

THE PROCESSION OR SOLEMN ENTRANCE

ANTIPHON during procession

*Hosanna to the Son of David;
blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,
the King of Israel.
Hosanna in the highest.*

ANTIPHON

*As the Lord entered the holy city, the children of the
Hebrews proclaimed the resurrection of life. Waving
their branches of palm, they cried: Hosanna in the Highest.
When the people heard that Jesus was coming to
Jerusalem, they went out to meet him. Waving their
branches of palm, they cried: Hosanna in the Highest.*

THE SIMPLE ENTRANCE

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*Six days before the Passover,
when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem,
the children ran to meet him;
in their hands they carried palm branches
and with a loud voice cried out:
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!
O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory!
Who is this king of glory?
He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!*

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
who as an example of humility for the human race to follow
caused our Saviour to take flesh and submit to the Cross,
graciously grant that we may heed his lesson of patient
suffering
and so merit a share in his Resurrection.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING Isaiah 50:4-7

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.
The Lord God has given me
the tongue of those who are taught,
that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary.
Morning by morning he awakens;
he awakens my ear
to hear as those who are taught.
The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious;
I turned not backwards.
I gave my back to those who strike,
and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard;
I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting.
But the Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like a flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 22(21):8-9. 17-18a. 19-20. 23-24. R. 2a

R: *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

- All who see me deride me;
they curl their lips, they toss their heads:
'He trusted in the LORD, let him save him;
let him release him, for in him he delights.' R.
- For dogs have surrounded me;
a band of the wicked besets me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet;
I can count every one of my bones. R.
- They divide my clothing among them,
they cast lots for my robe.
But you, O LORD, do not stay afar off;
my strength, make haste to help me! R.
- I will tell of your name to my kin,
and praise you in the midst of the assembly;
'You who fear the LORD, give him praise;
all descendants of Jacob, give him glory;
revere him, all you descendants of Israel.' R

SECOND READING Philippians 2:6-11

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians.
Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God,
did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,
but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant,
being born in the likeness of men.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.
Therefore God has highly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL Philippians 2:8-9

R: *Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.*

Christ became for us obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.
Therefore God has highly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name that is above every name.
R: *Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.*

GOSPEL Matthew 26:14 - 27:66

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Through the Passion of your Only Begotten Son, O Lord,
may our reconciliation with you be near at hand,
so that, though we do not merit it by our own deeds,
yet by this sacrifice made once for all,
we may feel already the effects of your mercy.
Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it,
your will be done.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished with these sacred gifts,
we humbly beseech you, O Lord,
that, just as through the death of your Son
you have brought us to hope for what we believe,
so by his Resurrection
you may lead us to where you call.
Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Sunday Message

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

THE WORD

Year A • 29 March 2026 • Psalter Week 2

THE TRIUMPH OF GOOD

MATTHEW 26:14 - 27:66



Today we listen to one of the great passion narratives. In the course of the passion, Jesus confronts all manner of sin – betrayal, desertion, violence, lies, abuse of power, cruelty. And he takes away this sin precisely by his obedience and his love. It is the triumph of love over evil.

In his book *Let Us Dream*, Pope Francis writes about good and bad spirits. The battle between the voices of good and evil is real, he says. Opinion writers and the sophisticated may be inclined to sneer at these old-fashioned concepts, but the forces of darkness are genuine and powerful. We need only look at the genocide in Gaza and the war in Ukraine for proof of evil at work.

Think of those who suffer violence at the hands of a partner, or the exploitation of migrants by greedy people traffickers, or drug barons whose lives of luxury are built on the broken lives of those on whom they push drugs, or racists stoking hate online and on the streets. Think of how women and minority groups continue to be discriminated against in many places throughout the world. Evil is happening. Evil exists. Evil is a thing. Holy Week is an annual reminder that the forces of darkness are still very strong, and that for countless people every day is a long Good Friday.

Evil exists but so also does good. And so much good is being done; a superabundance of goodness has been poured out in response to the suffering in Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan and elsewhere. Think of the way people help a family member or neighbour in distress, or care for a loved one broken by illness or old age, or put themselves out in the cause of justice and right.

The wonderful truth about this week is that we Christians journey through it knowing that good and light and hope have triumphed over evil and darkness and despair, and we are people of goodness and light and hope.

Whenever people of faith decide to confront evil at its source, and do so with inner freedom, Jesus is once more entering Jerusalem, says theologian Michel de Verteuil. We stand in solidarity with all who suffer. ■

REFLECT

One of my favourite pieces of music is the Triumphal March in Giuseppe Verdi's 1871 opera, *Aida*, where Radames leads the Egyptian army on its return following their victory over the Ethiopians. The elaborate parade, featuring soldiers and dancers, is noted for its powerful orchestration and its use of brass instruments, especially trumpets. It's no surprise its association with victory makes this piece of classical music a popular choice for sporting events, graduation ceremonies and national celebrations throughout the world.

