

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

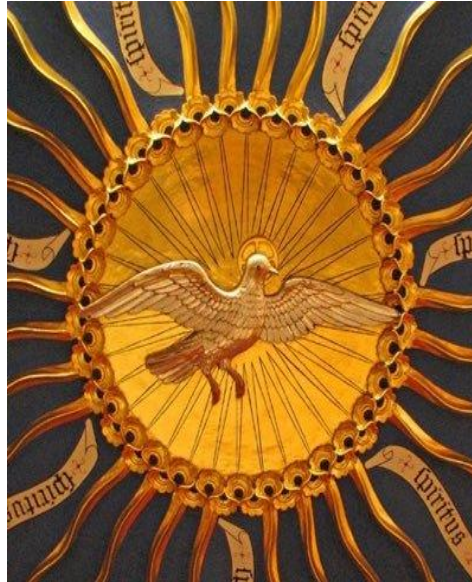
Bulletin deadline: Wednesday Eve

Church Hall Bookings St Paul's

Janice Minich

Janice.minich@btinternet.com

Tel: 07724 157161



Websites

Holyspiritheckmondwike.co.uk
stpaulscleckheaton.wordpress.co

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: Tuesdays (HS) & Saturdays(SP) 10:00am – 10:50am

TIMES OF CONFESSIONS:

Saturday 10:00-10:45 (SP) 3:45-4:15pm (HS) and upon (mutually convenient) request

DEVOTIONS: May. October. Lent (See Schedule)

These times may vary, please check schedule on inside of bulletin.

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 07833 917587

St Paul's: Roman Kacprzak rkcap@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	23/12	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	6:30 pm	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 Parishes
Tuesday <i>St Stephens Day</i>	26/12	Holy Spirit	12 noon	Margaret Honeyball
Wednesday <i>St John, Apostle</i>	27/12	St Paul's	12 noon	Peter McMohan
Thursday <i>The Holy Innocents</i>	28/12	Holy Spirit	9:30 am	Patricia Hutton
Friday <i>St Thomas Beckett</i>	29/12	St Paul's	9:30 am	Deceased Homan Family
Saturday <i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph</i>	30/12	St Paul's	12 noon	Karen DeVito
		Holy Spirit	4:30 pm	People of The Parish
		St Paul's	6:30 pm	John McKenna (LD)
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	31/12	Holy Spirit	9:30 am	Doreen Fletcher
		St Paul's	11:30 am	Jean Clarke
Monday <i>Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God</i>	01/01	St Paul's	12 noon	Monica Mooney
Tuesday <i>Ss Basil The Great & Gregory</i>	02/01	Holy Spirit	11 am	Exposition & Benediction
			12 noon	November Dead List
Wednesday <i>The Most Holy Name of Jesus</i>	03/01	St Paul's	12 noon	Paul Cray
Thursday	04/01	Holy Spirit	9:30 am	Mary Kennedy
Friday	05/01	St Paul's	9:30 am	November Dead List
Saturday	06/01	St Paul's	10 am	Exposition & Benediction
			11 am	Peter Lemon
The Epiphany of The Lord	07/01	Holy Spirit	4:30 pm	George & Mary Mitchell
		Holy Spirit	9:30	People of The Parish
		St Paul's	11:30	Sarah Pattinson

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

MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED: George & Mary Mitchell, John McKenna, Patricia Hutton, Margaret Honeyball, Valerie Senior.

OUR LADY'S LAMP

You can sponsor a lamp that will burn night and day before Our Lady's altar for a week. Available in both of our churches. Please use the envelopes provided at the back of church, minimum donation of £5 per lamp. Please stipulate where you would like the lamp to burn. The lamps will burn on a first come, first served basis and cannot be booked (as you do for a Mass).

HS: 1. FOR THE UNBORN CHILDREN

2. MATTHEW LYNN (BIRTHDAY)

SP: 1. DECEASED PRIESTS

2. McHALE FAMILY

CLUB

SP: Subs are currently being collected, so no draw until after Christmas

HS: 40 Michael Henry

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Holy Spirit

Mass Count: 148

Envelopes: £95.00 Loose: £212.09

**Standing orders November
£1436.00**

Our Lady & St Paul's

Mass Count: 120

Envelopes: £156.50 Loose: £165.08

**Standing orders November
£1879.50**

PARISH NOTICES

BULLETIN: Due to holidays, this bulletin will suffice for 2 weeks so please be sure to put it somewhere safe if you're needing the Mass schedule for the first week in January.

