

THE PARISHES OF ST AUSTIN & THE ENGLISH MARTYRS, WAKEFIELD AND ST IGNATIUS, OSSETT



St Austin's, Wentworth Terrace, WF1 3QN
English Martyrs, Dewsbury Road, WF2 9DD
St Ignatius, Storrs Hill Rd, WF5 0DQ



Parish Priest: Fr Sean Crawley.
Assistant Priests: Fr Noble Joseph CST and Fr Philip Thornley

Parish Administrator – Marc Auty

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www.catholicchurchwakefield.co.uk

office.staustin@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

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office.stignatius@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

St Austin's School

Back Duke of York Street,
Wakefield WF1 3PF
Headteacher: Mr John Molyneux
Tel: 01924 339435
Email: jmolyneux@sa.bkcat.uk

English Martyrs' School

Dewsbury Road, Wakefield. WF2 9DD
Exec Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Spencer
Exec Head of School: Mrs Bridget Kerrigan
Tel: 01924 299244
Email: office@ems.bkcat.uk

St Ignatius' School

Storrs Hill Rd, Wakefield, WF5 0DQ
Headteacher: Mrs Helen Cooke
Tel: 01924 271625
Email: hcooke@stig.bkcat.uk

Mass Programme for the week 14 – 21 December 2025

| DAY | FEAST | MASS | LOCATION | INTENTION |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Saturday 13 December | St Lucy | 9:30am 5:30pm 6:15pm | St Austin St Ignatius St Austin | November Dead List Julia Renshaw – Anniversary Kenneth Button – Anniversary |
| Sunday 14 December | Gaudete Sunday | 8:00am 9:30am 10:00am 11:00am 5:00pm 6:00pm | St Austin English Martyrs St Ignatius St Austin St Austin St Austin | Pro Populo Fr Jude Mukoro – Ordination Anniversary John Barraclough Hubert Barber – 20 th Anniversary Vespers & Benediction Priest's Intention |
| Monday 15 December | The Anniversary of the Dedication of St Austin's Church | 9:30am | St Austin | The Workman Family |
| Tuesday 16 December | | 10:00am 11:30am 6:30pm | St Ignatius English Martyrs St Austin | November Dead List Michael Francis (Mick) Harrison RIP Dr John & Betty O'Brien |
| Wednesday 17 December | | 9:30am 9:30am | St Austin English Martyrs | Aida Da Costa – Birthday Anniversary School Mass – Tommy Reape RIP |
| Thursday 18 December | | 12 noon | St Austin | Angela Pearson – Anniversary |
| Friday 19 December | | 10:30am 12 noon | St Ignatius St Austin | School Mass – Anne Barron November Dead List |
| Saturday 20 December | | 9:30am 5:30pm 6:15pm | St Austin St Ignatius St Austin | Priest's Intention Patrick Scarff – Anniversary Crocifissa & Pietro Gueli RIP |
| Sunday 21 December | Fourth Sunday of Advent | 8:00am 9:30am 10:00am 11:00am 5:00pm 6:00pm | St Austin English Martyrs St Ignatius St Austin St Austin St Austin | Priest's Intention O'Brien & Elley Families November Dead List Harry Lewis - Anniversary Vespers & Benediction Priest's Intention |

Prayer for Vocations

Our Lady of Unfailing Help! Pray that the Lord of the Harvest will send labourers into His harvest and that He will grant an abundance of vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life within the Diocese of Leeds, and throughout the world. Amen.

