

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*How worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and divinity,
and wisdom and strength and honour.
To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.*

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
whose will is to restore all things
in your beloved Son, the King of the universe,
grant, we pray,
that the whole creation, set free from slavery,
may render your majesty service
and ceaselessly proclaim your praise.
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 2 Samuel 5:1-3

A reading from the Second Book of Samuel.

In those days: All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, 'Behold, we are your bone and flesh. In times past, when Saul was king over us, it was you who led out and brought in Israel. And the LORD said to you, "You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over Israel."' So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 122(121):1-2. 4-5. R. cf. 1

R: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the LORD.

1. I rejoiced when they said to me,
'Let us go to the house of the LORD.'
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem. **R.**
2. It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD.
As it is decreed for Israel,
to give praise to the name of the LORD.
There were set the thrones for judgement,
the thrones of the house of David. **R.**

SECOND READING Colossians 1:12-20

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

Brothers and sisters: Let us give thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or

authorities – all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the Church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-eminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL Mark 11:9, 10

R: Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!

R: Alleluia.

GOSPEL Luke 23:35-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

At that time: The rulers scoffed at Jesus, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!' The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals who were hanged there railed at Jesus, saying, 'Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.' And he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' And he said to him, 'Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As we offer you, O Lord, the sacrifice
by which the human race is reconciled to you,
we humbly pray
that your Son himself may bestow on all nations
the gifts of unity and peace.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord sits as King for ever.

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received the food of immortality,
we ask, O Lord,
that, glorying in obedience
to the commands of Christ, the King of the universe,
we may live with him eternally in his heavenly Kingdom.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

Sunday Message

SOLEMNITY OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
KING OF THE UNIVERSE

THE WORD

Year C • 23 November 2025 • Psalter Week 2



Instead of the Church's year ending on a blaze of glory on this feast of Christ the King, we are brought face to face with the crucified Christ to understand what his kingship really means.

Today's Gospel invites us to look lovingly and closely at two moments in Luke's account of the death of Jesus. There are three groups of people in the story. At a distance stand the ordinary folk, including probably the sorrowing women who accompanied him on the way to Calvary. They take no part in the mockery, in contrast to those closer to the cross.

Under the title on the cross that proclaims him as King of the Jews, Jesus' opponents are gathered. They form two groups; the religious leaders and the soldiers who are part of the execution squad. The religious leaders mock him for blasphemy, for his claim to be God's Messiah and Chosen One. The soldiers are less religiously motivated. They want to have fun with the dying criminal, toasting him mockingly with cheap wine (vinegar). As non-Jews, Jesus' religious claims mean nothing to them, so the kingship mockingly proclaimed by the sign on the cross is testimony to a poor, deluded madman whose claims to kingship have led him to the most humiliating form of death available.

The third group is closer still. It is made up of the three executed men on their crosses, Jesus and the two criminals alongside him. The first joins in the taunts of those gathered beneath: if you are the Christ, then save yourself and us as well.

His companion behaves differently. He is the last of those many people who throughout the Gospel story have come to Jesus in the hope of finding pardon and salvation. He admits that he is a sinner who has received a just reward for his deeds while Jesus has done nothing wrong. He asks for little, just to be remembered when Jesus finally enters his Kingdom. In a final act of kingly benefaction, Jesus grants this outcast a share in paradise.

In the midst of the misery and humiliation of the cross, Luke succeeds in painting a picture of someone who is every inch a king. He pardons his executioners, he bestows the gift of the kingdom on someone who has done little to deserve it until that moment, and in the act of dying he calmly resigns his Spirit into the hands of God.

The liturgical year closes with a powerful statement of Jesus as the one who brings salvation to no-hopers. In the Midnight Mass of Christmas, we are invited to rejoice with the shepherds, also a marginal and despised class, that a saviour or royal benefactor has been born for them. We close it on this feast of the Kingship with yet another view of the same royal benefactor who bestows the kingdom gift on those who have little claim on it. ■

REFLECT

Pope Pius XI inaugurated this feast in 1925 during a time of increasing political turmoil. Mussolini's Blackshirts were in power in Italy. A demagogue called Adolf Hitler was reorganising the Nazi party in Germany following his release from prison after an unsuccessful coup attempt. In Moscow, Josef Stalin was ruthlessly consolidating his control of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Democracies were crumbling across Europe, and populism and militant nationalism were on the rise. In creating this feast, Pope Pius was declaring to the world that despite dictatorships and economic collapse and the false values of the time, Jesus Christ remained King of the Universe and a model for how authority should be exercised.

Pius XI was declaring that in a world filled with division, conflict and tears, Christ the King offers both the ideal example and an uncomfortable model of behaviour.

Sadly, Pius XI could have been creating this feast for the world of today. There is so much fear and anxiety about, with war in Ukraine and the Holy Land, rising tensions between the United States and its traditional allies, increased political polarisation and intolerance, national leaders who abuse their position and treat their opponents with contempt, a world more on edge than at any time since the end of the Cold War.

Christ the King is the model for how power and authority should be exercised, now and always, and the model for how people should relate to one another. He shows us the true meaning of leadership. ■

PRAY

Pray for our leaders – of Church and state – that what they do and how they live will reflect Kingdom values of service, humility and love.

SAY

"Lord, Jesus Christ, you are my Master and my King. Help me to follow you to the best of my ability. Amen."

LEARN

Jesus came to establish a new kind of kingdom, based not on power, wealth and military might but on justice, peace and love.

The followers of Jesus live by the values of his Kingdom.

DO

Think about how you treat others. Do you treat everyone with kindness and respect, irrespective of who they are or what they do or where they come from?



