

# WELCOME TO THE PARISH OF ST JOSEPH, PONTEFRACT

Incorporating the Churches of St. Michael, Knottingley & St. Joseph, Tanshelf

Registered Charity No. 249404

## St Joseph's Presbytery

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### Parish Secretary:

Christine Harrison

### Website:

www.parihofstjoseph.co.uk

### Follow us on:

Facebook (parihofstjoseph) and  
Twitter (@ParihofStJ)

### Bulletin Deadline:

Wednesday evening.

Parish Priest: Fr. Simon Lodge  
Pastor Emeritus Fr. Bernard Funnell



## OUR SCHOOLS

### St Joseph:

Headteacher: Michaela Tomlin  
01977 701493  
email: admin@sjp.bkcat.co.uk

### Holy Family & St Michael:

Headteacher: Claire Cade  
01977 798303

email:

admin@hfsm.bkcat.co.uk

### St Wilfrid's High School

Tel: 01977 691000

Headteacher: Helen Gilroy

Email:

admin@st-wilfrids.bkcat.co.uk

### Parish Safeguarding Representatives:

Julie Birch: 01977 277083 & Christine Harrison: 07739  
841124

### Health & Safety Representatives

St Joseph's - James Jarman: 07971 490273  
St Michael's - Richard Spyrka

### Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist and Readers

Tom Moran: 07973 285260, email -  
[tommoran333@btinternet.com](mailto:tommoran333@btinternet.com)

### Hall Hires

St Joseph's School Hall, Christine Wilson: 07810 105742  
St Michael's Church Hall, Paula Saul: 07305 318683 or  
Duncan Saul; 07827 357838

## SERVICES SCHEDULE

### Sunday Mass Times

St Michael's.....09:00  
St Joseph's.....11:30 & 18:00

### Mass in Polish

St Joseph's: 2nd Sunday of each month...16:15

### Syro Malabar Knanaya Mission Mass

St Michael's: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month...16:00

### Rosary:

St Joseph's .....after weekday Mass  
St Michael's.....30 mins before weekday Mass

### Divine Mercy chaplet:

30 minutes before Friday Mass

### Confessions

Scheduled Confession  
St. Michael's: Saturdays.....10:45 to 11:20  
St Joseph's: Sundays.....10:45 to 11:15  
Or by appointment

### Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

St Joseph's: Wednesdays .....10:00 to 10:50  
St Michael's: Saturdays .....10:45 to 11:20

### Childrens' Liturgy Groups

St Joseph's.....Sundays at 11.30am Mass  
during school term time.  
St Michael's.....Sundays at 9am Mass  
throughout the year.

## First Sunday of Advent, Year C

### This Week's Schedule & Mass Intentions

Sunday	02/12	St Michael's St Joseph's St Joseph's	09:00 11:30 18:00	Yorkshire Brethen A & C Konwea 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary People of the Parish
Monday	03/12	St Joseph's	09:15	Word & Communion
<i>St Francis Xavier</i>				
Tuesday	04/12	St Michael's	19:00	All Member of the Walsh Family
<i>St John Damascene</i>				
Wednesday	05/12	St Joseph's	11:00	Henry Stones
Thursday	06/12	H.F.S.M.	09:30	Private Intention C.C.
<i>St Nicholas</i>				
Friday	07/12	St.Wilfrid's St.Joseph's	08:15 09:30	November Dead List November Dead List (School in)
Saturday	08/12	St Michael's <b>St.Michael's</b>	11:30 <b>12:00</b>	Thanksgiving Abrahams Family <b>Advent Talk. Fr.Josh Hilton</b>
<i>The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary</i>				
Sunday	09/12	St Michael's St Joseph's St Joseph's	09:00 11:30 18:00	John Richards James & Annie McCormack John Thomas Caine.

**Second Sunday of Advent**

### LATELY DEAD

Please pray for Doris Dunning whose Requiem takes place this week and George Sands who died recently.

May they rest in peace and may all who mourn them be comforted.