CRAFTING/SEWING BEES will be meeting on Wednesday 27th December at 10.00am.

CRIB STRAW: In some Catholic countries, it is the custom to take a piece of blessed straw from the Crib on Christmas Day and put it by your crib at home. Please feel free, but don't strip the thing bare and leave the Christ-Child shivering!! Remember, it has been blessed so you can't just chuck it in the bin when you take the decorations down. Either burn it, bury it or bring it back to church with last year's palms (from Palm Sunday) and we'll burn it for you.

NEW MASS SCHEDULE: A reminder that, commencing on the weekend of 6/7th January our new Sunday Mass schedule is as follows: Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:30pm (Holy Spirit); Sunday 9:30am (Holy Spirit) & 11:30am (St Paul's). Also, the Saturday Mass at St Paul's will move to 11am (Exposition & Benediction at 10 am).

SVP: The inaugural meeting of our St Vincent de Paul conference took place last week. The next meeting is at St Pauls on Thursday 11th January at 7pm. If you are looking for a New Years resolution that will last, this is it!

FROM YOUR PASTOR

Thinking ahead (as is my want) and seeing it's his feast day next week, I was reminded of seeing the 'Thomas Becket' exhibition at the British Museum a few years ago. It's 850 years since a band of knights, taking King Henry II at his word, decided to rid the realm of the troublesome priest, and Becket, according to the curators of the exhibition, "is still a divisive figure to this day". Normally, I'd be tempted to say "What utter rubbish!" to such an assertion, but in the interests of fairness it isn't rubbish *if* your intention is to perpetuate Tudor propaganda which contends that "Henry VIII & English Reformation = GOOD; Catholicism, Papal Authority and Anything Before 1534 = BAD, VERY BAD". If that *is* your intention, figures like Beckett are a big problem.

Tudor Propaganda is alive and well today, make no mistake; indeed, we can find many a 'useful idiot' within our own Church helping it along with moronic statements that are notable for their vacuity and what they *don't* say. In the 1990s, with his book *The Stripping of the Altars*, Professor Eamonn Duffy became one of the first post-Reformation history scholars to seriously question the pretence that England was 'ripe' for Reformation. Europe may have been ripe, but England simply wasn't, Duffy suggests; on the contrary, the Faith was alive, well and flourishing. Recently, there's been a strong attempt to discredit Prof. Duffy and put him back in his box because he won't toe the Tudor propogandist's lie. By the way, he is a Catholic. Go figure.

Certainly, Thomas Becket was no 'saint' in the classical sense. But when someone stands up for the rights of the Church (and therefore, the rights of individuals, particularly poor individuals) then their sins pale into thin air as the glory of the Spirit-filled life shines over everything, sins included. The courage of such people terrifies authority so much so that the voice of Truth must be silenced, sometimes violently, sometimes by the sneakiness of so-called 'cancel culture'. St Alban, St Thomas Becket, St Margaret Clitheroe, Ss John Fisher & Thomas More, **ALL** the holy martyrs refused to settle for a bland, anaemic, pointless version of the Faith. It strikes me that Christmas is becoming just that for many in our society. Many will wonder "Is it all worth it?" as the next few days unfold, but they must find in us a people who are effusive in our traditions, unrestrained in our celebrating, excessive in our charity. I used to think it anomalous that we celebrated the Feast of a Martyr during Christmas week (indeed, loads of martyrs: St Stephen, Holy Innocents) but now I realise that they stand against the saccharine reduction of the Feast of the Incarnation and teach us to fight for so much more than tinsel, mince pies and great stuffed birds! Let us use these glorious celebrations to orient ourselves and others to the excessive, voluptuous glory of God's revelation to the whole human race.

On a personal note, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have given me such a kindly welcome during these last four months and have patiently put up with my slackness! Thank you to all who have worked/are working so hard to help our celebrations go well. May God bless us all with abundant graces over the next few days. A very happy and holy Christmas to you and all whom you love and here's hoping that 2024 will be kind to us all.

Last laugh: I'm not saying the mother-in-law's ugly, but she stood under the mistletoe on Christmas Day waiting for someone to kiss her and she was still there at the beginning of Lent! *Les Dawson.*