

Welcome to the parish of The Holy Spirit, Our Lady & St Paul of the Cross

serving the communities of Holy Spirit, Heckmondwike and Our Lady & St Paul, Cleckheaton

Pastor: Fr Simon Lodge

The Presbytery, 57, Dewsbury Road, Cleckheaton, BD19 5BT Tel: 01274 872984
office.holyspiritstpaul@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

Parish Contacts

Parish Secretary: Sam Jarman

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Tel: 01274 872984

Office hours: Thurs 2:30pm- 5pm

Friday: 9am-4pm

Bulletin deadline: Wednesday Eve

Church Hall Bookings

Janice Minich (SP)

Janice.minich@btinternet.com

Tel: 07724 157161



Websites

Holyspiritheckmondwike.co.uk
stpaulscleckheaton.wordpress.com

School Contacts

Holy Spirit Catholic Primary Academy

Headteacher: Mrs C Bass

Email:

office@holyspiritprimary.co.uk

Tel: 01924 400820

St John Fisher Catholic Academy

Headteacher: Mr K Mackey

Email:

reception@stjohnfisher.org.uk

Tel: 01924 527000

EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION: See Weekly Schedule

TIMES OF CONFESSIONS:

Saturday 11:00-11:45 (SP) 3:45-4:15pm (HS) 5:45-6:15pm (SP) and upon (mutually convenient) request

DEVOTIONS: May. October. Lent (See Schedule)

PARISH GROUPS

Sewing Bees

Meets Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday of month in St Paul's Hall

10 am-11:50 am (may vary due to Mass times)

Soup Lunch

Meets Monthly -3rd Wednesday.

Following 12 noon Mass

Tickets Available at Masses the weekend before

PARISH HEALTH & SAFETY REPRESENTATIVES

Holy Spirit: Chris Burrows chrisburrows@ntlworld.com

St Paul's: Roman Kacprzak rzkap@icloud.com

Safeguarding

Parish Representative: Patricia McLean – 07842 911069

Diocesan Co-ordinator: 07515 598523

If you have any concerns about safeguarding or you are worried about an individual, please feel free to contact our safeguarding representative. If the individual is in immediate and real danger, please call the Police

This Week's Mass Schedule

Saturday	09/12	Holy Spirit	4:30 pm	People of The Parish
		St Paul's	6:30 pm	Daisy Ann Morton (LD)
Third Sunday of Advent- <i>Gaudete</i>	17/12	Holy Spirit	9:30 am	Nellie Dipper (LD)
		St Paul's	11:30 am	Mary Kennedy (LD)
Monday	18/12	No Mass Today		
Tuesday	19/12	Holy Spirit	11am	Exposition & Benediction
			12 noon	Nellie Dipper
Wednesday	20/12	St Paul's	12 noon	Crown Family
Thursday	21/12	Holy Spirit	9:30 am	Margaret Peel (Whole School Present)
Friday	22/12	St Paul's	9:30 am	Violet Beevers
Saturday	23/12	St Paul's	11 am	Exposition & Benediction
		St Paul's	12 noon	John Roberson
		Holy Spirit	4:30 pm	Andrea Healey
		St Paul's	6:30 pm	Dennis, Mark & Michael Ormondroyd
Fourth Sunday Of Advent	24/12	Holy Spirit	9:30 am	Peggy & Vincent Whittle
		St Paul's	11:30 am	Bill & Mavis Henry
The Nativity of The Lord	Vigil	Holy Spirit	4:30 pm	Tim Riordan
		St Paul's	6:30pm	People of The Parish
Midnight Mass Preceded by Carols		St Paul's	11:30 pm	Priest's Intentions
The Nativity of The Lord	25/12	Holy Spirit	8 am	November Dead List
		St Paul's	10 am	Deceased Priests of The Parish

LATELY DEAD: Please pray for all those who have died recently. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED: John Robertson, Dennis, Mark & Michael Ormondroyd, Bill & Mavis Henry, Crown family, Violet Beevers, Doreen Fletcher(4).

OUR LADY'S LAMP
HS: PEACE IN THE WORLD

SP: POPE BENEDICT (RIP)

CLUB
SP: No Draw

HS:

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Holy Spirit

Mass Count: 124

Envelopes: £67.00 Loose: £142.54

**Standing orders November
£1436.00**

Our Lady & St Paul's

Mass Count: 133

Envelopes: £127.00 Loose: £116.56

**Standing orders November
£1879.50**

Just a humble, gentle reminder that your offerings at Christmas Masses form a very substantial part of your Pastor's annual income. Thank you in advance for putting the shadow of a smile on his bank manager's face!

PARISH NOTICES

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE: As we prepare to make our Confession before Christmas, it is helpful to use an examination of conscience. There are plenty available on the internet. There is a simple one available at the back of church for you to take away and ponder on.

