



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 Epiphany, 6/7 January 2018

*Getting in
touch*

Father Anthony G Fenton
The Sacred Heart Presbytery
Hemsworth,
Pontefract WF9 4LB

Tel 01977-610733

Parish Website www.hemsthorpe.org.uk
Email hemsthorpe@aol.com

Saturday 6 January	6.00pm Mass	Sacred Heart	Hilda Bailey, Family & Friends
Sunday 7 January	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass 1.00pm Baptisms	St Joseph's Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Liz Dunthorne Kordylewski H/C, Lisinski C, Nowicka W/M
Monday 8 January	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass 12.00-1.00pm Exposition	St Joseph's St Joseph's Sacred Heart	Terence Carter
Tuesday 9 January	7.30am Mass 12.00-1.00pm Exposition	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Parish Family
Wednesday 10 January	12.00-1.00pm Exposition 7.00pm Mass	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Eileen Cawley
Thursday 11 January	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass 12.00-1.00pm Exposition	St Joseph's St Joseph's Sacred Heart	Stanislaus & Margaret Czajko
Friday 12 January	8.30am Mass 12.00-1.00pm Exposition	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Patricia Slatter
Saturday 13 January	9.30-10.30am Exposition 6.00pm Mass	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	James & Elsie davis
Sunday 14 January	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass 3.15pm Mass in Polish	St Joseph's Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	John Gill Dulcie Morrison



This Sunday, we congratulate and pray for

as she is Presented at our 10.45am Mass, prior to her up-coming Baptism
Lucy Julia Donovan-Eaton, with parents **Andrew and Amy**
and on their being Baptised into our Parish and Church Family

Lila Mai Brough, with her parents **Anthony and Laura**

Erin Danni & Toby Edward Steven Rawson, with their parents **Jaime and Sarah**



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 Word of God, born once in the flesh (such is his kindness and his goodness), is always willing to be born spiritually in those who desire him. In them he is born as an infant, as he fashions himself in them by means of their virtues. He reveals himself to the extent that he knows someone is able to receive him. He lessens the revelation of his glory not out of selfishness, but because he recognises the capacity and resources of those who desire to see him. Yet, in the transcendence of mystery, he always remains invisible to all.



Saint Paul, reflecting on the power of the mystery, said: *Jesus Christ, yesterday and today: he remains the same for ever.*

For he understood the mystery as ever new, never growing old through our understanding of it.

Christ is God, for he had given all things being out of nothing. Yet he is born as man by taking to himself our nature, flesh endowed with intelligent spirit. A star glitters by day in the East and leads the wise men to the place where the incarnate Word lies, and leads the Gentiles to the full light of knowledge.

Here is the reason why God became a perfect man, changing nothing of human nature, except to take away sin (which was never natural anyway). His flesh was set before that voracious, gaping dragon as bait to provoke him: flesh that would be deadly for the dragon, for it would utterly destroy him by the power of the Godhead hidden within it. For human nature, however, his flesh was to be a remedy, since the power of the Godhead in it would restore human nature to its original grace.

Just as the devil had poisoned the tree of knowledge and spoiled our nature by its taste, so too, in presuming to devour the Lord's flesh, he himself is corrupted and is completely destroyed by the power of the Godhead hidden in it.

The great mystery of the divine incarnation remains a mystery for ever. How can the Word made flesh be essentially the same person that is wholly with the Father? How can he who is by nature God become by nature wholly man, without lacking either nature, neither the divine by which he is God nor the human by which he became man?

Faith alone grasps these mysteries. Faith alone is truly the substance and foundation of all that exceeds knowledge and understanding.

A reflection of St Maximus the Confessor.

Things happening in our Parish

Prayer Group Meets weekly on **Mondays**, 7-8.00pm, at 40 Wood Street, South Hiendley. All very welcome.

Seniors Group Meets weekly on **Wednesdays**, in our Sacred Heart Parish Hall, 2-3.30pm. All aged 55+, both males and females, most welcome. Chat, refreshments, entertainments, all the order of the day.

