

***Responsorial Psalm** – “Let the Lord enter, he is the king of glory.”

TODAY

- Coffee after Mass at St. Leonard's
- Children's Liturgy during Mass at St. Leonard's
- Talk about the Synod wall hanging after Mass at St. Leonard's

SACRAMENTS

Reverend Douglas McKittrick – We continue to remember Douglas in our prayers as he approaches his Ordination into the Priesthood.

Confirmation Programme at St. Leonard's 2026 – Our Confirmation programme will begin after Christmas and Candidates celebrating Confirmation should normally be of Secondary School age. If your child wishes to start the programme, please get in touch with Lisa Gallon

lgallon@btinternet.com or the Parish Office (stleonardsmalton@rcdmidd.org.uk) for the forms.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES/SERVICES

St. Leonard's

Wednesday 24th December 3.00pm Christmas Eve Crib Service
**7.30pm Vigil Mass of Christmas (A celebration for both Parishes)

Thursday 25th December 9.30am Mass of Christmas Morning

St. Joseph's

Wednesday 25th December *9.30am Mass of Christmas Morning (celebrated by Fr Steven Purnell)

CAFOD

***CAFOD Standing together against UK aid cuts** - In February 2025 the UK Government cut its aid budget to the lowest level in 25 years. For decades, UK aid has saved lives, supported communities and upheld our shared responsibility to care for our global neighbours. But UK spending will fall from 0.5% to less than 0.3% of national income by 2027, a £6 billion cut. Families in the world's poorest countries still face hunger, climate disasters and crushing debt. Women and girls are hit very hard, losing access to vital health services and protection from violence. In 2023, 28% of the aid budget was spent on refugee costs in the UK, leaving less for poverty reduction overseas. CAFOD's response: We recognise aid delivery is changing. That's why CAFOD is stepping up advocacy, working directly with Parliament and civil servants to ensure countries in the Global South have the tools, resources and decision-making power to stand on their own and shape their futures. Our debt campaign this year is calling for action to reduce the debt burden on low-income countries, so that they can invest more in public services rather than paying huge sums to rich institutions. The legislation we're calling for would cost the UK taxpayer nothing and be a hugely positive step. Please let your MP know if you oppose existing and further cuts to the aid budget, as we aim to build the political will for returning to higher spending in the future. For more information, please visit [Latest campaigns](#)

PASTORAL

Journey in Faith – Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 8th January at 7 pm** in the Parish Centre. All are then welcome. Journey in Faith runs on Thursday evenings and is fortnightly. All are welcome to join us, parishioners of both parishes and those enquiring about the Catholic Church in both Malton and Pickering. Any queries, please contact Sue Westmacott (01653 628035 susanwestmacott@gmail.com) or ask Father Tim.

Rosary Prayer Group - If you would like the group to pray for a particular intention – please place that confidentially in the prayer box near the prayer board. The next Group Meeting will be on **Tuesday 13th January at 6pm** in Church.

***Explore Our Faith** meetings are normally held fortnightly at 10am on Thursday mornings. The next Explore our Faith will be on the **15th January**. All welcome from both parishes. For more information, contact Marion Cuthill - 01653 693063 or email marioncuthill@yahoo.co.uk.

*Diocesan Outreach to the LGBT+ community

On the 2nd Sunday of every month (next one 12th January) at 3pm in the Bar Convent Chapel in York, there is Mass in which a particular welcome is offered to people from the LGBT+ community. The door is open from 2.30 pm, with refreshments served after Mass. There is usually a small presence from St Leonard's and lifts may be available. For more information, contact Sue Westmacott (susanwestmacott@gmail.com).

Ryedale Community Foodbank - If anyone would like to donate funds to the Foodbank this can be done via BACS to: Ryedale Community Foodbank, Sort Code 40-52-40, Acc number 00037212 Or by cheque made payable to Ryedale Community Foodbank. Many thanks

Food Shortages List: *tins of tuna, soup, vegetable, meat in sauce, fruit, semi-skimmed milk, microwave sponge puddings, long life fruit juice, rice, pasta, jam, cereals, rice pudding, custard.*

For the Christmas packs: *selection boxes, Christmas puddings-big and small, tins or bags of chocolates, large teardrop tins of ham, small tins of ham, Christmas cakes, chocolate oranges, tins of salmon*

Boxes for donations are at the back of Church in both Parishes.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ryedalecommunityfb> Web: [Ryedale Community Foodbank](#)

LITURGICAL

Holy Father's Prayer Intention for DECEMBER

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

Cycle of Prayer – Advent – Christmas

Openness to the Word of God, Migrants and Refugees, Expectant Mothers.

SYNOD

Final Document - On Saturday 26th October 2024, the members of the Second Session of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops approved the Final Document. Pope Francis approved its publication. You can find it via this link: <https://www.synod.va/en/news/final-document-of-the-xvi-assembly.html>

Life Ascending Group - The group have recently finished their wall hanging to celebrate their personal and parish 'Synod Journey', which I'm sure you will agree, is absolutely beautiful. The plan is that it will be displayed in church in the alcove next to the altar during December and January. Many thanks to all those who contributed to making the squares and helped put the wall hanging together. The Life Ascending Group at St. Leonard's welcomes parishioners to be part of their meetings (3rd Weds of the month, 10.30am – 12pm). Any queries, speak to Barbara Jameson or Sarah Sharpe.

ST LEONARD'S

*Digital giving –

You can now support our parish through digital giving. Simply scan the QR code on the front of this newsletter or from the posters in church or in the hall and follow the steps. The codes will take you to a website from which donations to the church can be made, with a similar interface to the Dona machine. Or you can use the contactless card reader in the church porch. The new Dona Digital giving terminal has been installed by the door of the church and is similar to terminals you may have encountered elsewhere, providing the option to gift aid donations. (Information for gift aid only has to be input once for each credit or debit card). By adding Gift Aid to your donation, it allows us to increase the value of your donation at no extra cost. If you're a UK taxpayer, please consider signing up (you'll just need an email address). The terminal offers a variety of options, such as the offertory collection, items bought from the piety stall, second collection etc...with a similar interface to the Dona machine. If you need any help using the machine, please speak to a member of the finance team – we're happy to assist.