It's hard to imagine a greater contrast between Verdi's Triumphal March and Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on Passion (Palm) Sunday. The crowds cheer Jesus as they do Radames, but there are no trumpets and marching bands to lead Jesus into

the city, no ostentatious display of wealth, grandeur or power.

Instead, Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey. In choosing this most humble form of transport, Jesus is making a deliberate statement. He is identifying with the poor, the lowly, the abject outcast. He is standing alongside the suffering and forgotten. He is challenging the religious and political authorities who lord it over people. It has been the consistent message of Jesus' public ministry. He chose the sick over the healthy, the weak over the powerful, the poor over the rich, sinners over the pious. He washed feet. He emptied himself, taking the form of a servant. It was a radical reversal of the world's way of seeing things.

We don't need to be news junkies to know that we live in a cut-throat, grotesquely

SAY

"Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set me free. You are the saviour of the world."

LEARN

The passion and death of Christ is proof of God's love for us.

Jesus ended up on a cross because of the kind of life he lived. It's how we are called to live.

Jesus didn't die for a nebulous mass called humanity. He died for each one of us individually.

PRAY

Pray for those who have suffered because of their commitment to justice, truth and love. Thank God for them.

DO

There are many ways you can return to Matthew's account of the Passion this week. Reading it meditatively and unhurriedly might be the best way to do it. Or you might ask yourself how you would have performed if you had been one of the characters in the crucifixion drama. It will be pretty easy to see yourself as one of the good characters such as Pilate's wife or the centurion. But how would you rate as a Peter? A Judas? A high priest? Where would you have stood on that fateful day when Jesus was tried and crucified? Where do you stand today?

unequal world; a Darwinian jungle that champions rugged individualism, survival of the fittest, vaulting ambition; a 'me first' battlefield with little room for idealism, solidarity or tenderness. To get on in life, one must be aggressive, uncompromising, driven. To be successful, one must be selfish, arrogant, ruthless.

Humility is the opposite of 'me first'. It's the ability to stand in another's shoes; to consider experiences that are not our own, to revolve our actions around others rather than ourselves. It is being least, being servant, being little, being grateful. Christian ambition is the opposite of worldly ambition.

We don't have to sell our car and buy a donkey to follow the example of Jesus. We just need to put God and our neighbour before narrow self-interest. ■



The Parish of Our Lady Immaculate & St Robert Harrogate

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PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD – Year A			
Saturday 28 th Mar	4 – 4.40pm	ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT Confessions	Thomas Pattison, Canon Pope, the soldiers of the Parish 1914-18, John & Mary Tindall & family, the forgotten dead of the Parish, Monica Keenan, Joseph Leddy, John & Mary Convey, Elizabeth Appleton, Jane Tindall & family, Leo, Francis & Albert Fattorini, ad intentionem Dantigi, Dale family, Joseph Morrow Kennedy, Hilda Mary Taylor
	5.00pm	Vigil Mass	
Sunday 29 th March 2026	9am	Mass	Camila & Luis Idrovo (25 th Wedding Anniversary)
	11am	Mass – <i>Please gather outside before 10.55am</i>	Pro Populo
Monday 30 th Mar	12 Noon	Mass	Hilda Dickinson (75 th Anniversary of death)
Tuesday 31 st Mar	9am	Service of Word and Communion	
Wednesday 1 st April	12 Noon	Mass	Noel Edward Crake (Anniversary)
	1pm	Funeral Service	Dora Taylor
Thursday 2 nd Apr	7pm	MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER	Lilly Conroy (Anniversary)
Friday 3 rd Apr	3pm	FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (GOOD FRIDAY)	
	6.30pm	Stations of the Cross	

Recent deaths: Joan Alderson whose Requiem Mass will take place on Monday 13th April at 11am
Joan Lintott whose funeral service will take place on Wednesday 15th April, 1.40pm at Stonefall
Ryan Dunleavy whose Requiem Mass will take place on Tuesday 21st April at 12 Noon

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.

Praying the Rosary during Lent, will take place on Tuesday, after the 9am Service of Word and Communion, by Our Lady's Altar, so as not to disturb anyone who may wish to remain in the pews for private prayer.