REGULAR DEVOTIONS

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| Confessions | St Austin's St Ignatius English Martyrs | Saturday 10:00am to 11:00am & 5:15pm to 5:45pm Saturday 4:30pm to 5:30pm Before Sunday morning Mass. |
| Exposition | All churches English Martyrs | 30 minutes before weekday Mass Thursday 7:30pm |
| Novena | St Austin's | Monday 7pm on 8 th & 22 nd December. |
| Rosary | English Martyrs St Austin's | Sunday 9am Friday 12:30pm |
| First Saturday Devotions | St Austin's | First Saturday of the month following morning Mass. |

PARISH GROUPS AND CONFRATERNITIES (meet weekly unless stated otherwise)

| DAY | GROUP | CHURCH CENTRE | TIME | CONTACT |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|---------|---------------------|
| Monday | Union of Catholic Mothers | St Ignatius | 7:30pm | Christine Woodhouse |
| Monday (fortnightly) | Society of St Vincent de Paul | St Ignatius | 6:00pm | John Sheerin |
| Monday (fortnightly) | Natter Matters | English Martyrs | 6:30pm | Mary Matthews |
| Wednesday | Keep fit | St Austin | 2:00pm | Debbie |
| Wednesday | Prayer & Praise | English Martyrs | 6:30pm | Mary Matthews |
| Thursday | Parents & toddlers | St Austin | 9:30am | Michelle Watson |
| Thursday | Parents & toddlers | St Ignatius | 10:00am | Francesca Holmes |
| Thursday | Thursday club | St Austin | 12:30pm | Josephine Dargan |
| Thursday | Singing for pleasure | St Austin | 1:30pm | Eileen Worton |

PARISH NOTICES

Christmas break: The Thursday club, Singing for Pleasure and the Toddler Group all at St Austin's will be taking a well earned break after this week, meeting again week commencing 5th January 2026. In addition the Prayer & Praise Group at English Martyrs will also be enjoying a Christmas break, meeting this week for the final time this year before restarting week commencing 5th January 2026.

Christmas Mass Times: To enable Parishioners to plan ahead, vigil Masses will be at St Austin's at 5pm and at St Ignatius at 5:30pm, both preceded by carols. There will then be Mass at St Austin's at 11pm, again preceded by carols from 10:15pm. On Christmas Day, Holy Mass will be celebrated at English Martyrs at 9:30am, St Ignatius at 10am and St Austin's at 10:30am.

Hospital Visits: It is important to let one of the Priests (or Marc in the office) know if a relative is admitted to hospital and would like a visit or to receive Holy Communion

Piety Shops/Repositories are available at all churches, with the addition of a religious library at English Martyrs. Christmas Cards are now in stock, along with a huge range of religious gifts, cards, candles and much more. Please take the time to stop after Mass and take a look at what is available.

Visit of the Lord Lieutenant: We welcome Mr Ed Anderson CBE, His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire to the 11am Mass on Sunday 14 December at St Austin's.

Advent Day of Reconciliation: Tuesday 16th December, 7am – 7pm. Leeds Cathedral. There will be priests available to hear confessions, along with Exposition all day.

Volunteers are needed to prepare St Austin's for Christmas. There will be a session on Saturday 20th December 2025 from 10am to noon to give the church a thorough clean. The second session for a final spruce up will take place on Christmas Eve at 10am. Please come along to either session to help, even if you only have an hour to spare. Many hands make light work! It is so important that God's House is shown at its best for this great feast of the Church.

Lofthouse 2000 Brass Band are hosting a Christmas concert in St Austin's Theatre on Saturday 20th December starting at 7:30pm following evening Mass. This promises to be a fabulous evening in aid of Yorkshire Ambulance Service. Tickets available on the door.

Roof Repairs: Scaffolding has once again been erected at the front of church to address the leaks in the church roof near the Lady Chapel. Hopefully these repairs will be completed quickly and the scaffolding removed in time for Christmas. As with all repairs of this scale; and with St Austin's being a Grade II listed building, the work is expensive and any donations to the restoration fund would be greatly appreciated. We must make sure our historic church is watertight before we progress plans for refurbishment for our bicentenary.

Carol Service: The children from the Bishop Konstant Catholic Academy Trust (BKCAT) Youth choir will join forces with the choirs of both St Austin's and St Ignatius' for a traditional service of readings and carols on Wednesday 17th December at St Austin's church starting at 7pm, followed by festive refreshments. All are invited.

