



Parish of The Sacred Heart and St Joseph

with the churches of
The Sacred Heart, Hemsworth and Saint Joseph, Moorthorpe

Diocese of Leeds: Registered Charity No 249404



Year C, Advent, Sunday 2, 8/9 December 2018

Getting in touch

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Saturday 8 December	6.00pm Mass	Sacred Heart	Min Walker
Sunday 9 December	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass <i>3.15pm Mass in Polish</i>	St Joseph's Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Decd Hughes Family John Gallivan
Monday 10 December	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass <i>10.00-10.30am Exposition</i> 12.00-1.00pm Exposition	St Joseph's St Joseph's St Joseph's Sacred Heart	Private Intention (B.G) <i>Sacrament of Reconciliation also</i>
Tuesday 11 December	7.30am Mass 12.00-1.00pm Exposition	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Yorkshire Brethren
Wednesday 12 December	12.00-1.00pm Exposition 7.00pm Mass <i>7.30-8.00pm Exposition</i>	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Faithful Departed (November List) <i>Sacrament of Reconciliation also</i>
Thursday 13 December	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass 12.00-1.00pm Exposition	St Joseph's St Joseph's Sacred Heart	Thanksgiving St Anthony
Friday 14 December	8.30am Mass 12.00-1.00pm Exposition	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Debbie Lane
Saturday 15 December	9.30-10.30am Exposition 6.00pm Mass	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	Bell Family
Sunday 16 December	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	Thomas & Delia Walsh Parish Family

At our Masses this weekend, we celebrate with our Applicants
The Rite of Election for Confirmation



Additional Advent opportunities for the
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Monday 10 Dec, 10.00am at St Joseph's
Wednesday 12 Dec, 7.30pm, at The Sacred Heart
(nb No additional times week beginning 16 Dec)



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

When Jesus created his story of the Prodigal Son, he showed he understood the complexity of the human heart. The elder brother's resentment against his father and denial of forgiveness for his brother give warning. Bishop Helder Camara said,



'I pray incessantly for the conversion of the Prodigal Son's brother. Even in my ear rings the dread warning. The one has awoken from his life of sin. When will the other wake from his virtue?' Virtue, when we see it as our own achievement, can blind us to the most wonderful quality of God's love, namely that it is a completely free gift which we can never

merit. It can also make us intolerant of others and judgmental about human weakness and failure. Thus it frustrates the great command of Jesus that we should forgive and love each other. At the end of the story, when all are inside celebrating, the older son is outside in the yard, sulking, alone with his bitterness. Is this not a picture of hell? Let us not try to play God or dictate to God the limits of mercy and love. Let us joyfully confess that God is not man, that his ways are as far above ours as the heavens are above the earth. He is unpredictable in the most wonderful and consoling way: namely, all we can predict about him is that his mercy, healing and love will always be infinitely greater than we can imagine.

St Paul, once a Pharisee and fundamentalist, wrote, 'How rich the depths of God, how deep his wisdom and knowledge, and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his method. Who could even know the mind of the Lord? (*Rom 11:33-34*). There is only one who knows the mind of God, his Son, Jesus. 'No one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.' (*Matt 11:27*). Let us be forever grateful that Jesus has revealed his Father to us and revealed him as the Father with love beyond understanding. How sad must be a father's when his child cannot see the true wonder of his identity.. This is Jesus's answer to all our fears and anxiety and longing for security; 'Realise who you are, the child of a God who created you simply that you might always be with him and share all that he has. Live not in anxiety and fear. Let there be more music and dancing in the home of your heart. Walk more in joyful expectation and wonder and gratitude.'

From 'Give God a Chance' (Ch.22) (abbreviated) - by Robert Kelly, SJ

Mass Times for Christmas

**Mass of Christmas Eve, Monday 24 December
Sacred Heart, 5.00pm -&- St Joseph's, 7.30pm**

(The Eve Masses will include special thought for our Children attending)

**Mass of Christmas Day, Tuesday 25 December
Sacred Heart, 10.00am only**

Things happening in our Parish

Mass Times Cards Printed on *small (A6) yellow card*, give times of our Christmas Masses. It is hoped they will be passed on to some who have not much been coming to Mass and also any who might be thinking of becoming a Catholic. Please take as many as you might pass on.

Parish Christmas Cards Printed on *larger (A5) pink/yellow card*, are for all of our Parish Family to put one among their Christmas cards, at home. Within, many are named as wishing to exchange Christmas greetings with all of our Parish Family. Many thanks to all named for also donating towards our Advent Project. As the cards were printed the morning after the deadline, regrettably late entries missed being included.

