



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 A, Advent, Sunday 2, 7/8 December 2019

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 7 December	6.00pm Mass	Sacred Heart	Thanksgiving for Prayers Answered
Sunday 8 December	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	Mary Heaney Pawel & Annie Zywicki
Monday 9 December	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass 12.00-1.00pm Exposition	St Joseph's St Joseph's Sacred Heart	Billy Holmes
Tuesday 10 December	7.30am Mass 12.00-1.00pm Exposition	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Anthony Bickerstaffe
Wednesday 11 December	12.00-1.00pm Exposition 5.00-6.00pm Exposition 7.00pm Mass	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	<i>Individual Reconciliation available</i> Debbie Lane
Thursday 12 December	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass 10.00-10.30am Exposition 12.00-1.00pm Exposition	St Joseph's St Joseph's St Joseph's Sacred Heart	Antony Scott <i>Individual Reconciliation available</i>
Friday 13 December	8.30am Mass 12.00-1.00pm Exposition	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Parish Family
Saturday 14 December	9.30am-6.00pm Exposition 6.00pm Mass	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Hilda Bailey
Sunday 15 December	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	May Myatt Johnny & Peggy Senior

This Sunday, at our 10.45am Mass, prior to her up-coming Baptism, we present Agata Kamila Kolodziej, daughter of, Kamila and Grzegorz



Take a short while out, in our Sacred Heart Church next Saturday 14 Dec, anytime 9.30am-6.00pm
Come along, even if only for 10/15 minutes, to help yourself prepare for the real meaning of Christmas
in the presence of our Lord Jesus, in the Blessed Sacrament
and to pray, also, that many more may come to give a welcome to their Lord Jesus, in their daily lives



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

'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.' (Mtt 28:19) Jesus gave each of his apostles, and gives each of us, this same command.

All of us who know that we are God's beloved children want others, too, to know it and respond to his love. For many, Christmas is an excuse for another food and drink fest, without little, if any knowledge or understanding of who Jesus is and why he came into our world. For all of us, there is sadness knowing that some in our own families don't much bother about Christ, or certainly don't much bother with our Church or any church.

St Luke (24:51-53) tells: 'While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. They worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.' So the apostles did not immediately go out telling people about Jesus, after the Ascension, but went and prayed (as Jesus had said they should) - and for quite a few days, until the Holy Spirit came to them at Pentecost. They then continued to pray much, but also went out to fulfil the mission Jesus had given them - and with much effect.



Praying for those whom we want to know and love Christ is an important and great step on the journey of sharing our faith with them. If we are at all unsure of how to help them, or if what we're doing seems not so successful, we can still

always pray - for them and ourselves. Advent is an ideal time for such prayer, as we recall the first coming of Christ into our world, so that in our own time he can be born in us.

It is important to do all we can to help those we love and care for to meet and come to know the person of Jesus Christ. But encounters with him are really brought to life through the Holy Spirit touching their lives in some way. Prayer is not an excuse to sit back and give up. It is the starting point and, as it is continued, it encourages and feeds growth in faith and the love of God. Prayer is the cornerstone of our faith. In prayer we can ask for confidence to step out and share our faith with others or ask God who he wants us to reach with his Good News. It is always a great act of charity to pray that others may know and love God, and have a great care for his ways.

Offer this gift for loved ones and many more besides. Next Saturday, call in at our Sacred Heart Church, even if only for ten minutes. Pray, before our Lord Jesus in his exposed Blessed Sacrament, that this Christmas will see Christ born in them and us, and that with our help, they will grow in their desire for him. [See details on the front of this bulletin for the all day times.](#)

Mass Times for Christmas

**Mass of Christmas Eve
Tuesday 24 December**

**Sacred Heart, 5.00pm
-&- St Joseph's, 7.30pm**

**Mass of Christmas Day
Wednesday 25 December**

Sacred Heart, 10.00am only

The Eve Masses will include - special thought for our Children - Sherry/juice and posh biscuits afterwards



Extra Advent opportunities for Reconciliation
at our Churches, both with Exposition
this Wednesday 5.00-6.00pm, at The Sacred Heart
this Thursday 10.00-10.30am, at St Joseph's

The Rite of Election for Confirmation
will be celebrated at the Masses at both of our Churches
next weekend, 14/15 December

Things happening in our Parish

Mass Times Cards These, printed on *small (A6) 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.

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 13 Dec**, 10.00-12.00am. Do come along for a cuppa, chat, laugh and to meet new friends. All welcome.

First Sacraments/Reconciliation 2020 Copies of the Preparation Programme for those eligible to prepare for First Reconciliation, in the New Year, have been posted to all those who returned application forms. If any have not received a copy by the end of this week, please then contact Fr Anthony, as soon as possible.

All most welcome at our St Joseph's School Hall for:
Tue 10 Dec, Christmas Fair, 2:30-4:30pm;
Mon 16 Dec, Years 1/2 Nativity Performance, 2:15pm;
Thu 19 Dec, Nursery/Reception Nativity, 9:30am;
Fri 20 Dec, School Carol Service, 9:30am.

A Statement of our Bishops, about the coming General Election, is displayed on our Church notice boards, or visit: www.cbcew.org.uk/2019-general-election-statement-and-bishops-plenary/

Our Advent Project this year is to help raise money for our Catholic Developing World charity, *Cafod*, which works with some of the most hard-to-reach communities across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East, helping the poorest and most marginalised people. As a Parish, we last gave to Cafod in Advent 2017.