Priestly Vocations: Time for prayers, questions, input from a priest and social time. There are two groups meeting simultaneously; under 18s and over 18s. Fridays 6.30pm-8.15pm: 19th December at Leeds University Chaplaincy, St Margaret's Avenue. Under 18 participants must complete and return a permission form prior to attending. For permission forms and to notify of attendance (all participants) please contact Vocations Promoter, Fr Simon Lodge at vocations@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

Prayer for Vocations: At the request of Bishop Marcus, this will be said aloud at all Masses through to Pentecost. There are cards available at all churches with the prayer on one side and an image of Our Lady of Unfailing Help on the other.

Christmas Cards: We have run out at the St Austin's Piety Shop and we cannot guarantee any more stock in sufficient time for Christmas. Please support both English Martyrs and St Ignatius for your Christmas card needs where there is still stock available.

Churches Together in Wakefield will be singing Carols outside the main entrance to Sainsburys in Trinity Walk at 6pm on Thursday 18th December. There is free parking after 3pm in Trinity Walk so come along and join in this joyful community event.

Live Nativity: The Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal are hosting a live nativity at Corpus Christi church, Neville Road Saturday 20th December, 2pm including real animals, party afterwards refreshments, activities for children, Fr Christmas coming with gifts, Carol singing. All welcome.

St Austin's Players are staging Cinderella, a pantomime on 22nd, 23rd and 24th January 2026. Evening performances at 7.30pm with a matinee on 24th at 2.15pm. Tickets can be ordered online by visiting <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/staustinsplayers>, ringing Joanna on 07740679963, or completing a flyer available at all churches. A **special guest appearance** by our Parish Priest Fr Sean means you won't want to miss it. Great family entertainment.

2026 Diocesan Directories are available to purchase at all churches. Priced again at £5 per copy.

Places available: St. Austin's Catholic Primary School has spaces available in both Foundation Stage (Reception Class) and Year 2 right now, with no waiting list. If you know of anyone looking for a loving, faith-filled, high-quality Catholic education for their child(ren) to attend please spread the word to family, friends and neighbours. Visits and informal discussions with the Headteacher, Mr John Molyneux, can be arranged on 01924 339435.

100/200 Club: There is always time to join! For **St Austin's and English Martyrs 200 Club**, forms are available at the back of both churches and can be left at St Austin's Presbytery, along with payments (either cash or cheques) in an envelope marked "200 Club". Payments can also be made online by bank transfer direct to the 200 Club account. More details from Sharon on sekatema@outlook.com.

For the **St Ignatius 100 Club**, please contact Lynn Williams for more details, either at Mass or on ryecroft@house@gmail.com

Decorating St Ignatius Church for Christmas: Fr Sean would be grateful for some volunteers to help construct the crib and put up the Christmas Tree on Thursday 18th December at 1pm. Please meet in church.

Catholic Truth Society: The CTS stand at St Austin's has been updated with new publications for the season of Advent. Please take time to look through the new material. All booklets are individually priced and money should be placed either in the wall safe at the bottom of the stairs or payment made by card through the DONA machine.

Lourdes Nurses Volunteer Appeal: Are you a qualified nurse? Would you like to join the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes (3-9 July 2026)? Please contact: lourdes.enquiries@dioceseofleeds.org.uk for further information. We desperately need registered nurses to join the team to enable our assisted pilgrims to travel to Lourdes. This is a wonderful experience, and many nurses return year after year. Please consider joining our friendly, happy team of volunteers and enjoy a truly blessed week with our assisted pilgrims.

St Ignatius Mini Vinnies: A reminder that the Christmas Lunch and Entertainment at St Ignatius School Hall is this WEDNESDAY 17th December at 1:30pm, served by the Mini Vinnies. The cost is £5 per person, payable by card on the day (please note that cash cannot be accepted). Anyone attending should have already confirmed with the school office to enable planning for catering. Last year's event was a lovely afternoon, and we hope to welcome many parishioners again this year for another joyful celebration.

