



# Parish of The Sacred Heart and Saint Joseph

with the churches of  
The Sacred Heart, Hemsworth and Saint Joseph, Moorthorpe  
(Diocese of Leeds: Registered Charity No 249404)



## Year B, Advent, Sunday 4, 23/24 December 2017

*Getting in touch*

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<b>Saturday</b> 23 December	6.00pm Mass	Sacred Heart	Elsie Jones
<b>Sunday am</b> 24 December	9.00am Mass of 4 Advent 10.45am Mass of 4 Advent	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	Michael & Bridget McGuire Terence O'Brien
<b>Christmas Eve</b> 24 December	<b>5.00pm Mass of Eve</b> <b>7.30pm Mass of Eve</b>	<b>Sacred Heart</b> <b>St Joseph's</b>	Donor's Intention Frank Cronin
<b>Christmas Day</b> 25 December	<b>10.00am Mass of Day</b> <i>No Exposition today</i>	<b>Sacred Heart</b>	Parish Family
Tuesday 26 December	7.30am Mass <i>No Exposition today</i>	Sacred Heart	Donor's Intention
Wednesday 27 December	8.30am Mass 12.00-1.00pm Exposition	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Mark, Christopher & Derek Jones
Thursday 28 December	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass 12.00-1.00pm Exposition	St Joseph's St Joseph's Sacred Heart	Peggy Molloy
Friday 29 December	8.30am Mass 12.00-1.00pm Exposition	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Dulcie Morrison
<b>Saturday</b> 30 December	<i>No Exposition today</i> 6.00pm Mass	Sacred Heart	Bridie Bourke
<b>Sunday</b> 31 December	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass 1.00pm Baptism	St Joseph's Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Noreen & Ted Matthews Mrs E Wileman Callum Matthew Michael Uttley

This Sunday, on the event of her Baptism during our 10.45am Mass, we congratulate and pray for  
**Wanda Monika Marachowska**, with her parents **Thomasz and Joanna**

**Please note carefully, above, the times of the Christmas Eve and Day Masses**

Both of our Eve Masses will have a special regard for the Children attending

**After the Eve Masses, do call into the Hall/Rooms**

to exchange Christmas greetings over a glass of sherry/juice and posh biscuits



**Saturday Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: 9.30-10.30am**

*1st & 3rd of the month at St Joseph's 2nd & 4th of the month at The Sacred Heart*

**with the Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10.00am**

*Sacrament of Reconciliation otherwise by appointment with Fr Anthony*

## From Fr Anthony

The very Son of God, older than the ages, light of light, the fountain of life and immortality, the definition and word of the Father: he it is who comes and takes our nature for the good of our nature, and unites himself to an intelligent



soul for the good of my soul, to purify like by like. He takes to himself all that is human, except for sin. He was conceived by the Virgin Mary, who had been first prepared in soul and body by the Spirit.

He comes forth as God in the human nature he has taken, one being, of two contrary elements, flesh and spirit. His Spirit gave divinity, and flesh received it.

He who makes rich is made poor; he takes on the poverty of my flesh, that I may gain the riches of his divinity. He who is full is made empty; he is emptied for a brief space of his glory, that I may share in his fullness. What is this wealth of goodness? What is this mystery that surrounds me? I received the likeness of God, but failed to keep it. He takes on my flesh, to bring salvation to the image, immortality to the flesh. He enters into a second union with us, a union far more wonderful than the first.

Holiness had to be brought to man by the humanity assumed by one who was God, so that God might overcome the tyrant by force and so deliver us and lead us back to himself through the mediation of his Son. The Son arranged this for the honour of the Father, to whom the Son is clearly obedient in all things.

The Good Shepherd, who lays down his life for the sheep, came in search of the straying sheep to the mountains and hills on which you used to offer sacrifice. When he found it, he took it on the shoulders that bore the wood of the cross, and led it back to the life of heaven.

Christ, the light of all lights, follows John, the lamp that goes before him. The Word of God follows the voice in the wilderness; the bridegroom follows the friend, who prepares a worthy people for the Lord by cleansing them by water in preparation for the Spirit.

We needed God to take our flesh and die, that we might live. We have died with him, that we may be purified. We have risen again with him, because we have died with him. We have been glorified with him, because we have risen again with him.

*From the words of St Gregory Nazianzen*

*May each and everyone of our Parish Family  
and all who belong to them  
enjoy a Christ-filled and happy Christmas  
Fr Anthony*

## Things happening in our Parish

**Mass Times Cards** Printed on **cream/pink** card, these give times of our Christmas Masses and are available in our Church Entrances. Just enough time to pass on to some of your family or friends who may be wondering if they might join us.

