



# 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, Feast of The Holy Family, 30/31 December 2017

*Getting in touch*

Father Anthony G Fenton  
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<b>Saturday</b> 30 December	6.00pm Mass	Sacred Heart	Bridie Bourke
<b>Sunday</b> 31 December	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass 1.00pm <i>Baptism</i>	St Joseph's Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Noreen & Ted Matthews Mrs E Wileman
Monday 1 January	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass <i>No Exposition today</i>	St Joseph's St Joseph's Sacred Heart	Parish Family
Tuesday 2 January	7.30am Mass 12.00-1.00pm Exposition	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Faithful Departed (Nov List)
Wednesday 3 January	12.00-1.00pm Exposition 7.00pm Mass	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Christopher Black
Thursday 4 January	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass 12.00-1.00pm Exposition	St Joseph's St Joseph's Sacred Heart	Terence Carter
Friday 5 January	8.30am Mass 12.00-1.00pm Exposition	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Dennis Garner
<b>Saturday</b> 6 January	9.30-10.30am Exposition 6.00pm Mass	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	Hilda Bailey, Family & Friends
<b>Sunday</b> 7 January	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass 1.00pm <i>Baptisms</i>	St Joseph's Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Liz Dunthorne Kordylewski H/C, Lisinski C, Nowicka W/M Lila M Brough and Erin D & Toby E Rawson

This Sunday, on his being Baptised into our Parish and Church Family, we congratulate and pray for  
**Callum Matthew Michael**, with his parents **Kerry and Paul Uttley**

**Fr Anthony wishes all of our Parish Family**  
and all who belong to them  
**a Christ-filled, happy and peaceful 2018**

**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

### From St Augustine on the epistle of John.

We announce what existed from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our own eyes, what we have touched with our own hands. Who could touch the Word with his hands unless the Word was made flesh and lived among us?

Now this Word, whose flesh was so real that he could be touched by human hands, began to be flesh in the Virgin Mary's womb; but he did not begin to exist just then. We know this as John says: *What existed from the beginning.* Notice how John's letter bears witness to his Gospel: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God.*

Someone might interpret the phrase the Word of life to mean a word about Christ, rather than Christ's body itself which was touched by human hands. But consider what comes next: *and life itself was revealed.* Christ therefore is himself the Word of life.



Life itself was therefore revealed in the flesh. In this way what was visible to the heart alone could become visible also to the eye, and so heal men's hearts. For the Word is visible to the heart alone, while flesh is visible to bodily eyes as well. We already possessed the means to see the flesh, but we had no means of seeing the Word. The Word

was made flesh so that we could see it, to heal the part of us by which we could see the Word.

John continues: *And we are witnesses and we proclaim to you that eternal life which was with the Father and has been revealed among us* – one might say more simply "revealed to us."

*We proclaim to you what we have heard and seen.* Make sure that you grasp the meaning of these words. The disciples saw our Lord in the flesh, face to face; they heard the words he spoke, and in turn they proclaimed the message to us. So we also have heard, although we have not seen.

Are we then less favoured than those who both saw and heard? If that were so, why should John add: *so that you too may have fellowship with us?* They saw, and we have not seen; yet we have fellowship with them, because we and they share the same faith.

*Our fellowship is with God the Father and Jesus Christ his Son. And we write this to you to make your joy complete* – complete in that fellowship, in that love and in that unity.

## Fr Anthony says:

Many, many thanks to all who have given so much, through 2017. There have been social and fund raising events; adults and children have been prepared for the Sacraments; there has been the care of the housebound and others with particular needs; the everyday and festive Masses and other Liturgies have continued; a lot of other stuff, from cleaning and grounds-works to paper-work, and much in-between, has also been done. Very many have been involved and Parishioners owe each other a word of thanks - but here I wish to express my deep thanks to all who have given so much, and so freely and generously.

**I also much thank our Parish Family** for your generous Christmas greetings, offerings and gifts. They are all appreciated and I, of course, keep you all in my prayers.