CONFESSIONS: Fr Simon will be available to hear confessions after this Sunday Mass. The other times are Tuesday 19th (following Healing Service), Christmas Eve 3:30pm -4:15pm (HS), 5:30pm – 6:15pm (SP), 11:15pm – 11:45pm (SP).

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Thank you for your generosity in last week's collection which realised £234.67 IN addition to the organised flowers, if you wish to bring a poinsettia in memory of your loved ones you are welcome to do so. Please bring them to the vigil or Sunday Masses next weekend or to Masses during the week and we will arrange them at the crib (and maybe around the church). It would be very helpful if you could place them on a plate to protect the carpet and furniture.

READERS: who are willing to read at the Christmas Masses are asked to print their name and contact details on the sheets at the back of church this weekend. Many thanks in advance.

A SERVICE OF HEALING: will take place on Tuesday (19th December) at 6:30pm in St Paul's church. During the service, the Laying on of Hands will be offered for those who wish to receive it, but the main thrust of the service is to place ourselves quietly and humbly before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament for a few extended moments of peace and to allow Him to touch our lives with His Real Presence. The service will last about 45 minutes and will conclude with Benediction. You probably won't be surprised to know that an opportunity for Confession will be offered after the service by You Know Who!!

SVP: The inaugural meeting of our new St Vincent de Paul "Spen Valley Conference" will take place on Thursday 21st December at 7pm in Holy Spirit parish room. If you weren't able to attend the recent information meeting you are still very welcome to attend and ask questions on Thursday. **We will take a retiring collection to support the works of our new SVP conference after all Masses at Christmas. If you have family or friends who only come once a year to Mass, tell them to come prepared!!**

AN ADVENT VADE MECUM: is available, price £1 at the back of church

CHRISTMAS CHARACTERS: if children wish to come to the Christmas Masses dressed as characters from the crib scene, they will be very welcome!

FROM YOUR PASTOR

This week our diocese has received some very sad news. In a letter to residents, family and staff this week, the Rev. Mother Superior of The Little Sister of the Poor in Leeds had to announce that the home in Headingley will have to close very soon due to the discovery of RAAC in the roofing system. You may have heard of the dangers of this concrete on the news recently; it has led to the closure of schools and hospitals and other government buildings. Mother has already had to evacuate some residents and older Sisters and close off large parts of the home. This week, as the final straw, she was told that they could no longer use the chapel, the beating heart of their home and that the building will have to be completely demolished. They are hoping to stay in place until June, but if the insurers won't extend their liability they may have to abandon the building within days.

One can only begin to imagine the heartbreak for residents, many of whom are very frail and vulnerable and have lived there for years. It means redundancy for the vast majority of staff and deep uncertainty for all the Sisters. It means troubling uncertainty for families connected to the home and it's a terrible bereavement for the diocesan family who have benefited spiritually and practically from the presence of these devoted women in their midst for over 150 years. They truly are our Sisters.

And yet, Mother's letter to those in her care leans on trust in the Lord and a firm hope that God will guide them through this immense trauma. I shudder to think of the burden that must be on her shoulders right now as she tries to relocate and settle some of society's most vulnerable people, and her troubles knock all my seemingly important gripes and grievances into a cocked hat. I am reminded of the need to keep perspective and that the waiting that necessarily attends the Lord's action MUST be a waiting in divine-hope. The only alternative is despair and deadly inertia which serves nobody and pleases only the devil. Our Blessed Lady is told by the Archangel Gabriel, "Do not be afraid" as she waits for the Lord to act in her life. Her daughters in the Order of Little Sisters of the Poor are hearkening to that message even as I type. In all the unexpected and painful trials of our lives, we must remind ourselves of this, too. As St Paul said, "Everything works for the good of them who trust in God." This great truth is very hard to remember in the midst of the storm, but it is nonetheless true and, if you look at the history of our Faith, it is proven so again and again. Please keep all affected by this harsh news in your prayers, praying especially for those who must make hard decisions over the next few days.

[In other news, last week I announced that after consultation over the last 6 weeks about our weekend Mass schedule, I have taken the hard decision to cease the 6:30pm vigil Mass at St Paul's. The other Masses will remain at the same times. The new schedule will come into effect on the weekend of 6th/7th January 2024. I am very aware that this will be a bitter disappointment to some of you; believe me, I would much rather be putting Masses on than taking them off. I would like to thank all the people who took the time to write or email or who commented after Masses. In the end, I landed on this final decision (a) in an attempt to support younger families; (b) because of the concerns of older people reliant on busses and not wanting to be out too late (even in the summer), (c) for the supporting of my brother priests in an emergency, (d) because of declining numbers and (e) because the Bishop has desired that it happen. It is my own great hope that one day we will be putting extra Masses on.]

Advent Wisdom: To live is to change and to be perfect is to have changed often. *St John Henry Newman.*