Second Collection this weekend is for Christmas flowers to decorate our churches.

Bulletins: Items for the Bulletin can be emailed to the addresses below, before lunch time on a Thursday. Thank you
office.staustin@dioceseofleeds.org.uk or office.stignatius@dioceseofleeds.org.uk.

Offerings & Donations: We recognise the financial challenges that everyone faces but our Parishes rely on your continued support and generosity to keep us thriving and indeed growing. In addition to the Sunday Mass offertory collections, Parishioners can also donate direct to the Parish by bank transfer using:

St Austin & The English Martyrs Sort Code 40-27-15 account number 51018566 account name Diocese of Leeds St Austins Wakefield.

St Ignatius Sort Code 40-27-15 account number 31018116 account name Diocese of Leeds St Ignatius Ossett

As a reference, please use "Offering" or "Restoration".

Where possible we also encourage Parishioners to use envelopes or standing orders to help us maximise offerings as we can, in many cases, claim Gift Aid tax relief at no additional expense to the donor. For information about **Gift Aid** please contact Niall O'Donnell at St Austin's or Michael Gara at St Ignatius for assistance. Alternatively, please email Marc our Parish Administrator for guidance.

In addition, there is a DONA machine at St Austin's to enable Parishioners to donate by card in this cashless society. At St Ignatius there is a QR code on the wall next to the Piety Shop which will allow direct card donations.

Collections this week:

| | Gift Aid Envelopes | Loose | Standing Orders | Total |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------|-----------------|----------|
| St Austin & The English Martyrs | £420.00 | £662.26 | £1156.57 | £2238.83 |
| St Ignatius | £198.25 | £255.16 | £333.85 | £787.26 |

Thank you for your continued generosity

Please remember the sick of our Parishes in your prayers, along with the recently deceased, especially Monica Hurn.

Please ensure mobile phones are switched off and, as far as possible, observe a period of silence in church. This is a precious time for people to pray and prepare spiritually for Holy Mass.

PARISH CENTRE BOOKINGS

St Austin & The English Martyrs – contact Marc on office.staustin@dioceseofleeds.org.uk or 07714 944587 or

Paul Blackburn on paulblackburn@talktalk.net or 07963 740556

St Ignatius – contact Janet Shaw on twins4483@sky.com or 07596 359449

SAFEGUARDING

The Diocese of Leeds is committed to safeguarding as an integral part of the life and ministry of the Church. We affirm the One Church approach to safeguarding children, young people and adults, through the promotion of a sustained and sustainable culture of constant vigilance. More information at <https://www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk/safeguarding/>

Our Parish Safeguarding representatives are:

St Austin & The English Martyrs - Mrs Barbara Johnson, email psr.bjohnson@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

St Austin & The English Martyrs - Mrs Eileen Worton, email psr.eworton@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

St Ignatius - Mr Rob Barraclough, email psr.rbarraclough@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

Third Sunday of Advent (A) – Gaudete Sunday

Entrance Antiphon

Phil 4: 4-5

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

Collect

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

A reading from the Book of Isaiah

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, 'Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Sion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of The Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 72(71):1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17. *Rcf. 7*

[R] Come, Lord, and save us.

It is the Lord who preserves fidelity for ever,
who does justice to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord who sets prisoners free. **[R]**

The Lord who opens the eyes of the blind,
the Lord who raises up those who are bowed down.
It is the Lord who loves the just,
the Lord who protects the stranger. **[R]**

The Lord upholds the orphan and the widow,
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
your God, O Sion, from age to age. **[R]**

Second reading

James 5:7-10

A reading from the Letter of St James

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of The Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor. Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?' And Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.' As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. 'What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you." 'Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray, be offered to you unceasingly, to complete what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Is 35: 4

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

Prayer after Communion

We implore your mercy, Lord, that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults and prepare us for the coming feasts.
Through Christ our Lord.