

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
Back Street
Pontefract
WF8 1NL

T: 01977 702297

Email

office.stjoseph.pontefract@
dioceseofleeds.org.uk

Parish Secretary:

Christine Harrison

Website:

www.parihofstjoseph.co.uk

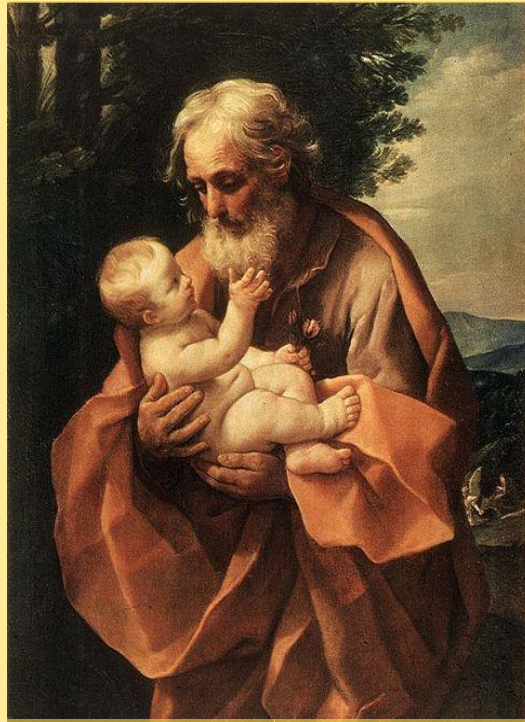
Follow us on:

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

Hall Hires

St Joseph's School Hall, Christine Wilson: 07810 105742
St Michael's Church Hall, Paula Saul: 07887 374098 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 and 3rd Sundays of each
month...16:15 (from Jan 2019)

Syro Malabar Knanaya Mission Mass

St Michael's:2nd & 3rd 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

Children's Liturgy Groups

St Joseph's.....Sundays at 11.30am Mass
during school term time.

St Michael's.....Sundays at 9am Mass
throughout the year.

Year C Christmas Time 2018/19

Fr Simon and Fr Bernard would like to thank you all so very much for your many kindnesses throughout this last year and for your generosity and affection during this holy season. We wish you all a very holy and enriching Christmas and a peaceful New Year. May the Christ child bless you and your families and may His holy angels guard and protect you today and always.

This Week's Schedule & Mass Intentions

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT				
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
Monday	24/12	St. Joseph's	09:15	November Dead List
CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES				
Monday	24/12	St Michael's St Michael's	16:45 17:00	Live Crib Vigil Mass
Tuesday	25/12	St Joseph's	Midnight Mass preceded by Carols at 11:30pm 10:00 13:00	Christmas Day Mass Polish Mass
Wednesday	26/12	St. Joseph's <i>St Stephen</i>	10:30	Carol & Peter Murphy. Golden Wedding.
Thursday	27/12	St. Michael's <i>St John</i>	10:30	Maureen O' Dwyer
Friday	28/12	St. Joseph's <i>The Holy Innocents</i>	10:30	November Dead List
Saturday	29/12	St. Michael's <i>St Thomas Becket</i>	11:30	Peggy Mawson
Sunday	30/12	St. Michael's St. Joseph's St. Joseph's	09:00 11:30 18:00	People of The Parish Agnes & Jack Brown Special Intention W.K.
<i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph</i>				
Monday	31/12	NO SERVICE		
Tuesday	01/01	St. Michael's	12:00	John Richards
<i>Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God</i>				
Wednesday	02/01	St. Joseph's	11:00	Paul Snell
<i>Ss Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen</i>				
Thursday	03/01	St Michael's	09:15	Jo & Claude Dognin
<i>The Most Holy Name of Jesus</i>				
Friday	04/01	St Joseph's	09:15	November Dead List
Saturday	05/01	St Michael's	11:30	Pat & Gordon Harrison
Sunday	07/01	St Michael's St Joseph's St Joseph's	09:00 11:30 18:00	Colin Maiden November Dead List People of the Parish.
<i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i>				

PLEASE NOTE: This bulletin covers the next 2 weeks so please ensure it's put somewhere safe as there won't be another one next week as the Christmas Bulletin Elf will be recovering!

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

LATELY DEAD

Please pray for Colin Soper and all those who have died during this last year.
May they rest in peace and may all who mourn them be comforted.

Last Week

Mass Count: **590**
Envelopes **£703** Loose **£558**
Thank you for your generosity.

This Week's Draws

St Michael's Pool
No.22 J Rayner - £20
St Joseph's Pool
No. 92 P Clements - £20

CHURCH CLEANING:

St Joseph's:
w/c 24th Dec, A Wheatley, C Macdonald, S Grace
w/c 31st Dec, S Metcalfe, J Battersby
St Michael's: The first Monday of each month, everyone welcome

MEETINGS

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

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL ADULT PRAYER GROUP

Held in the loft, every Thursday at 8.30am.

ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL ADULT PRAYER GROUP

Held on Wednesday's at 8.30am.

OUR LADY'S LAMP INTENTIONS For This Coming Week

St Joseph's Lady's Lamp Intention: -
In Thanksgiving. D & C
St Michael's Lady's Lamp Intention: -
Tracey Strutt & Jeff Chapman

CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS: Confessions will be heard after each Sunday Mass this weekend and then on Christmas eve from 08:45-09:10 in St Joseph's and 16.15-16.45 in St Michael's. After that there will be no scheduled Confessions (or Exposition & Benediction) until Saturday 5th January, except on request.

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.

CREEPING TO THE CRIB – having spent Advent 'Creeping to the Crib', we now pick up another custom. Once the Crib has been blessed at the beginning of Midnight Mass, you are welcome/encouraged to take home a couple of pieces of straw that can be stuck together to form a cross. We do this in much the same way as we take home palms on Palm Sunday. As with the palms, bring the straw back in the run-up to Lent and it will be burnt and made into the ashes for use on Ash Wednesday. Remember, because the Crib straw has been blessed it can't just be chucked in the bin!

MASS FOR THE SICK AND THE HOUSEBOUND – Many thanks to all who worked so hard to make this event such a success.

CAFOD – Many thanks to everyone who has helped our parish CAFOD group in so many ways this year. Our final total raised is £2354. A splendid effort.

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

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION – Just a little reminder that the collection on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day goes towards making your Parish Priest's bank manager a little more patient with his client! Thank you.

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL PONTEFRAC - Parents whose children will be 5 years of age between September 1st 2019 and August 31st 2020 and wish their child to be considered for a place at St Joseph's school Pontefract, are asked to obtain an application form from the school office (entrance off Love Lane). The completed form and any relevant documents should be returned to school by 15th January 2019. Please note failure to provide any necessary additional documents (including baptismal certificates for Catholic applications) by the closing date will delay the correct categorisation of the application.

ST. JOSEPH'S NURSERY PONTEFRAC - 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.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION ST ANNE'S CATHEDRAL TUESDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 2019 – 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. The Confirmation liturgy will commence at 7pm on Tuesday 5th February. 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.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES FOR CHILDREN IN NON-CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OR YR7 AND ABOVE – Most of the children will be learning what they need to know as part of the Catholic school curriculum in Yr6. For those children not in either of our primary schools, or who have moved up to St Wilfrid's, there are 2 sessions **which you must attend**. They will be held in St Michael's hall on Saturday 12th and 19th January for 45 minutes commencing at 4pm.

CONFIRMATION REHEARSAL – Obviously, we are not able to rehearse in the Cathedral, so we will have a mini-rehearsal in St Joseph's church at 4pm on Saturday 2nd February in which Fr Simon will pretend to be a Bishop! At least one parent needs to attend this rehearsal so that Fr Simon can brief parents about arrangements for Tuesday 5th February in the Cathedral.

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.

LUNCH WITH THE MINI VINNIES – St Joseph's Mini Vinnies lunches will start again on Wednesday, 9th January.

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.

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

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

Looking back over the year (having begun my 7th year as your Pastor), I am overwhelmed by the tremendous sense of eagerness that exists for a deeper understanding of the Lord's Church and His way of life. There are quite a few people looking to enter into Full Communion with the worldwide church in this parish in 2019 and indeed, we have welcomed a goodly number during the past year. Over and above that, it has been a great privilege to welcome back into regular practice of the Faith many families and individuals. What strikes me is, that despite very negative media coverage (which sometimes feels like it will overwhelm me) there is a real desire for parents to find a 'moral home' for their children. I have lost count of the number of conversations I've had this past year with families who feel that the 'way society is going' is a real threat to the flourishing of their children and they seek some surety to which they and their family can cling.

That surety is the 'barque' of St Peter – the ship of St Peter – in which we are sailing. You should be heartily proud of your parish which is clearly seen to be a part of that great vessel of salvation, so much so that others want to come on board. It is a testimony to the hard work, commitment and vitality of Faith that people want what you have. None of us are perfect and we can all say, hand on heart, that we haven't got it stitched up yet. But for people who have been cut adrift in the choppy and dangerous waters of the 21st century, we can offer some refuge from the storm and the warmth of our genuine compassion for all fellow 'travellers' in this world. It is my great blessing that I am allowed to travel this journey with you.

May God bless us all this Christmas and throughout 2019. And may He, in His great mercy, bring to safe harbour those of our beloved dead who, during this last year, have finished their 'passage' in this world and are entering the safety of their Eternal Home. Thank you for all you do for Jesus and His Church.

Fr Simon