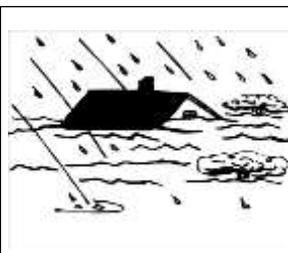
## Things happening in our Parish

**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.

**Our Parish SVP** is to meet **Wed 3 Jan**, 7.30pm, in our Sacred Heart Hall. To know more of their work or to join them, please have a word with any present Member

**St Joseph's Door Collection** The Upton Bus has now ceased, for the foreseeable future. Therefore, a retiring collection will be taken at St Joseph's only when one is announced for a specific cause. Many thanks to all who have supported the weekly collection to date.



## Our Advent Appeal

Many thanks to all who assisted with our project, to help some of the Asian Sub-Continent victims of the storms and floods, which struck them earlier this year. As always - a creditable response!

*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?*

When Mary and Joseph presented Jesus, as a baby, at the temple, his presence was greeted not only by Simeon, but also the prophetess Anna, daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher.

*When the Magi enquired of Herod where the Messiah was to be born, Herod's priests and scribes quoted from 'the prophet' - but which prophet (and Matthew does not say)?*

*OR MAYBE NOT SO*

Want did the coral do on January 1st?

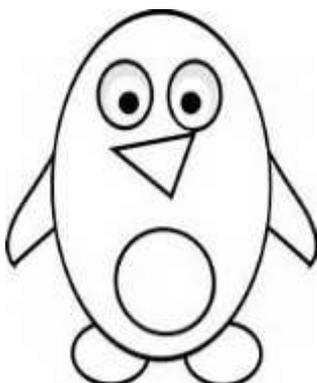
Turned over a new reef!

What's ET short for?

Because he's only got little legs!

What do you call a penguin in the desert?

Lost.



## Parish Monies

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

Loose £245.15

Envelopes £671.13

## Collections, etc

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

Collection 23/24 Dec £143.15

Final Total £831.98

## THE GOD WHO COMES

When the bible says that God is a jealous God, it is speaking truly.

But God's jealousy is not like ours.

He is jealous because He is afraid that, instead of loving Him in His naked being, we love His creation, His riches, His gifts, the joy He bestows, the peace He brings, the truth He makes us a present of.

God is not only jealous in His love. He is tragic.

Before making you His, before letting Himself be possessed, He tears you to shreds—rather, He makes history tear you to shreds.

(Sg. of Sg. 5:2-6)

Just when you have decided to be His, He escapes...far off.

(Sg. of Sg. 5:6-8)

For much of my life I asked myself why God acted in such a strange way.

Why is He silent so long?

Why is faith so bitter?

He can do everything, so why does He not reveal Himself to men in a more sensational way?

What would it cost Him to come out into the streets, among the men who cry 'God does not exist', give a hard slap to the noisiest, and say—better still, shout—'Don't believe these fools! I am here indeed! To convince you,

let's make an appointment to meet tomorrow evening in Lenin-grad's museum of atheism. You'll see what I'll do! I'll crush you and reduce you to souvenir envelopes!'

But it seems that God does His best to remain silent, as if to demonstrate that, He does not exist, that it is useless for us to follow Him, that we would do better if we went all out to possess the earth.

And are there not men who, when faced with His silence, convince themselves that He does not exist? And are there not others who are scandalised merely by the way the world goes?

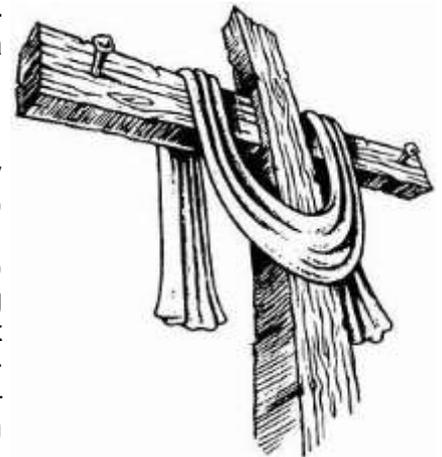
If God exists, why evil?