REGULAR EVENTS

APF Red Mission – Michael Brennan
Presbytery 01423 504988

Children's Liturgy - Suzanne Walker

9am Choir – John Ibison
11am Choir – Lisa Madden
Presbytery 01423 504988

Churches Flower team – Sue Greveson
Presbytery 01423 504988

Gift Aid – Richard Bosco

Mary's Angels Parent & Toddler Group -
1st & 3rd Mondays -
Katherine 01423 734828

Mothers' Prayers - meetings held
fortnightly. Jackie Tevlin 01423 529035

Parish Centre bookings-Caroline Walker
office.strobert@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

Phoenix (Bereavement Support) -
Presbytery 01423 504988

Piety Stall - Caroline Walker

Safeguarding Representative (Parish)
Mick Hopwood
psr.mhopwood@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

SoulCore - Monday 9.30 - Marie Baker

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 Mort
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

UPCOMING EVENTS

This is not a full list and just gives a little
advance notice of events coming up.

APF
20th 6.30pm PPC Meeting

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



Holy Week - Today is Palm Sunday - please gather outside before 10.55am (leaving the ramp area available for the procession and choir) to commemorate the Lord's entry into Jerusalem. We will process in together after the reading of the gospel and blessing of palms.

- Maundy Thursday recalls the Last Supper, where Jesus instituted the Eucharist. **Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7pm**
- Good Friday observes His crucifixion and death. **The Passion of the Lord at 3pm and Stations of the Cross at 6.30pm led by Fr Simon.**
- Holy Saturday is a day of quiet reflection, leading to the Easter Vigil Mass where a number of our community who have spent many months preparing will be received formally into the Church. **Easter Vigil at 8pm** with hot cross buns in the parish centre afterwards.
- Followed by the joyful celebration of Easter Sunday, which celebrates Christ's resurrection and victory over death. **Mass at 9am and 11am.**

Children's Liturgy will take place on both Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

Consultation on the future of the Dioceses of Leeds and Middlesbrough As part of the consultation currently taking place across our two dioceses, there is an opportunity for all clergy, religious and members of the lay faithful to contribute by completing an online questionnaire, either individually or as a parish group. Prayerful reflection should be given to the questions so that the Holy Spirit may guide this process of discernment. Prayer resources and a presentation are available on the diocesan website to support this process. Responses should be submitted no later than Friday 22nd May 2026. For more information and to complete the questionnaire, please visit: <https://www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk/leeds-middlesbrough-consultation-2026/>

Following the resignation of the Right Reverend Ralph Heskett C.Ss.R. as Bishop of Hallam, His Holiness Pope Leo XIV has appointed **Bishop Marcus Stock as the Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Hallam.** This appointment is in addition to his office as Bishop of Leeds and his responsibilities as the Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Middlesbrough. Please keep Bishop Marcus in your prayers.

The next **baptism Mass** (depending on numbers) is planned for 11am on Sunday 10th May. If you would like to have your child baptised on that date, please call or email the office to make an appointment to meet with Fr Simon to discuss the sacrament.

Offertory envelope boxes for the next financial year are available to collect from the narthex. Please note that some of you will have new numbers. If you are new to the parish and would like to join the Gift Aid scheme or set up a Standing Order, please contact Richard Bosco or Caroline in the parish office. We are very grateful for however you make your donations to the parish.

Holiday Bible Camp Get ready for another wonderful week of Bible Camp on July 20-24, 2026. We are currently looking for volunteers to help run the camp. There will be a short meeting for anyone interested in helping on Sunday, 29 March at 10:15 in the parish Centre. If you have any questions, please contact Marie Baker mbaker0813@gmail.com

Lourdes - Leeds Diocese are seeking **volunteer Registered Nurses** to assist with the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes from 3rd – 9th July 2026. This is a rewarding opportunity to support pilgrims in need while taking part in a meaningful spiritual journey. If you are available and willing to help, please contact chief.nurse@dioceseofleeds.org.uk for more information.

There are **still places available** on the pilgrimage to Lourdes this July—a wonderful opportunity for prayer, friendship, and renewal. Whilst our group hotel is now full, alternative accommodation close by is available, so more parishioners are warmly invited to take part in this special journey together. If you feel you might like to join, please contact Tangney Tours on 01732 886666.

Divine Mercy Sunday This wonderful feast day will be celebrated in St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Skipton Road, Harrogate, on Sunday April 12th. Commencing 2pm with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with confession. 3pm Chaplet of Divine Mercy, followed by Benediction and veneration of the Holy Image. All very welcome.

Life in the Spirit Seminars 2026 St. Aelred's Church. Harrogate HG2 7BE. Wednesday evenings from 7.00pm to 8.30pm except Saturday 9th May noon to 3.30 (shared table lunch). Sessions, topics and speakers. Free event. Register online via the QR code on the poster, Ring Dolores Omand 01423870789 or register on the night. See poster in the Narthex for details of each session.

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>