

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 Szyrka

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist and Readers

Tom Moran: 07973 285260, email -
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: 2nd Sunday of each month...16:00

Rosary:

St Joseph'safter 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: Wednesdays10:00 to 10:50
St Michael's: Saturdays10:45 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.

Third Sunday of Advent, Year C "Gaudete Sunday"

This Week's Schedule & Mass Intentions

Sunday	16/12	St Michael's St Joseph's	09:00 11:30	People of the Parish Thanksgiving for Emmanuel & Anthony
		St Joseph's	18:00	Maggie Wigglesworth
Monday	17/12	St Joseph's	09:15	Word & Communion
Tuesday	18/12	St Michael's	12:00	Parish Mass for Sick and Housebound
Wednesday	19/12	St Joseph's St Joseph's	11:00 14:00	Mary Joseph. School Liturgy – All welcome
Thursday	20/12	St Michael's	09:15	Rose Smith
Friday	21/12	St Joseph's	09:15	Laurence & Winnie Heaton
<i>Commemoration of St Peter Canisius</i>				
Saturday	22/12	St Michael's	11:30	Ernest Hudson
Sunday	23/12	St Michael's St Joseph's St Joseph's	09:00 11:30 18:00	Thanksgiving M.Beattie People of the Parish Gordon Lumb
Fourth Sunday of Advent				

LATELY DEAD

Please pray for all who have 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:

Margaret Burns

St Michael's Lady's Lamp Intention for this coming week:-

Sick of the Parish

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.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Vigil Mass - St Michael's 5pm - live Crib at 4.45pm

Midnight Mass - St Joseph's - Carols at 11.30pm

Christmas Day Mass - St Joseph's 10am

Mass in Polish - St Joseph's 1pm

Last Week

Mass Count: **664**
Envelopes **£547** Loose **£519**
Peru Mission - £414

This Week's Draws

St Michael's
Pool No.49 M.Longbottom - £20

St Joseph's
Pool No.92 P.Clements- £20

MEETINGS

SVP – Tuesday, 8th Jan, 7pm in St Joseph's Parish Room
UCM – Wednesday, 16th Jan, 9:30 in St Michael's Hall
CAFOD – Wednesday, 24th Jan in St Joseph's Parish Room

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.

CHURCH CLEANING:

St Joseph's:
FRIDAY, 21ST DEC – 9:15AM
A Caine, A Burns, P O'Duffy
Extra help needed

St Michael's:
First Monday of each month

WORK AT OUR CHURCHES – Thank you to everyone for their help in support of the work done at our churches. That's it for now but watch this space for plans for 2019!

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH CLEANING - On Friday 21st December we are planning to give St Joseph's an extra Christmas Clean. All help would be appreciated and welcomed. Start time: immediately after 9:15am Mass.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS – There will be a second collection next Sunday, 23rd December with proceeds going towards the cost of flowers for Christmas.

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 forbid 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.

POLISH MASS – From January 2019, Fr Jan will come to St Joseph's to celebrate Mass in Polish on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of each month.

ADVENT MASS FOR SICK AND HOUSEBOUND – NB CHANGE OF DATE The seasonal Mass will take place at noon in St Michael's church on Tuesday 18th 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.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS & READERS FOR CHRISTMAS SERVICES – Please take a look at the lists posted at St Joseph's & St Michael's churches seeking Eucharistic Ministers and Readers for our Christmas Services. Please add your name as appropriate to enable us to have complete and seamless assistance for the Masses.

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.

Parents please note: this week, we have received notification that the Confirmation liturgy will commence at 7pm. It will be the responsibility of individual families to make their way to the Cathedral of St Anne on Great George Street in Leeds. Please allow plenty of time to get there (during rush hour) and to park. You need to be seated in the Cathedral no later than 6.45pm. In the meantime, if you haven't already, candidates need to choose a Confirmation name (which must be the name of a saint which they have researched – the Bishop has a habit of asking questions!!) and you must choose a Sponsor. This person MUST be a practising Catholic over the age of 16. It cannot be your parents. Immediately after Christmas, Fr Simon will be asking for this information which he needs to pass on to the Dean.

ST. JOSEPH'S NURSERY PONTEFRACT - Places are still available for the autumn term for any child who was 3 years old by 31st August 2018. Please call in or contact school (01977 701493) for more details.