### OUR LADY'S LAMP INTENTIONS

**St Joseph's Lady's Lamp Intention for this coming week:**  
**Bronson Thompson**

**St Michael's Lady's Lamp Intention for this coming week:-**  
**For Ben our Semenarian**

If you wish to have a lamp burning night and day for an in front of the statues of Our Lady in either of churches then please take an envelope from the back of church, write on your intention and hand it to the priest. Please provide a minimum donation of £5 per envelope.

### Last Week

Mass Count: **583**  
Envelopes **£628** Loose **£405**  
**Youth Service £337**

### This Week's Draws

**St Michael's**  
Pool No.40 J Walters - £100

**St Joseph's**  
Pool No. Big Draw – Names at Back of Church

### MEETINGS

**UCM** – Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 7pm in St Michael's Parish Rooms  
**SVP** – Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> December in St Joseph's Parish Rooms  
**CAFOD** – 24<sup>th</sup> January St.Joseph's Parish Rooms.

**ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL ADULT PRAYER GROUP**  
Held in the loft, every Wednesday at 8.30am.  
**ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL ADULT PRAYER GROUP**  
Held on Wednesday's at 8.30am.

## Parish Notices

**CHURCH CLEANING: St Joseph's:** O'Malley Family

**St Michael's:** Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 9:30am, everyone welcome

**WORK AT OUR CHURCHES** – Replacement of the lighting at St Joseph's is complete. On Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> December work starts to take up the carpet in the Sanctuary at St Michael's and replace it with a laminate type flooring. We expect St Michael's to be closed all of that week. To prepare for this work we will need volunteers to stay after 9am Mass **NEXT** Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> December to help to remove the Altar, statue, lectern etc. Further help will be need to return everything to the Sanctuary when the work is complete and the flooring has settled in place. Keep an eye on the Bulletin and Social Media for more details.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** – As we prepare for the great feast of Christmas we must be careful that the 'inside' is as well prepared as the 'outside' Heaven forfend that we should be accused of being "all fur coat and no you-know-whats"! To this end, Fr Simon will be available to hear your Confession immediately after all Sunday Masses as well as the usual schedule.

**FUNERAL INSTRUCTIONS** – There was a bigger take up than expected on this last weekend so Fr Simon has ordered more plans which will be available very soon.

**DIOCESAN COLLECTION** – This Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> November, there will be a retiring collection at all Masses for the Peru Mission Fund.

**ADVENT MASS FOR SICK AND HOUSEBOUND** – The seasonal Mass will take place at noon in St Michael's church on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December followed by a little pre-Christmas party in St Michael's hall. Eucharistic Ministers are asked to canvas the people they visit to see if they will be attending. The SVP are coordinating this event so if you'd like to volunteer your services/time, please speak to one of the members.

**SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION** – Young people who have handed in their petition forms and are asked to go to the sacristy after attending Sunday Mass each week to sign the register.

**FIRST CONFESSION/HOLY COMMUNION** – Parents wishing to enrol their child on the catechetical course are invited to take a form and schedule from Fr Simon after Mass. If your child made First Confession last year and they are hoping to make First Communion this (academic) year, parents must take a Safeguarding consent form as well as a schedule. The forms

need to be returned AFTER Christmas. Copies of the schedule are attached and are available in English and Polish.

**DIOCESAN YEARBOOK 2019** - As we begin the new liturgical year, the Diocesan Yearbook has made its appearance right on cue! There are a limited number available for the price of £4 and – beautifully ringbound as they are - they would make an enviable addition to many a Christmas coffee table. Please put your money in with the regular paper money.

**CREEPING TO THE CRIB** – a pre-Reformation custom in this country was ‘Creeping to the Cross’. As Easter drew nearer, the Faithful would approach the Cross on their knees as an external sign of interior humility and gratitude before the image of salvation. The Veneration of the Cross on Good Friday is linked to this act. ‘Creeping to the Crib’ has been adapted along those lines. As we clean out our homes and our souls (in the Confessional) we are consciously preparing a place for the Son of God to dwell; we are actively welcoming Him into our lives. Alongside the ‘shell’ of the crib which has been erected this weekend in both of our churches you will find a bag of straw. Over the next few weeks, the children are going to ‘furnish’ Jesus’ manger; they are going to prepare a place for Him in our churches as well as our hearts. Please feel free to call in to the church at any time and encourage them to place a *small* handful of straw into the crib. It will look sparse at first but bit by bit we will build up the Nativity scene together. As they/you put straw into the crib perhaps you could simply say “Come, Lord Jesus.” Alternatively, you can offer any prayer you like.