Open Heart Memory Cafe Especially for any within our neighbourhood with Dementia and their family, friends and carers. Next gathering in our Sacred Heart Hall, this **Fri 14 Dec**, 10.00-12.00am. All welcome.

Parishioners are warmly invited to attend the following at St Joseph's School, in the School Hall: *Mon 17 Dec*, 2:15pm, Years 1 & 2 Nativity - *Wed 19 Dec*, 2:30pm, Early Years Nativity - *Fri 21 Dec*, 9:30am, Advent Carol Service, inc refreshments after.

First Reconciliation If Parents of any Children eligible to prepare for their First Confession (Baptised Catholics in school year 3 or above), have not applied, they need to return an application form before Christmas. Forms can be got from Fr Anthony after our Masses, this and next weekend, and should be returned direct to him.

Competition Pictures Many thanks to all the Children who drew nativity scenes for our Parish Christmas Card competition. It was difficult to choose winners among so many lovely pictures. All may browse through the spring file in our Church Entrances, to enjoy the artistry.

Congratulations to our winners, who will receive their prize in the next week or so: namely, Joe Wilson (11), Frankie Kent (10) and Leslie Odigie (11).

Our Advent Appeal is to help *Inn Churches*, a charity involving Catholic and other churches, through Bradford. They provide care for the homeless (rough sleepers), during the winter. Churches take a week each, to give two meals and accommodation overnight (in such as Parish Halls). Hereabouts there are rough sleepers, but cities and large towns are a greater attraction, because of wider options. See also our Church notice boards.

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

Sacraments

Baptism The Preparation Programme now running, for Parents of Children to be baptised, continues in our Sacred Heart Hall, **Wed 12 Dec**, 7.30-9.00pm. To join a Programme, Parents should talk with Fr Anthony, at a weekend Mass, to arrange an initial meeting with him.

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

Confirmation Meeting for *Applicants along with their Parents/Carers*, in our Sacred Heart Hall:

Sat 12 Jan, 9.30-11.30am

First Communion Thanksgiving Our Children, who have just received their First Eucharist, with their Families, will celebrate a Thanksgiving Mass, at our Sacred Heart Church:

Sat 19 Jan, 11.00am

First Reconciliation Those who have returned an application form for their child to prepare for First Reconciliation next year, should have now received, via the post, details of the meetings. If any have not, they should please contact Fr Anthony.

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

But seriously

DO YOU KNOW?

More than any other Old Testament prophecy, the Book of Isaiah develops the notion of the need for a Messiah, what sort of person he would be, and how he would bring about his work of saving the people of God. Thus, there is little wonder that readings from Isaiah feature a great deal during Advent, as we look forward to celebrating Jesus' Coming.

When was the Book of Isaiah written
- nb - this is a trick question!?

OR MAYBE NOT SO!

Middle Age is when broadness of the mind and narrowness of the waist change places.



Parish Monies

Thank You very much for your offerings last weekend:

Loose £518.74
Envelopes £612.20

Collections, etc

This Weekend and each weekend of Advent, Retiring Collection after each of our Masses, for our Advent Appeal.

From Christmas Card £272.50
Last week's Collection £211.75

THE GOD WHO COMES

A union man with a catholic background said to me, I don't go to Mass in my parish any longer. The Eucharistic assembly seems false to me because my boss is beside me and I'm fighting against him in the trades union with all my might. I can't take communion with him."

There is the mistake. There is the point to which many Christians have come, often without their realising it.

"I can't take communion with my enemy because I want to beat him."

What is left of the true gospel in this wrestlers' attitude?

What difference remains between Marx and Christ if I no longer take communion with my father's assassin? With someone who hates me? With someone who exploits me? Did not Jesus say, "Love your enemies and do good to those who hate you"? What will become of the Christian community when it makes class struggle its own method of freeing the oppressed?



Let us remember well: if I am not capable of pardoning those who wrong me, God will not pardon my wrongdoing. (Look at the parable of the pitiless servant in Matthew).

If I am not capable of trusting in the conversion of my enemy, God will take back His trust, which is the Holy Spirit.

And without the Holy Spirit what am I?

Here is the greatest mystery of the Church, which I renounce when I close my heart to my enemy brother and set myself up as a judge over the assembly of the people of God.

The mystery is here.

This medley of good and ill, greatness and misery, holiness and sin, which is the Church, at bottom is myself.

Even if none of us who are living, who are in the Church, can call ourselves 'Church' because the person 'Church' is greater than they are, each one of us feels with trembling and infinite joy that what passes in the relationship of God-Church is something which belongs to his most intimate life.

