

The Catholic Parishes of Our Lady & St Paulinus, Dewsbury and St Joseph, Batley Carr

St Joseph's Presbytery, 25 Naylor Street,
Batley Carr, West Yorkshire WF13 2DF

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November 2026.

The Year of St Paulinus – Advent & Christmas Wreath Festival

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Friends and Supporters,

2027 will mark the 1400th anniversary of our holy patron, St Paulinus' ministry in this region and particularly here in Dewsbury, where he Offered Holy Mass, Preached the Gospel and Baptised the Faithful.

We began our year of celebration by blessing and dedicating our newly refurbished statue of St Paulinus, at his Feast Day Mass just last month, and we are planning a year of celebrations culminating with an event on his Feast Day in 2027.

This advent we are planning an Advent / Christmas Wreath Festival during December and running up to the Feast of the Epiphany in January. We very much hope that this will be a joyful community event, and so invite you to join in the celebration by making and displaying a wreath that reflects something of you, your family, your business or community group. Perhaps you have an 'unusual' wreath that you would be willing to loan us for the display?

Wreaths would need to be delivered to St Paulinus' Church on 27th and 28th of November ready for the festival to begin on Advent Sunday – 29th December – after the 11.00am Mass. The festival will run from 29th November until 6th January. Wreaths can be collected at the end of the festival.

It is hoped that this event will raise money for two different charities; these are 'The Friends of the Holy Land' (FHL) and also the 'Bethlehem Care & Hospice Trust'. BCHT is a charity providing end of life care to people in Bethlehem: the city of Our Lord's Nativity. Professor Phil Hopkins KHS is Professor of Anaesthesia at the University of Leeds and a parishioner of St Joseph's Parish, Wetherby, and is the Chair of the Trust's Board of Trustees. The Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust is the first, and still only, palliative care service in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The Trust was set up in response to an urgent request from the Christian community in Bethlehem, a city with one of the highest reported incidences of cancer in the Holy Land. Funds are only spent on delivering palliative care.

Please do help us by joining in and bringing along a wreath – there are suggestion to help with this over the page! Please get in touch if you would like more information.

Yours faithfully,

Rita Jno-Baptiste (St Paulinus' Church) & Sarah Riley (St Joseph's Church)

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Suggestions for making your wreath:

The base can be real or artificial – but think about upkeep during the festival!
Artificial bases can be traditional or made from wire or card.

You can customize your wreath to reflect:

- Your work, trade or profession (adding symbols of your job)
- Your Country of birth (using the national colours, symbols or pictures of significance)
- A favourite Saint
- A Hobby or Pastime
- Your Family
- Our Local Area
- This list is endless!!! – Be Creative!!!

This can be something created by a person, a family, a group – but have fun, use your imagination and create something that other people will enjoy looking at and learning about! A Tag to describe or explain your wreath will be supplied.

For any more assistance speak with Rita at St Paulinus' or Sarah at St Joseph's for guidance and inspiration!











