

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

Tel: 01924 372080

Mob: 07714 944587

www.catholicchurchwakefield.co.uk

www.catholicchurchossett.co.uk

office.staustin@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

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 21 – 28 December 2025

DAY	FEAST	MASS	LOCATION	INTENTION
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
Monday 22 December		9:30am	St Austin	Anna Ainsworth – 100 th Birthday Mary Hepworth – Anniversary
Tuesday 23 December		10:00am 11:30am 6:30pm	St Ignatius English Martyrs St Austin	November Dead List Hubert Barber RIP P. M. George - Anniversary
Wednesday 24 December	Mass of Christmas Eve Christmas Vigil Masses Mass in the Night	10:30am 5:00pm 5:30pm 11:00pm	English Martyrs St Austin St Ignatius St Austin	Priest's Intention John Bartram RIP Elizabeth Oldroyd – Anniversary Don Burnham Pro Populo, Liam Gallivan RIP & Andrew Wright RIP
Thursday 25 December	The Nativity of The Lord	9:30am 10:00am 10:30am	English Martyrs St Ignatius St Austin	Edith & John Doyle RIP Robert Williams Stephen & Linda Clare RIP
Friday 26 December	St Stephen	12 noon	St Austin	Joyce Gilroy - Intentions
Saturday 27 December	St John	9:30am 5:30pm 6:15pm	St Austin St Ignatius St Austin	Priest's Intention Barnes Family & Friends Paul Booth RIP
Sunday 28 December	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	8:00am 9:30am 10:00am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Austin English Martyrs St Ignatius St Austin St Austin	Charles Hepworth RIP Pro Populo Priest's Intention Eileen Morton RIP Priest's Intention

Fr Sean, Fr Noble and Fr Philip wish all parishioners a happy and holy festive season with every blessing for Christmas.

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 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	4:30pm	Eileen Worton

PARISH NOTICES

Christmas break: The Thursday club, Singing for Pleasure and the Toddler Group all at St Austin's will be meeting again week commencing 5th January 2026. In addition the Prayer & Praise Group at English Martyrs will also be restarting week commencing 5th January 2026.

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.

Christmas Offerings: As it traditional, the Christmas offerings are a gift to the clergy from the Parish to thank them for their ministry over the year. Your generosity is much appreciated.

First Holy Communion : If your child is Year 4 or above, is part of St Austin's & The English Martyrs Parish, and has already completed their first confession then please get in touch with Beccy before Thursday 8th January, on 07958147423 or by email on Catechist.staustin@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

Preparation for Confirmation at St Ignatius: Children in St Ignatius Parish and school in Yr 6 and above who have already made their First Confession and First Holy Communion, are invited to prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation. The first session will be on Sunday 11th January. Information and enrolment forms are available from any of the Priests after Mass.

Volunteers are needed to prepare St Austin's for Christmas. The 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.

Carols & Readings: It was wonderful to see such a full church last Wednesday for the service of carols and readings. The children from the BKCAT Youth Choir along with our own choirs from both St Austin's and St Ignatius' all sang magnificently and supported the service beautifully. Thanks also to everyone who assisted with the festive refreshments afterwards, rounding off an excellent evening.

Roof Repairs: Scaffolding has once again been erected at the front of St Austin's church to address the leaks in the 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.

Congratulations to everyone involved with the various Nativities, Advent Masses, carol concerts and parties that have taken place over the last week or so in our 3 primary schools. Many Parishioners have commented on how much enjoyment the activities bring. As our schools break up for Christmas we wish all staff and Governors; and of course all our children and their families a happy and holy Christmas.

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.

St Ignatius Christmas Raffle: An overwhelming success raising almost £500 for Parish funds. There are a number of unclaimed prizes across all colours of tickets. Please have a word with Colin Hirst or see the list at the back of St Ignatius church.

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.

Thank you to all who donated so generously to the St Ignatius gift appeal for the homeless. The team at St George's Crypt were delighted with the response.

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 ryecroftthouse@gmail.com.
Jubilate Singers: Thanks to all who attended the wonderful sell out concert (including an impromptu short pantomime!) which raised over £1000. After expenses for refreshments, the profits which will be shared equally between Parish funds and St Ignatius Primary School. We are looking forward to the next event!

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.

Bulletins: Due to the Christmas period, the bulletin for next weekend will have to be ready by Tuesday (the day before Christmas Eve). Please ensure any items for submission are sent asap this week.

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	£363.60	£738.73	£1156.57	£2258.90
St Ignatius	£163.25	£295.00	£333.85	£792.10

Thank you for your continued generosity
2nd Collection for Christmas Flowers £338.64

Please remember the sick of our Parishes in your prayers, along with the recently deceased, especially Liam Gallivan and Brenda Hardaker.

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.rbarracclough@dioceseofleeds.org.uk



Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)

<p>Entrance Antiphon <i>Cf. Is 45: 8</i></p> <p>Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.</p> <p>Collect</p> <p>Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.</p> <p>First Reading <i>Isaiah 7:10-14</i></p> <p>A reading from the Book of Isaiah</p> <p>In those days: The Lord spoke to Ahaz: 'Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.' But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.' And Isaiah said, 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel.'</p> <p>The Word of The Lord. Thanks be to God.</p> <p>Responsorial Psalm <i>Ps 24(23):1-2. 3-4b. 5-6. R cf. 6</i></p> <p>[R] Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory</p> <p>The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world, and those who dwell in it. It is he who set it on the seas; on the rivers he made it firm. [R]</p> <p>Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The clean of hands and pure of heart, whose soul is not set on vain things. [R]</p> <p>Blessings from the Lord shall he receive, and right reward from the God who saves him. Such are the people who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. [R]</p> <p>Second reading <i>Romans 1:1-7</i></p> <p>A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans</p> <p>Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an Apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.</p> <p>The Word of The Lord Thanks be to God</p>	<p>Gospel Acclamation <i>Matthew 1:23</i></p> <p>Alleluia, Alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel — which means, God with us. Alleluia.</p> <p>Gospel <i>Matthew 1:18-24</i></p> <p>A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew. Glory to you, O Lord.</p> <p>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel' — which means, God with us. When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife.</p> <p>The Gospel of the Lord Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Prayer over the Offerings</p> <p>May the Holy Spirit, O Lord, sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar, just as he filled with his power the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Through Christ our Lord.</p> <p>Communion Antiphon <i>Is 7:14</i></p> <p>Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.</p> <p>Prayer after Communion</p> <p>Having received this pledge of eternal redemption, we pray, almighty God, that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer, so we may press forward all the more eagerly to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.</p> <p>Prayer for Vocations</p> <p>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.</p>
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