**Parish Christmas Cards** Printed on larger **green** card, all are invited to take one home. Within these many are named as wishing to exchange Christmas greetings with all of our Parish Family. Many thanks to all those named, for donating towards our Advent Project.

**The Offerings** at the Masses of Christmas Eve (ie this Sunday evening) and Christmas Day are traditionally your gift to your priest.

**First Reconciliation** All Parents who have applied for their child/ren to prepare for First Reconciliation should have received a copy of the Programme, via the post. If any have not received a copy please contact Fr Anthony, as soon as possible.

**Board Books** Several books, for small children, are now available at both of our Churches, for them to use *during Mass*. Parents are invited to use them for their children, but *please do not take them away* from Church.

**Think Homeless** Hats, scarves and gloves help keep those most desperate warmer. If any have such items of clothing that are still fit for purpose and clean, they can please be left in the marked boxes in the entrance of either of our Churches, from now to 14 Jan. Distribution will be via St Anne's Shelter, Leeds.

### **Please, please**

remember to help tidy-up after Mass:  
take Mass Readings sheets home or neatly place them on a pile, in the Church Entrance Hall;  
*ensure that at our Sacred Heart Church,*  
the Parish (Pink) Booklets are left neatly with, but not in, the Hymn Books, on the bench book shelves;  
*that at our St Joseph's Church,*  
the Parish (Pink) Booklets and Hymn Books are returned to the Entrance Hall.  
*Any with Children, please encourage them to help tidy.*

### **Our Advent Appeal**



Storms and floods, in the Asian Sub-Continent, earlier this year, caused far spread devastation. Last collection to help Cafod help the victims - after each Mass this Saturday and Sunday am.

*Notices for the Bulletin need to be received  
by Wednesday 12.00noon, at the latest.*

## Sacraments

**Baptism** Next Preparation Programme for Parents of Children to be baptised, will be **Weds 28 Feb & 14 Mar**, 7.30-9.00pm, in our Sacred Heart Hall To join a Programme, Parents should first talk with Fr Anthony, after a weekend Mass, to fix an initial meeting with him.

The Programme is for expectant, as well as Parents with baby born.

**Confirmation** Our *Candidates* are to next meet at our Sacred Heart Hall:

**Sat 20 Jan**, 9.30-11.30am

**First Reconciliation** Our *Children* are to meet at our Sacred Heart Hall:

**Sat 13 Jan**, 10.00am-12.00nn

Their *Parents* are due to meet in our Sacred Heart Hall:

**Thu 11 Jan**, 7.15-8.45pm

**Marriage** Usual minimum notice, six months. Contact, Fr Anthony.

## But seriously

### DO YOU KNOW?

King David came to establish his palace in Jerusalem. Bethlehem also, though, can claim to be his city, as it is believed he was from there and was there crowned as King of Israel. It was foretold that the Messiah King would be born in David's City.

*When Mary and Joseph presented Jesus, as a baby, at the temple, his presence was greeted by Simeon - but who else greeted him?*

### OR MAYBE NOT SO



Two little boys were arguing. One was a catholic, the other a Protestant. The catholic boy said "Our priest knows more than your vicar"

"Well of course he does" was the reply "You tell him everything!"

## Parish Monies

**Thank You** very much for your offerings last weekend:

Loose £230.86

Envelopes £557.78

## Collections, etc

**This Weekend** Retiring Collection after each of our Masses, towards our Advent Project,

Collection 16/17 Dec £168.85

Total so far £688.83

## THE GOD WHO COMES

'O opened to my lover—  
but my lover had departed, gone.'  
(Sg. of Sg. 5:6)

To have found God, to have experienced Him in the intimacy of our being, to have lived even for one hour in the fire of His Trinity and the bliss of His Unity clearly makes us say: 'Now I understand. You alone are enough for me.'

Then the most beautiful phrases of the Song of Songs come true, and we live repeating to God the words of love invented for man's most intimate relationships on this earth:

(Sg. of Sg. 1:2-4)

(1:7)

(2:8-9)

Then we come to understand the dimensions of heaven; then we see things as they really are, and we see God as really God!

But then, too, we realise that this cannot last, that in order to keep its gratuitous quality, the fragrance of that hour must be paid for in a harsh and severe way.

Perhaps because it would all be too beautiful?

Perhaps because contemplation would destroy the roots of action?

Perhaps because you would never again get anything done, as though you were on too perfect a honeymoon?

Perhaps because heaven would start here and now, whereas the way is still long, and possession of the Beloved is feeble?

Yes, all this and many other things are true.

But there is one other thing which seems to me still more true, and I understood it only very late:

You would not be free any longer.

And God is terribly concerned about your freedom in loving Him. He knows that you can be suffocated by the greatness and the quantity of His gifts.