Open Heart Memory Café, for any with Dementia, their families and carers, will be starting monthly, on the 2nd Friday, at our Sacred Heart Hall, 10-12.00am. There is to be a final planning meeting this **Fri 12 Jan, 10.30am**, in our Sacred Heart Hall. Any wishing to come along and/or be a regular helper/participant is invited.

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.

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.

Many Thanks To all who donated hats, scarves, gloves to help keep those most desperate warmer. St Anne's Day Shelter now has a good sufficiency, so please do not bring any more to our Churches, for the time being.

It is a regrettable reality that from time to time, thefts occur in one or other of our Churches. Thefts are usually opportunist: they mostly occur during Services or events in the Hall/Rooms and especially where items or monies are left unattended. If any become aware of thefts being likely, at any time, they should please inform Fr Anthony, so that the situation can be monitored and appropriate action might be taken. Please do not encourage thieves by leaving money, items of food/drink, or other items lying around. Also, do not assume thieves will only strike if they unlikely to be observed: some show themselves bold (or foolish) enough to be seen!

& In Our Diocese

The Diocesan Refugee Support Group invites you to an event on Wed 31 Jan, 7.00-9.00pm, at Hinsley Hall, Leeds, LS6 2BX. Any interested in volunteering to assist refugees and asylum seekers, as well as any already involved, most welcome. Introduction to the Community Sponsorship scheme, news from key organisations as to the work they do, and a Market Place of stalls to learn about the range of volunteer opportunities across the Diocese. A photographic exhibition will be on display and refreshments will be provided.



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 the Magi enquired of Herod where the Messiah was to be born, Herod's priests and scribes quoted from 'the prophet'. The words Matthew quotes are to be found in the Book of Micah (5:2,4)

It seemed that Abraham, the Father of the Israelites, would have no children to his wife, Sarah, but with divine intervention they did finally conceive their son, Isaac. Before this, to preserve his lineage, Abraham went with whom and named this first son what?

OR MAYBE NOT SO

Every one a cracker!

Q: What do you call an old snowman?

A: Water!

Q: Who hides in the bakery at Christmas?

A: A mince spy!

Q: What do monkeys sing at Christmas?

A: Jungle bells, Jungle bells!



Parish Monies

Thank You very much for your offerings last weekend:

Loose £293.16

Envelopes £403.40

Collections, etc

Next Weekend Retiring collection after each of our Masses, for the *Poor Mission Fund*, to assist the most needy Diocesan Parishes.

THE GOD WHO COMES

Walking patiently, not allowing myself to be frightened off by the first difficulties, hounding His door with the determination of a man on a hunger strike, and, above all, believing His gospel true and unrelenting, I began to see the way things are, I began to discover how God goes about what He is doing, I began to distinguish His stealthy footsteps.



I was no longer amazed that He treated me like the bride of the Song of Songs, that He escaped when I opened the door.

It was for Him to open it, not me, always in a hurry.

Sin lies in Adam's haste, and my lust for possession is stronger than my true love for Him.

Wait! Oh, the anguish of that 'wait', the emptiness of that absence!

But then, little by little, I began to understand, as never before, that He was present in the emptiness, in the waiting.

I was thirsty for presence, so, in order to stretch out my desire, He presented Himself as absence. Therefore, I was obliged to purify my faith and tell Him I believed in Him, not out of self-interest but out of love.

I was thirsty for His light and truth, so He presented Himself as darkness.

Until that moment, I had never understood the meaning of the cloud which guided the people of God in the desert.

If you want God's embrace, if you want to reach the Promised Land, you must accept the scandal of all the things you don't understand right to the limits.

There is always something irrational about love; there is always something of what we call folly in the synthesis of mysteries.

Was not Jesus clothed in folly before being clothed in blood?

But it is not enough.

I want possession of Him, so He presented Himself as insensibility in the cold desert dawns.

'Before accepting your embrace I want proof of your fidelity.

'You are too sensual for Me to give myself as food for your desires which are so poor in love, and so saturated with egoism.

