeds-middlesbrough-consultation-2026/>

There will be a light **SVP lunch** in the parish centre on Wednesday 20th May, following midday mass. All are welcome. Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex to give an idea of numbers for catering.

Parish photo directory for 2026 is available in the Narthex with a suggested £3 donation towards printing costs (payable on the Dona machine or in the collection bags at Mass). Thank you to all those who took part - getting to know each other helps us to build up the community of our parish.

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 18th May.

St Robert's Holiday Bible Camp will be held in the parish centre, 20th - 24th July 2026, 9am-12pm, for children aged 5-11. Join us for a Radical Fun Time as you learn more about your faith! This camp will help children understand the purpose of prayer, and how to put prayer into action through the ups and downs of daily life. The cost is £20 per child – due upon registration. Bank Details: Diocese of Leeds Our Lady Immaculate St Robert H'gate, Sort Code 40-27-15, Account Number 81017489 (When it asks for the reference, please insert your surname followed by HBC). **ONLY 30 SPACES AVAILABLE.** Register <https://forms.gle/ALodM4bwbK5gL1qXA> Any enquiries please, contact Anne-Marie Lund.

Choir We invite parishioners with a love of music to join the choir at either 9am or 11am and contribute to the beauty of our liturgy. No formal training is required—just a willingness to sing and take part. For further information please speak to Matt at 9am Mass or Lisa at 11am Mass.

The next **Parish Walk** is on Thursday 14th May. It's a circular walk from Spofforth known as the "The Spofforth Pinnacles." It follows Crimple Beck upstream to the B6163 then crosses the A661 and goes up to Plompton Hall. It then recrosses the A662 before crossing a field with rock formations similar to those at Brimham Rocks. Path then continues back to Spofforth. Meet as usual at Holy Trinity Church at 9.55am

APF Mill Hill Missions Your Red Box will be available for collection in the sacristy after 17th May 2026.

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 has now been affixed to the inside front cover of the hymn books for easier reference during Mass.

Calling all current and former families of St Robert's School! To celebrate the retirement of Miss Collins, Headteacher, St Robert's School is hosting a special "Jillfest" Summer Event. It would be wonderful to see as many past and present families as possible come together to give her the send-off she deserves. Friday 26th June, 5:30pm – 8:30pm in the School playground. Come rain or shine!

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.

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>