In each one of us is reflected the threats and the sweetness with which God treats His people Israel, the Church. To each one of us God says, as to the Church: "I will espouse you to me forever" (Hos. 2:21). But at the same time he reminds us of our reality: "Yet not even with fire will its great rust be removed. Because you have sullied yourself with lewdness when I would have purified you, and you refused to be purified of your own uncleanness, therefore you shall not be purified until I wreak my fury on you" (Ezek. 12:12-13). It is enough to read the prophets to perceive how everything that God addresses to His people, to Israel, He says to each one of us.

From: The God Who Comes— Carlo Carretto

**Please Keep
in Prayer**

All whose **Anniversaries** occur about this time
All who have **died recently**
Peter Gee, Patrick O'Donnell, and their families



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, Hilda Bailey, Kazia Andruszko, Ann Pearson
David Olbison, Liz Allen, Malcolm Stuart, Peter Gee
and all who receive Holy Communion at home

The Word: Year C, Advent, Sunday 2

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

Each year the two middle Sundays of Advent centre on John the Baptist, preparing the way for Jesus. John came to prepare a community of repentance, of those who would be ready for the Messiah. This was to be a community not of those who went around moping about their sinfulness, but a community of those who had changed their ways, that is, their whole system of values and priorities. The Hebrew concept of repentance which John proclaimed was a matter of turning round and going in the opposite direction. To be ready for the Messiah meant—and still means—just such a radical change of attitude. John himself had prepared by going out into the desert, for the Messiah was to come striding across the desert, as did Israel after the Exodus from Egypt. John's clothing and his whole way of life showed his rejection of current materialism and his single-minded dedication. He is not primarily a negative point of view, for his quotation of Isaiah (reflected also in today's first reading from Baruch), shows that the flattening of the hills and the filling of the valleys is a preparation for the Kingdom of peace and justice. A good deal of positive planning and of spade-work is needed if we are to be ready to welcome that Kingdom.



First Reading: Baruch 5:1-9

This part of the Book of Baruch is a meditation on Isaiah's promises for Jerusalem at the return of Israel from exile in Babylon. It is, of course, taken up by John the Baptist in his proclamation that the high mountains will be flattened and the valleys filled in to make a smooth road for the messiah to cross the desert to Jerusalem. In the Hebrew tradition there were many aspects to the Messiah (the harbinger of God's kingship), expected by the people of Israel. For Isaiah the Messiah was a conquering hero, his gar-

ments stained with the blood of his victories. In this prophecy from Baruch the reign of God is more peaceful, a heartfelt dedication to God and the values of the divine sovereignty; for at this coming of God Jerusalem is renamed 'Peace through integrity (or Justice)' and 'Honour through Devotedness'. True peace comes only through the saving justice of God, when the People of God truly act as God's representatives, made in the image of God and the envoys of his saving values. The ideal of God's kingdom appears in the Garden of Eden before the Fall, when his representatives (Adam and Eve) lived in perfect harmony with one another and with God's whole creation.

Second Reading: Philippians 1:3-6. 8-11

Paul always begins his letters with a commendation and a blessing. The Philippians to whom he is writing were Paul's favourite community; the letter is full of friendship and affection. Here he commends the Philippians for their partnership with him in the work of the Gospel, and prays that God's work in them may be completed so that they may be ready for the Day of the Lord, which Paul envisaged to be imminent. Today's passage is chosen by the Church as a preparation for the coming of the Lord Jesus at Christmas—and Christmas shopping leaves no doubt about the imminence of that coming! This serves as a reminder that the traditional three comings of Christ cannot be separated: the coming in history was the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem; the coming in mystery is the coming of Christ into our hearts as we endeavour to mould ourselves as his faithful followers and to live out his values; the coming in majesty is the final coming of Christ in glory to gather his elect to himself, either at our homecoming in death or at the end of all things. The three comings lead on, one to another: the coming in history gives a new impetus to the Kingdom of God; the coming in majesty brings the Kingdom to its climax; the coming in mystery is our own repeated response to the Kingdom here and now.

Courtesy of 'The Wednesday Word Trust'

The Word: Year C, Advent, Sunday 3

1st Reading Zephaniah 3:14-18

2nd Reading Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

Prayer of the Church

Psalter Week 2

Sun + Seasonal Proper

Mon + Proper of Seasons

Tue + Proper of Seasons (or + Proper of Saints)

Wed + Proper of Seasons (or + Common of BVM)

Thu + Proper of Seasons + Proper of Saints

Fri + Proper of Seasons + Proper of Saints

Sat + Proper of Seasons

This Week's Feasts & Saints

Mon

Tue St. Damasus I, Pope

Wed Our Lady of Guadalupe

Thu St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

Fri St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doct. Of Church

Sat