**CAN YOU HELP** – Volunteers are needed to help with refreshments and the 100 Club following 11:30 Sunday Mass at St Joseph’s if these activities are to continue after Brenda and Alan Smith retire. If you would like to help out, have a chat with Brenda & Alan any Sunday before the 23<sup>rd</sup> December and they will explain what is involved. Lists will be available at the back of St Joseph’s for you to add your name so a rota can be created.

**PRINCE OF WALES HOSPICE, LIGHT UP A LIFE** – Join with the Hospice to remember someone you love this Christmas. Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December, 3pm, St Luke’s Church, Sharlston. Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December, 7pm, St Mary’s Church, Badsworth. Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> December, 7pm, Holy Cross Church, Airedale. Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December, 7pm, The Prince of Wales Hospice Garden.

**NOVEMBER DEAD LIST** – Thank you for your names and donations. The list is now closed and is on display in both churches. Please check it and notify us of any corrections that may be necessary. 70 Masses will be said throughout the coming year.

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES** – To help with your planning around families and other turkeys, the Mass times for Christmas are as follows:

**Vigil Mass** in St Michael’s 5pm (preceded by live Crib at 4.45pm)

**Midnight Mass** in St Joseph’s preceded by carols at 11.30pm

**Christmas Day Mass** in St Joseph’s 10am

**Mass in Polish** in St Joseph’s 1pm

**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PONTEFRACT** – An Advent service will be held at All Saints Church this Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 6:30pm. A collection will be taken for Cafod and Christian Aid everyone welcome.

**LOCAL FOOD BANKS** - Would you be kind enough to donate selection packs or boxes, children’s toys, colouring books, pencils, gloves, scarves and hats. Also any toiletries, toothpaste,

brushes, bath and shower gel etc. If you could kindly bring your gifts to either of our churches and leave them in the Food Bank donation boxes before Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

**LUNCH WITH THE MINI VINNIES** – St Joseph’s Mini Vinnies would like to invite ‘senior’ members of our parish community to join them for a hot meal for just £3 in the warmth of St Joseph’s Hall on Wednesdays at 12 noon during school term time. If you would like to come, please let us know by the Monday of each week by calling 01977 701493 (School Office). On the day, please come to the School Reception.

**A NEW GAS LINE** - Is being planned between Ferrybridge and Gateforth and a consultation period/Information dissemination will take place by SSE at various locations. Plans and details of information locations are available on the notice board at the back of churches or at: [www.sse.com/ferrybridged/](http://www.sse.com/ferrybridged/) your comments are invited via email [ferrybridged@sse.com](mailto:ferrybridged@sse.com) or by post Ferrbridge D Consultation. C/O Ferrybridge Power Station. Stranglands lane. Knottingley. WF11 8SQ. Submissions must be made by 5:00pm Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December.

**CAFOD** – Thank you to all who supported our soup day which raised an amazing £255. Our former members Honor and Alan Franks now have a dedicated Web Peg set up by their daughter to raise funds for the Candelight Fund – web page address is [cafod.org.uk/candelight](http://cafod.org.uk/candelight). Please all come along and support our Fairtrade stall which will be at both churches this Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2018.

**SNAITH AND DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY (WITH WOMERSLEY COMMUNITY HANDBELL RINGERS)** welcome you to come and sing Christmas Carols at Drax Sports & Social Club. Main Rd, Drax, on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 7:30pm. Refreshments available Donations Welcome.

**SNAITH METHODIST CHURCH** – Invite you to celebrate Christmas on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 7:30pm with the Snaith and District Choral Society. Light Refreshments available, Donations Welcome.

