



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 3, 15/16 December 2018

Getting in touch

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

Email

anthony.fenton@dioceseofleeds.org.uk
pp.sacredheartstjoseph@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

Tel

01977-610733

Parish Website www.hemsthorpe.org.uk

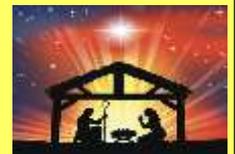
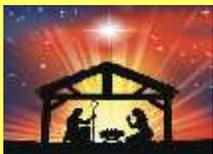
Saturday 15 December	6.00pm Mass	Sacred Heart	Bell Family
Sunday 16 December	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	Thomas & Delia Walsh Parish Family
Monday 17 December	<i>No Morning Prayer today</i> 9.30am Mass 11.15am Funeral Mass	St Joseph's St Joseph's Sacred Heart	<i>With SJ School Children</i> Bridie McNally Patrick O'Donnell
Tuesday 18 December	7.30am Mass 12.00-1.00pm Exposition	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Faithful Departed (November List)
Wednesday 19 December	9.30am Mass 12.00-1.00pm Exposition 7.00pm Mass	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	<i>With SH School Children</i> Parish Family Elsie Davis, Family & Friends
Thursday 20 December	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass 12.00-1.00pm Exposition 5.00pm Receive Body	St Joseph's St Joseph's Sacred Heart St Joseph's	Patsy Murphy Peter Gee
Friday 21 December	8.30am Mass 10.00am Funeral Mass 12.00-1.00pm Exposition	Sacred Heart St Joseph's Sacred Heart	Michael Sullivan Peter Gee
Saturday 22 December	9.30-10.30am Exposition 6.00pm Mass	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Terry O'Brien
Sunday 23 December	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	Edward Czajko Peggy & Johnny Senior

Mass Times for Christmas

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

The Eve Masses will include special thought for our 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

Mass of Day, Tuesday 25 Dec: Sacred Heart, 10.00am only



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

John the Baptist steps right out of the message of the Prophet Isaiah to prepare a way for our God to save us. His message is that the mountains aren't too high, the valleys aren't too severe for our God to come and save us - to be with us. He makes it clear that he himself is not the promised one. He is the one to announce and prepare the way. He calls for repentance and an acceptance of forgiveness.

Advent is a time for us to hear the call - ultimately from Jesus - to prepare his way. We are sent before him to places where the good news of Jesus hasn't been heard or where it is no longer accepted. We share the good news best by our actions rather than just words. Inner joy, shown outwardly in service of others, evangelizes, it announces the good news of our salvation in Jesus. We tell people about it best when we look like we believe it, and we look like we believe it because we live it and enjoy doing so.



We become those who prepare the way for faith, through our relationships and in our families, when we witness our faith in Jesus. Harshness, judgements, the pointing finger never brought anyone closer to Jesus. Yet, this is too often what *being religious* might look like to others. Our role in preparing the way for Jesus is to announce, to witness, to show how full of joy and how free we are because of the personal relationship we have with Jesus - the opposite of being *self-righteous*. We *proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes* when we know we are forgiven and saved by God's mercy. We can then be courageous in loving as we have been loved. We become compassionate. We have the heart of Jesus for others. We are the people who keep the door open, even when it seems there is no hope that someone will return. We become more merciful. We hear the cries of those in need, reach out and stand on their side.

When we are on fire with the reality of the coming of our God - for us - we become more charitable, kind and generous. We also become on fire with being advocates for any in need. We desire, with Jesus, with the power of the Holy Spirit, to stand up and speak the truth about the need for justice and right, and to prepare a highway for Jesus to let God's Kingdom come on earth - as it is in heaven.

Courtesy of Creighton University, Online Ministries, (abbreviated)

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. Within, many are named as wishing to exchange Christmas greetings with all of our Parish Family. If you have not already got one at home, please take one today.

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.

Monthly Intention Each month, Pope Francis declares an Intention for which he is praying and he asks any and all to join with that Intention. It is currently expected that the Intentions will be posted on the notice boards of our Churches, sometimes with some additional information. It is hoped that many will respond at Exposition of the Sacrament, Mass, and in other times of prayer.

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 and all please ensure no other items are left behind.

Ten seconds of your time
saves up to 30 minutes of another's time.

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 A Preparation Programme, for Parents of Children to be baptised, will be held in our Sacred Heart Hall, **Weds 13 & 27 Mar**, 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?

Over the centuries, it has become clear that the Book of Isaiah was composed at two different periods. A man named Isaiah was born around 765BC and is believed to have written chapters 1-39. Language style and historic details, among other things, indicate that chapters 40-55 were written about two hundred years later.

Jesus, of course, was born in Bethlehem, but who told Mary and Joseph to go there when she was so near giving birth?

OR MAYBE NOT SO!

Emma aged six had been learning about Noah and the flood at school. She had painted a lovely picture of



Noah, the Ark and all the pairs of animals. Curiously she had included a figure with white wings. When asked who it was, she replied, "It's Noah's friend the Ark Angel Gabriel!"

Parish Monies

Thank You very much for your offerings last weekend:

Loose	£326.88
Envelopes	£461.37
Nov Bank Orders	£1336.00

Collections, etc

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

Last week's collection	£85.20
Total to date	£569.45

THE GOD WHO COMES

If God's threats are so numerous and the violence of His punishment so great, even more numerous are His words of love and even greater is His mercy. God is greater than our weakness.

But there is another thing, perhaps the most beautiful. The Holy Spirit, who is love, is capable of seeing us holy, immaculate, beautiful, even if we are dressed as rogues and adulterers.

The pardon of God, when it touches us, makes Zacchaeus, the tax collector, become transparent and Magdalene, the sinner, immaculate.