'You believe you love Me, but in reality you are loving yourself.

'It is always the same!

'You must make some progress before leaving yourself and what is yours!

'For your sake I left what was mine and came to you.

'You do the same.

'Wait for me all your life as though I were coming every evening. I shall be present, and you will not see me; I shall be your lamp, and you will not realise it; I shall embrace you and you will not feel anything.

'Then I shall know truly whether you love God because He is God, or whether you love Him because He is the solution to your problems...

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 Ogle, Kazia Andruszko
David Olbison, Liz Allen, Hilda Bailey, John Evans
and all who receive Holy Communion at home

The Word: Feast of The Epiphany

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

The Wise Men with their clever knowledge of astronomy and their lavish gifts, represent all that is best in worldly values. They also have a bit of magic about them, for frankincense and myrrh were used in spells, and the word for 'wise men' can also mean 'magicians'. In this case, the Wise Men have real wisdom and its reward, and all the respect and fame due to a 'magus' and yet they lay it all at Jesus' feet. It might be worth asking at this beginning of the year whether we submit all our skills and comforts to Jesus as the Wise Men did. The story also rests on the sharp contrast between King Herod and the Wise Men. Herod was a Jew, so he should have recognised and honoured the Jewish Messiah. Not at all! He tried to kill the Messiah. By contrast, the Wise Men, arriving from what for us would be the equivalent of outer space, carry on their search till they find Jesus and humbly bow before him. This poses a nasty question: we Christians have all the guidance and encouragement of the church, but how often do we find those outside the Church, not even professed Christians, behaving in a more Christian way than we do ourselves!

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

This passage from the Book of Isaiah was written at a thrilling moment of Israel's development. The people had returned from Exile in Babylon and were beginning to realise the universal task of Israel. The salvation promised to Israel was not just for the Jews but was for the whole world! Hence these cries of joy in today's reading at all these curious camels and exotic nations thronging to Jerusalem. There is a similar invitation for us too to be open: Christ brings salvation not just to us, to those who come to our Church, but to the whole world— to all those grumpy, depressed, selfish, worried, suffering, disadvantaged people we meet in the street; the call is not only to Christians of every kind, but also to those who have not yet found Jesus. The Epiphany is the time when Jesus 'went public', symbolized by the coming of the Wise Men from the East, the first people outside his own sphere to greet him. So we ought to go out into the street and shout for joy to alert people to what is on offer. Probably better to be a lot less

crazy about it, and simply show the happiness it has brought to us by sharing our happiness in any generous way we can!

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3.5-6

This letter to the Ephesians talks about the 'mystery'. It really means God's great 'secret' to be revealed at the end of time. The climax of the long history of the world did indeed come at the crucifixion and Resurrection, because all our hope is in Christ's Resurrection. That was the moment when history reached its highest point. This is the only Christian way of viewing the world, its slow evolution and then its history of human development, all directed to Christ and his Resurrection. We are much more aware these days that the immense universe, with stars millions of light-years away is one great system of which we are a tiny part. The angels hovering over Bethlehem at Christ's birth tell us that all the power of God was focused on that one event. The Christian believes that one tiny baby presented to those Wise Men from the East, brought the secret of the universe to fulfilment. They represent all the races of the world, even far beyond the known world, coming to greet the Saviour who was presented to all people on that day.



Courtesy of 'The Wednesday Word Trust'

The Word: Year B, Ordinary Time, Sunday 2

1st Reading: Samuel 3:3-10. 19

2nd Reading : 1 Corinthians 6:13-15. 17-20

Gospel: John 1:35-42

Prayer of the Church

Psalter Week 1

Sun Of the Solemnity

Mon Of the Feast

Tue Week 1

Wed Week 1

Thu Week 1

Fri (or + Common of Holy Men & Women)

Sat (or + Prpr of Sts.+ Cm'n of Past.or Cm'n of Dct)

This Week's Feasts & Saints

Mon THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri St. Aelred of Rievailx, Abbot

Sat St. Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church