### Spiritual Programme

**ADVENT** – Fr Josh Hilton will be coming to give a talk about Advent and the spirit of preparation for Christmas. He will offer the same talk twice so as to give you all opportunity to attend. The dates are: Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December, 12noon in St Michael’s and Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December, 7pm in St Joseph’s.

**PARISH PILGRIMAGES TO POLAND AND ITALY** Next year we are running 2 pilgrimages. The first to Krakow, Poland, and the sites associated with St John Paul II commences on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019. The second to Assisi and San Giovanni Rotundo and the sites associated with St Francis and St Padre Pio runs from 5<sup>th</sup> October. Further details, booking forms and costs are available from Mary McAteer, telephone:- 01977 218100

### PRAYER TO MICHAEL, ARCHANGEL

Holy Michael, Archangel, defend us in the day of battle.

Be thou our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil.

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all wicked spirits, who roam through the world for the ruin of souls.

Amen

### O BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Mother of God and our most gentle Queen and Mother, look down in mercy upon England thy "Dowry" and upon us all who greatly hope and trust in thee.

By thee it was that Jesus our Saviour and our hope was given unto the world; and He has given thee to us that we might hope still more.

Pray for us thy children, whom though didst receive and accept at the foot of the cross, O sorrowful Mother

Intercede for our separated brethren, that with us in the one true fold they may be united to the chief Shepherd the Vicar of thy Son.

Pray for us all, dear Mother, that by faith fruitful in good works we may all deserve to see and praise God together with thee, in our heavenly home. Amen

Our Lady of Walsingham, pray for us.

### A Word From Your Pastor

Outside of ASDA on Wednesday evening I met a very lapsed Catholic (with very pronounced opinions) who told me, whilst pointing at St Joseph's church, that "It's a \*\*\*\*\* disgrace. It's blood coloured." I congratulated him on his observation and comment. "It's blood coloured because we happen to think it's a disgrace that Christians are shedding their blood on a regular basis and no one seems to care tuppence. The striking blood-red lighting is there to prompt questions, reflections and action." I went on to suggest that he might reflect on his own journey of Faith. He told me where to go as politely as he could, all the while blaming Fr So-and-So (from the days when everything was in black and white) for his lapsation. So I went on my way as requested, wistfully reflecting #firstworldcopout.

And thinking: job done! Once again we have shelled out a bit of cash in order to try to do something, anything, to highlight the plight of Christians throughout the world who are suffering for the faith. In the news recently, you may have read about the devout Christian woman, Asia Bibi, in Pakistan who was sentenced to death for (ludicrously) allegedly blaspheming the Prophet Mohammed. Once again, the 'Religion of Peace' is shown up not by a few but by nearly an entire country: having been pardoned she cannot leave the country and so is a sitting duck as her supporters desperately try to gain asylum for her. This country, which bankrolls Pakistan's Muslim population, will not grant her asylum. The decision of the government is "a \*\*\*\*\* disgrace. It's (a) blood coloured" decision. And one that is repeated again and again.

Our Christianity does not mean that we should move up the pecking order or that we should get priority over every one else; indeed, our Saviour tells us that our place is at the back of the queue as we put others first, just like Him. But at the same time, we are encouraged to imitate His compassion, a compassion by which we all benefit. The only way we can ever hope to come close to imitating that compassion is to ensure that we prepare a fitting place for Him in our lives, right at the very centre. In this holy season of Advent we do that, primarily, by a close examination of conscience and a Confession of our sins. By doing this we clear more and more space in our lives and invite the Lord 'beyond the drawing room of our interior castle' as C.S. Lewis would say, and into the deeper, lived in spaces of our lives.

There is no doubt that our red-lighting of St Joseph's church on Red Wednesday provokes comment and discussion in our town. Of that we should be very proud. Maybe it also provokes an examination of conscience too? Who knows, but what I do know is that there's no point in lighting up one of our churches if we're not bringing the light of Christ's healing to the hidden corners of our own lives.

*Fr. Simon*

### CHURCH SIGNS USA

Prayer – Wireless access to God with no roaming fee.