It is as though evil had not been able to touch the metaphysical depths of man. It is as though love had kept the soul from being sullied when it was far from love.



God says to each one of us in pardon: "With age-old love I have loved you; so I have kept my mercy toward you. Again I will restore you, and you shall be rebuilt, O virgin Israel" (Jer.31:3-4)

There, He calls us "virgins", even when we are on our way back from the umpteenth prostitution of our bodies, spirits and hearts.

In this, God is truly God; that is, He is the only one capable of 'making things new'.

For it does not matter to me that He makes a new heaven and a new earth; it is more necessary He should make our hearts new.

That is the work of Christ.

That is the divine environment of the Church.

Do you want to hinder this making hearts new by turning someone out of the assembly of the people of God?

Or do you want, by searching for another, safer place, to put yourself in danger of losing the Spirit?

"Love one another as I have loved you" ' (John 15:12)

Charity is God's way of loving; it is God's love itself.

It is a person who is called Holy Spirit.

It is the love which unites the Father with the Son.

It is the love which penetrated us at Pentecost.

We are baptised no longer in water, but in the fire of the Holy Spirit—that is, in love.

He who possesses the Holy Spirit and listens to Him understands everything; he who does not possess Him and does not listen understands nothing.

Light and darkness in our spirits are formed by this Spirit.

When He came down upon the chaos this Spirit created the universe.

When He covered Mary of Nazareth with His shadow, the flesh of the woman became the flesh of the Son of God.

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, Michael Patrick Swift,
Margaret Johnson, and their families



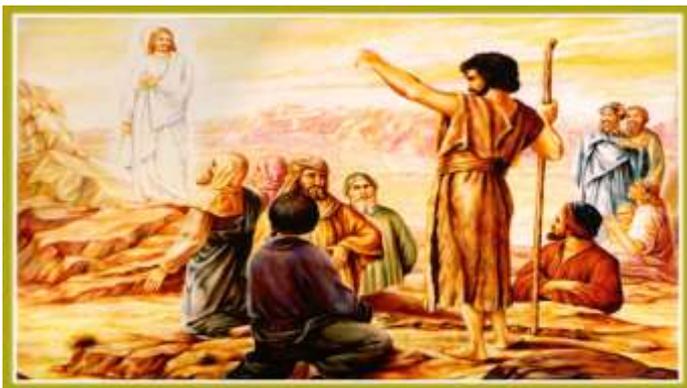
Also: All those **sick** or **infirm**, especially:

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,
and all who receive Holy Communion at home

The Word: Year C, Advent, Sunday 3

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

In this second of the two Advent Sunday gospels about John the Baptist we first hear details about how to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. Luke is always aware of the dangers of wealth and money, so he concentrates on avoiding its misuse. First he teaches equal sharing with the needy, no hoarding but generosity. Then he turns to financial exploitation. Tax-collectors had to pay for the right to collect taxes, and would be tempted to extort a nice margin to cover their own needs. In the same way soldiers could be tempted to abuse their power by bullying those they were meant to protect. The second part of John's task is to point away from himself towards Jesus, who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Luke's gospel and the Acts of the Apostles are full of the Holy Spirit. Luke must have been vividly aware of the working of the Spirit in the church, in its ministers of all kinds and in the life of the Christian communities. He warns also of the fierce fire which will purge away impurities; for John the Baptist the Messiah is a stern figure who will burn away the rubbish in human hearts to make room for the Spirit.



First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18

Zephaniah prophesies that Jerusalem, the Holy City, sacked by the Babylonians, will be restored. That day will be a day of overwhelming joy, when the Lord will truly be king in Jerusalem, but they were continually dominated by one set of foreign rulers after another, tossed from one to

the next as the plaything of their powerful neighbours. They longed more and more to be free, to have God as their only ruler. When Jesus came, the kingship of God dominated his whole horizon, but the people failed to recognize the kingship of God in his proclamation and his way of life. He was not the conquering hero they expected, and the citizens he gathered into his kingdom were the hungry, the poor, the persecuted, the disadvantaged, the alienated, the lost, the despised, the crippled and the sick. It was to these that he brought joy and rejoicing 'as on a day of festival'. If people failed to see God at work in Jesus' life, it was because they were looking for the wrong sort of God. If we want to share Christ's joy at Christmas, we must focus on the right kind of kingship of God.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

This third Sunday of Advent, halfway through the preparation for Christmas, is traditionally known as Gaudete ('Rejoice') Sunday. The encouragement which begins our reading from Philippians ('Be joyful') underlines this message. However it is all very well for Paul to tell us not to worry, to be happy and to place all our desires before God. Easier said than done! Moreover, how can we be sure that all our prayers and petitions made to God will be answered? How can they be, if you pray for rain while I pray for sunshine? The true prayer of petition is Jesus' own prayer, an embrace of the Father in loving confidence that God is just that, our loving Father. We can think we know what will make us happy, but the only true recipe for happiness is to leave it to God, in the knowledge that our human perception is limited and incomplete. Any further prayer must be provisional. It is almost a game: I think I know what will make me happy, but on another level I know that I don't know—but I trust that the Lord knows what will bring me true happiness. So, in prayer, I place my worries before the Lord and leave the rest to him.

Courtesy of 'The Wednesday Word Trust'

The Word: Year C, Advent, Sunday 4

1st Reading Micah 5:1-4
2nd Reading Hebrews 10:5-10
Gospel: Luke 1:39-44

Prayer of the Church

Psalter Week 3

Sun + Seasonal Proper
Mon + Proper of Seasons
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
Tue
Wed
Thu
Fri St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doc. of Church
Sat