If God is love, why sorrow?

If God is a Father, why death?

If I have knocked, why has He not opened to me?

I used to think all this and more, when I was new to this school...



From: The God Who Comes—Carlo Carretto



Please Keep  
in Prayer

All whose **Anniversaries** occur about this time  
All who have **died recently**  
especially Rosaleen Adgo, and her family

*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: Feast of The Holy Family

#### Gospel: Luke 2: 22-40

The story of the Presentation of the child Jesus in the Temple is dominated by Simeon's welcome, 'a light to enlighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel', and by his warning to Mary, 'a sword will pierce your heart'. Simeon reiterates the angel's promise that the child would fulfil the destiny of Israel and Israel's task to the nations. Much like any family life, the promised future included the delights of the growing, developing child, and the background fear that the great destiny of each child may include sorrow and even heart-break. How much did Mary and Joseph know about the precious child they were nurturing? As he grew to independence did he become more loving and supportive? How did his contemporaries find him? Was he a leader? Did he stand out from the pack? Each of us has a private picture of Jesus—the child, the boy, the adolescent, the young man. All we know for sure is that 'the child grew to maturity', and Mary 'pondered all these things in her heart', while keeping in mind Simeon's welcome warning.



the commandment, 'Honour your father and your mother', explaining just how this should be put into practice. What was Jesus like as a baby? did he cry? He must have done, to make his baby feelings known. Did he bawl and howl? Did he cry when he scraped the skin off his knees? Did he fall out of trees and break his arm? did he make mistakes? Did he play pranks? He must have made jokes. He must have been a wonderful joy to his parents, loving, delightful company, full of devastatingly simple wisdom of children. And they must have been loving, wonderful company for him too, an anchor of affection and security.

#### Second Reading: Colossians 3: 12-21

In an incredibly short space the Letter to the Colossians gives a whole series of instructions on living in community: compassion, forgiveness, love and peace—not to mention gratitude. Love is a sort of overcoat, holding all the other qualities together. If we reflect on these values and put them into practice there can be no rivalry or hostility in the Christian community—even within a family, where the strains of Christmas often make love grow thin. A loving family is the model for the different relationships of a loving Christian community. God's fatherhood and motherhood is the model for human parentage, and Christ's devotion to his body the Church is the model for the devotion of spouses to one another. Today's second reading begins with an inspiring reminder that we form the chosen people of God; God's choice leaves us little alternative but to behave as God's people. The paragraph ends with the counsel to do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus. Christians are those over whom the name of the Lord Jesus has been uttered, making us members of his company and putting us under his power. This is the challenge for us, really to act as God's people.

*Courtesy of 'The Wednesday Word Trust'*

The Word: Year B, Feast of The Epiphany  
1st Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6  
2nd Reading : Ephesians 3:2-3.5-6  
Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12

#### First Reading: Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6. 12-14

The Book of Ecclesiasticus is a collection of wise instructions on how to behave in accordance with the Law. The author must have been an expert in the Law, living in Jerusalem. He sees the Law not as a tiresome set of rules to be obeyed, but as God's loving gift to his People, to show them how they should act to keep close to God. The Law is therefore to be treasured, a guide of inestimable value. The reading for today is a meditation and expansion on

### Prayer of the Church

#### Psalter Week 2

**Sun** Proper of Seasons

**Mon** Proper of Saints

**Tue** + Proper of Seasons

**Wed** + Proper of Seasons

**Thu** + Proper of seasons

**Fri** + Proper of Seasons

**Sat** + Proper of Seasons

### This Week's Feasts & Saints

**Mon** Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

**Tue** Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen,  
Bishops & Doctors of the Church

**Wed** The Most Holy Name of Jesus

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**