Applications, for an April start, are now also being taken for children who will be aged three years by March 31st 2019. Parents are asked to obtain an application form from the school office (entrance off Love Lane). The completed form and any relevant documentation should be returned to school by 3.00pm Friday 18th January 2019. Please note failure to provide any necessary additional documents by the closing date will delay the correct categorisation of the application.

It should be noted that an offer of a place in the nursery does not guarantee a place in school, for which a separate application must be made.

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.

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.

TOMBOLA – Donations urgently required for St. Michael's tombola stall. Please leave items at back of church.

CAN YOU HELP – Volunteers are needed to help with refreshments and the 100 Club following 11:30 Sunday Mass at

St Joseph's. If you would like to help out, have a chat with Brenda & Alan any Sunday before the 23rd 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.

DIOCESAN YEARBOOK 2019 - Limited number of copies of the Diocesan Yearbook for 2019 are available for the price of £4 each. Please put your money in with the regular paper money.

ACHWORTH CHURCHES TOGETHER – Carols around the Christmas Tree will take place on Sunday 16th December from 3.30pm. Wrap up warm, as the singing will be mainly outside. Also, there'll be carol singing in the new Brackenhill estate on Thursday 13th from 6pm. Whatever the weather, there'll be singing!

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. Lunch this Wednesday, 19th December, will be last one until school returns and lunches start again on Wednesday, 9th January. 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/ your comments are invited via email 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 17th December.

Spiritual Programme

CATECHETICAL COURSES – In February and March, and then again May and June 2019, there will be a series of short courses on the following subjects: Catholic Social Teaching, Lay Chaplaincy in Schools, Liturgy, Catholic Schools and Religious Education, Family Life Ministry or Youth Ministry. For further details of any of these courses please contact Emma on 0113 261 8040 or evangelisation.admin@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

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 13th May 2019. The second to Assisi and San Giovanni Rotondo and the sites associated with St Francis and St Padre Pio runs from 5th 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.

Plead 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

Driving around town (and beyond) during this last week was such an 'experience' that it made me wonder if the horsemen of the apocalypse were bolting up the road from Selby! I don't class myself as the best driver on the road, but compared to some people I was like someone newly qualified from the School for Anally-Retentive Advanced Drivers. There was an hysteria about people as they gambled red lights, took bends at 50 mph and shot across roundabouts without looking. On my return home, as I got out of my car and kissed the ground in gratitude for a safe arrival, I mused on the cause of such insane panic. And then the penny dropped: "Ah! Of course, Christmas is barely a week away. The season of rejoicing in the dawn of salvation. The season of peace and goodwill to all. The season wherein we count our blessings and enjoy the soothing company of our nearest and dearest." In truth, it's enough to drive anyone loopy.

At least it is if it's the traditional sort of Christmas, namely the 'secular' sort. This faux-kind of 'christmas' is the one where every possible action has to be undertaken to ensure that neither we nor anyone else feels lonely. In fact, the attempt to extinguish loneliness is the central theme of this secular season and big bucks are spent to try and banish loneliness. Remember a few years ago, it was the central message of the John Lewis advertisement about 'the Man in the Moon'? Banishing loneliness by any means is now an international pastime, which makes the hearts of Capitalists everywhere glow with delight at this time of the year as they watch us mere mortals go half crazy as we try to buy/spend our way out of loneliness.

Loneliness comes in all shapes and sizes and every human being is affected by it one shape or another. It can be a most distressing experience and, at one level, we most certainly have a duty to stand by everyone who finds themselves suffering from it. However, at another level, it is a fundamentally human condition; indeed, St Augustine and St Thomas Aquinas (to name but two theologians) suggest that it is intrinsic to our psycho-spiritual development as humans. "Our hearts are restless, O God, until the rest in Thee", says Augustine. Aquinas goes further and says they are restless until they rest in God and are united with all of Creation.

Thomas Aquinas saw loneliness as the spiritual mainspring that God has placed inside us which mitigates against our sinfulness (which by its very definition alienates us from God). This loneliness-mainspring is the very thing that drives us on until, turning our back on sin, we find that infinite unity of peace and love in Him. Aquinas called it our *Desiderium Naturale*. It's what keeps us creative and ever-open to new ways of thinking and living and at the same time it's what helps us discern that which is going to be of no real use to us in our search; it's what drives us into an ever deeper relationship with the Lord; it's what stops us creating false gods of people or things. We're all going to be driven slightly nuts over the next few days – let's make sure it's for the right reasons and that it's truly worth it!

Fr. Simon

BULLETIN BLOOPERS!

The Wednesday fellowship meeting will be gin with prayers