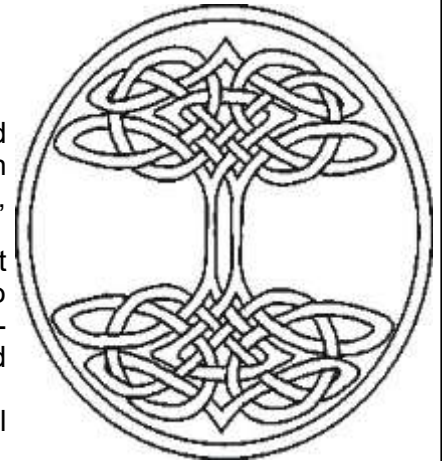
It is difficult to make a marriage between two persons who are in such different circumstances.

He brings you His all, while you can only bring Him your nothing. How can one set about reconciling such differences?

How can He be certain that you are not seeking Him out of self-interest?

That you are not going to Him for the pleasure you get out of it?

That would be too easy and too shallow a love.



From: The God Who Comes—Carlo Carretto



Please Keep  
in Prayer

All whose **Anniversaries** occur about this time  
All who have **died recently**

*Also:* All those **sick** or **infirm**, especially:

Br Hilarion Durkin, Margaret Hinchliffe, Bridget Johnson, Isabelle Blake, Elizabeth Olbison, Catherine Brown  
Karen Dearing, George Potts, Sheila Jordan, Peggy Heneghan, Phyllis Brown, Mary Ogley, Kazia Andruszko  
David Olbison, Liz Allen, Hilda Bailey, John Evans  
and all who receive Holy Communion at home

The Word: Year B, Advent, Sunday 4

**Gospel: Luke 1: 26-38**

As we prepare for the birth of Jesus, the final Sunday of Advent always focuses on Mary. What was the young girl Mary doing when the message came? Kneeling in prayer? feeding the sheep? fetching water? sweeping the mud floor? What was she thinking? Engaged to be married, surely about her approaching wedding to Joseph and about the children she would mother. Then came the message which she could accept or refuse, the message on which hung the future of the world: her child would be different from all others. How 'different'? Her thoughts were turned back to the promise to David. It had been read to her so often in the Bible, and now the words echoed in her mind as she listened to the angel say, 'His reign will have no end'. This would all be the work of the Spirit which she had so often heard about in Isaiah: 'the Holy Spirit will come upon you', the Spirit which was to come upon the Servant of the Lord, the Spirit of Emmanuel, 'God with us'. Her young body was to grow, nourish and develop this child. Then she would have the child in her arms to cherish and shape as both Son of God and her own son.



one sense David's House crashed into ruins when the last king of Judah was blinded and taken off into exile in Babylon. But the promise of an eternal kingship still stands. It is fulfilled in the eternal kingship of the Son of David who is also Mary's Son, and this fulfilment begins at the Annunciation. This is why so many phrases from the prophet Nathan's promise are echoed in the annunciation of the angel to Mary. 'Your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever', says Nathan. 'He will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end', says the angel.

**Second Reading: Romans 16: 25-27**

This reading gives the final cry of excitement and triumph at the end of Paul's great letter to the Christians of Rome. His task is to reveal to the nations (not just to the Jews) God's secret plan, which has been brewing all through human history and now comes to its climax in Christ. God has offered his friendship and his divine wisdom in Christ. Human beings respond with the obedience of 'faith', a keyword of the letter: we need only trust God's promises for all our weakness to be buried under God's glory. Ultimately all we need do in this 'obedience of faith' is simply hang on by our finger-tips, accepting God's promised help. Our celebration of Christmas is not just of a baby born at Bethlehem. It is of the climax of God's plan for the world, the keystone of history. So we do not merely look back on it as a great event. Christians must see it as the anchor of God's design for the whole of history and the course of each day.

*Courtesy of 'The Wednesday Word Trust'*

The Word: Year B, Feast of The Holy Family  
1st Reading: Genesis 15:1-6.21:1-3  
2nd Reading : Hebrews 11:8.11-12. 17-19  
Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

**First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16**

At the height of his powers King David wants to thank God for his lavish favours by building him a house. No human being patronises God, and David was not allowed to build the Temple. But God replies with the promise that he will build David a House. In

Prayer of the Church

**Psalter Week 4**

**Sun + Proper of Seasons**

**Mon** Of the feast

**Tue** Of the feast

**Wed** Of the feast

**Thu** Of the feast

**Fri** Of the feast + Former National Proper

**Sat** Proper of Seasons

**This Week's Feasts & Saints**

**Mon** THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

**Tue** ST. STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR

**Wed** ST JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST

**Thu** THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

**Fri** ST. THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP & MARTYR

**Sat**