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SOLEMNITY OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE – Year C			
Saturday 22 nd Nov	4 – 4.40pm	Confessions	Claudine Flores (Lately Dead)
	5.00pm	Vigil Mass	
Sunday 23 rd November 2025	9am	Mass	Jane Keating (Lately Dead)
	11am	Mass	
Monday 24 th Nov	12 Noon	Mass <i>SS Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs</i>	Keith Carter (Anniversary)
Tuesday 25 th Nov	9am	Service of Word and Communion	
Wednesday 26 th Nov	12 Noon	Mass	Gerd Engstroem (Lately Dead)
Friday 28 th Nov	11.30am	Exposition	Repose of the soul of June Wood
	12 Noon	Mass	

<i>Recent deaths:</i>
<i>Mass intentions received for Lately Dead:</i>

***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 retiring collection for the Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust raised £3,319.75.

There will be a **retiring collection** after all Masses this weekend in support of the **Diocesan Youth Service**. Leaflets are available in the Narthex with more information about the valuable work the Youth Service provides.

We are pleased to welcome Matt Blackamore, 9am musician and Lead Doctor for the **Leeds Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage**, who will be speaking to us about Lourdes at the end of each Mass. If you think you may be interested in joining the pilgrimage in July 2026, please email your name to Caroline at office.strobert@dioceseofleeds.org.uk and indicate whether you would prefer a single, twin, or double room. At this stage, this is not a commitment to travel — it simply helps us estimate how many rooms we may need to reserve. Once the pilgrimage is officially launched, bookings will be made directly through Tangney Tours. Final costs are still to be confirmed, but the expected price is approximately £1,100 per person, plus any single room supplement.

Congratulations to Gaby and Pearla who were awarded their **St Stephen's Medals** at Mass last weekend after a year of altar service.

REGULAR EVENTS

APF Red Mission – Michael Brennan
Presbytery 01423 504988

Children's Liturgy - Suzanne Walker
swalker@systira.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

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.

NOV
29th – Women's Retreat Day

DEC
2nd – 7pm Reconciliation Service
21st – 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:
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



Building fund – Since our last update on 19th October, we are delighted to share some wonderful news: we have been awarded two grants — £7,500 from the Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust and £7,500 from the Benefact Trust. All necessary permissions have now been received, the bricks have been delivered, and we are currently awaiting confirmation of a start date for the work. Thank you for your ongoing support. With these grants included, the total raised now stands at £120,239.

A photographer will be in the Lady Chapel after weekend Masses to take photos for the **new parish directory**. We encourage all individuals and families to take part. Thank you for helping us build a welcoming and connected parish community.

Children's Liturgy From next Sunday, the children will be practicing for the Children's Nativity Mass which will take place at 4pm on Christmas Eve. We welcome all the children to join us! We would be very grateful for parent helpers too.

November Dead List for loved ones who will be remembered in Masses said throughout the year. The special 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.

First Sacraments

We are delighted that you have decided to continue the journey of faith for your child following baptism, underlining your fidelity to regular Sunday Mass. A letter from Fr Simon and Miss Collins, headteacher of St Robert's School, outlining information for parents who are considering signing their children up for First Sacraments in St Robert's parish can be found [here](#). If you are not a regular worshipper, please speak with Fr Simon before enrolling.

Parents of children in Year 3 and above who regularly attend Mass are invited to apply for their child to receive the **Sacrament of First Reconciliation**. The sacrament will be celebrated on Saturday 28th March 2026 at 3pm. Preparation sessions for children will take place on Sunday mornings after the 9am Mass on the following dates: 22nd February, 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd March with attendance at all sessions expected. A parent information session will be held on Monday 9th February, from 7–8pm in the parish centre. If you wish to enrol your child for preparation for First Reconciliation, please complete the form in the Narthex and return it to Fr Simon after Mass by 1st February 2026.

Parents of children in Year 4 and above who regularly attend mass and have made their First Reconciliation are invited to make an application for the **Sacrament of Holy Communion**. The programme will begin with a parents evening at 7pm on Monday 13th April in the parish centre. Catechesis sessions will take place 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 with a plenary mass at 9am on 21st June. If you wish to enrol your child for preparation for First Holy Communion, please complete the form in the Narthex and return to Fr Simon by 22nd March 2026.

Children in Year 6 and above and, who have made their First Holy Communion, are invited to apply to receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation**. The Sacrament will be conferred upon our young people by Bishop Marcus at 7pm on Monday 16th March 2026. To help candidates to prepare to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, two preparation sessions will be held on Sunday 8th February from 1–5pm and Sunday 1st March from 1–5pm. All children who regularly attend Mass at St Robert's are invited to collect an application form from the Narthex. Forms should be completed and returned to Fr Simon no later than 21st December 2025.

Advent and Christmas

The **Diocesan Youth Children's Choir** will lead the singing at 9am Mass on **Sunday 30th November**. The children will also present their annual service of Carols on **Monday 15th December**, at 4.30pm. All are warmly invited to join.

On **Tuesday 2nd December**, there will be an opportunity to go to Confession before Christmas when four or five priests from the Deanery will be in church from 7pm to 8pm along with silent adoration.

Come and share in the joy of the Christmas season with our annual Christmas Carol Service on **Sunday 21st December** in church at 6pm followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the parish centre.

Christmas Day this year is on a Thursday and there will be the usual Children's Mass on Christmas Eve at 4pm followed by a Vigil Mass at 7pm and Midnight Mass with carols from 11.30pm. Masses on Christmas Day will be at the usual times of 9am and 11am.

Advent and Christmas cards, candles and gifts are available to purchase from the piety stall.

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. Your support is greatly appreciated and is making a meaningful difference.

Deanery day of renewal Saturday 13th December 11.30am to 3.45pm in St. Aelred's church hall. The speaker is Rev Lesley Taylor. The theme for her talk is "We are all poets."

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