

ORGANIST AND DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, PAKINGTON STREET, BRADFORD BD5 7LD

SECTION 1 - BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Following the recent retirement through ill-health of our much-respected organist and director of music in January 2023, we are seeking a gifted musician to oversee and develop the music in worship and outreach.

St Joseph's is a big inner-city church with a large, multi-racial, vibrant congregation (average attendance 250 at the Sunday morning Mass), with a reputation for friendliness and being welcoming.

The organ is 2 manual, originally built by Hopkins of York. It began its life in a Methodist Chapel in Hull and came to us in 1974. It was taken away, restored and completely rebuilt for the second time about eleven years ago by the renowned Slovenian firm of Skrabl. They also provided the church with a small one-manual chamber organ for the Lady Chapel.

We are blessed with two other organists, one of whom plays for the Sunday evening Mass each week, and the other who plays for one Saturday Vigil Mass each month and who is happy to deputise as required.

St Joseph's is the spiritual and liturgical home of the Bradford Catholic Boys' Choir, one of the many exciting initiatives coming from the celebrated Diocesan music department. With them, we have broadcast a number of times on BBC Radio 4's Sunday Worship, and on Christmas Day 2019 our Solemn Mass was televised on BBC 1. They regularly sing at the Morning Mass on the third Sunday in each month during term-time, and bring their own organist and director with them. This had been a long-standing, fruitful connection that continues to bring blessings to all involved.

The Saturday Vigil Mass has an average congregation of 55, mainly older people, and is simple - two or three hymns, the parts of the Mass sung to either the Missal Tones or a simple congregational setting.

At the Sunday morning Mass we aim for the fulness of Catholic liturgy with a large team of altar-servers, incense and full ceremonial. We have a small but dedicated team of cantors who lead the singing, and it is hoped that the successful candidate would establish a parish choir within the first year.

SECTION 2 - REQUIRED

- Play for the Saturday Vigil Mass (5pm) except on the second Saturday of each month and for the Sunday morning Mass (10am) except on those occasions when the Boys' Choir are singing.
- Play for one Mass on all Holy Days and Major Feasts, including Christmas Eve and Day, and the solemn liturgies of Holy Week and Easter,
- Choose the hymns and service music.
- Arrange for regular tuning and maintenance of the organ.
- Liaise with the cantors, and encourage others to come forward.
- Establish a small parish choir within the first year.
- Play for funerals (approximately 30 each year) and weddings (approximately 5 each year).
- Arrange for a competent replacement organist to play if you are unable to play.

- Liaise as appropriate with the other two organists.
- Share the Catholic Church's commitment to safeguarding, and be prepared to undergo an advanced DBS check.

SECTION 3 - SKILLS AND ATTRIBUTES

REQUIRED

Be a competent organist and effective director of music
Have knowledge of Catholic worship, the church year and liturgy
Understand the role of music in liturgy
Be enthusiastic, encouraging and nurturing
Work collaboratively and effectively with others
Have effective and empathetic interpersonal and communication skills
Have high standards in terms of musicianship and personal conduct

DESIRABLE

Be a Catholic in Good Standing with the Church, or otherwise be sympathetic to the ethos and liturgical traditions of the Catholic Church

SECTION 4 - OTHER INFORMATION

We are an inner-city church, with all that that entails, but we would nonetheless offer the successful candidate a salary of £5000 per year, for playing at the Masses and other liturgies listed above plus holidays. Services provided for weddings and funerals would be agreed with the individuals directly and for these services you would be classed as freelance and not be paid by St Joseph's.

To see more about our wonderful parish, please go to our website at stjosephschurchbradford.co.uk

To request an application form, please contact our Parish Secretary, Mrs Janet McCarron, at

office.stjoseph.bradford@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

01274 720299

St Joseph's Presbytery
40 Pakington Street
Bradford
BD5 7LD

Applications will be accepted until this position is filled.