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

Sacraments

Baptism Our Preparation Programme, for Parents of Children to be baptised, will continue in our Sacred Heart Hall, **Wed 11 Dec**, 7.30-9.00pm. To join a Programme, Parents should talk with Fr Anthony, after 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 Church and Hall:

Sat 11 Jan, 9.30-11.30am

First Sacraments 2019 All those who have just made their First Communion, their Families and all our Parish Family are invited to our Sacred Heart Church for the First Communion Thanksgiving Mass:

Sat 18 Jan, 11.00am

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

But seriously

DO YOU KNOW?

The Great Bible of 1539 was the first authorised English translation used by the Church of England, in its services, as was decreed by King Henry VIII. It was prepared by Myles Coverdale, under commission from Thomas Cromwell, and used much from Tyndale's translation. It is sometimes called Cranmer's Bible as he wrote the preface.

What is the significant feature of the Gutenberg Bible and in which language did it appear?

AND SERIOUSLY!

The medical student was shocked when he received a fail in radiology. Approaching the professor, he demanded to know the reason for the grade.

"You know the self X-ray you took?" asked the professor.

"I do," said the student.

"A fine picture," the professor said, "of your lungs, stomach, and liver."

"If it's a fine picture, then why did you give me an F?" asked the student.

"I had no choice," said the professor.

"You didn't put your heart into it."



Parish Monies

Thank You very much for your offerings last weekend:

Loose £504.94
Envelopes £458.97
Oct Bank Orders £1351.00

Collections, etc

Advent Project Our monies raised for Cafod so far come to:

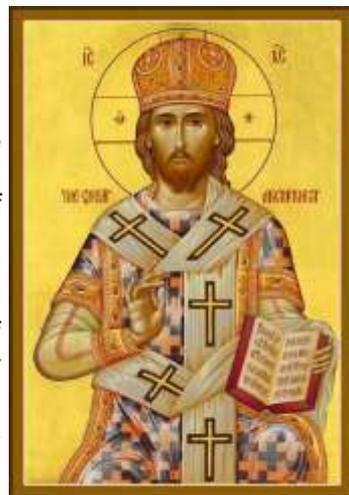
Last weekend £282.00
Christmas Card £151.42
Total £433.42

TRUE CONFESSIONS: SEALED WITH A SACRAMENT

Who Needs a Priest?

Non-Catholics often object that the priest is unnecessary in this process, that Christians can confess their sins directly to God. No doubt we can; but we cannot be assured of forgiveness unless we go about our confession in the way that God himself intended. We have already discussed the passage in John where Jesus commissioned His clergy to forgive sins. We have already discussed James's exhortation to confession, which comes at the conclusion of his discussion of the clergy and the sacraments. The New Testament foundation for the sacrament is solid, and it has been cited in support of the practice ever since the very first generations of Christianity.

God's sovereignty is not threatened when He shares His power with others. Indeed the power remains His own. Christ is still the Priest behind the priest. He is the Priest within the priest, and He is the Priest acting through the priest. So we don't go to the priest instead of going to Christ. We don't go to the confessional instead of going to the Lord of Mercy. We go to the Lord of Mercy, and He tells us to go to the confessional. Christ has instituted these creaturely means for the health of our soul. Sin is like an infection for which we need to go to the doctor to obtain the right prescription, for the right dosage; and then we follow the advice because we trust the authority.



This is something that the early Church saw clearly. In the fourth century, Saint Basil said: Confession of sins must be made to those to whom the dispensing of God's sacraments has been committed." In the same century, Saint Ambrose declared that "Christ granted the power to the apostles, and from the apostles it has been transmitted to the office of the priests alone." And how awesome is that power! St. John Chrysostom, in the fifth century, wrote that "Priests have received a power which God has not given either to angels or to archangels...they are able to forgive our sins.

God alone possesses supernatural power to work miracles, but He does appoint miracle workers when He calls certain ministers, like Moses, who do things that no human could do. God uses creaturely means because that's how He is glorified, by raising us up, as a good father raises his children. So if we see priests doing things that God alone can do, that isn't proof that the priest is detracting from God. It's proof that God is fathering us, just as He promised.

What's more, He's doing it just as He always has: through a covenant, a sworn oath, a family bond, a blessing. And so we begin every confession: *Bless me, Father.*

From Lord, Have Mercy—Scott Hahn

Please Keep
in Prayer

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



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

Br Hilarion Durkin, Margaret Hinchliffe, Isabelle Blake, Elizabeth Olbison, Catherine Brown, Karen Dearing
George Potts, Sheila Jordan, Peggy Heneghan, Kazia Andruszko, Ann Pearson, Joan Aston, David Olbison
Liz Allen, John O'Brien, Dennis Fricker, Monica Lowe, Cynthia Potts, Janice Coyle, Nicola Glew
and all who receive Holy Communion at home

The Word: Year A, Advent, Sunday 2

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

Repentance seems an unattractive word. It conjures up images of morose brooding over past sins and failures, a negative idea. This is not what John the Baptist proclaimed. His message was wholly positive. In Hebrew and Greek the concept of 'repentance' is about a change of behaviour, a change of direction. John is calling on his listeners to change their ways, to change their scale of values, their whole direction of life. To reinforce his message he wears the clothes worn by Elijah, the prophet whom Jewish tradition taught was to return to announce the final coming of the Lord. John proclaims his message in the desert, that apocalyptic landscape of the arid and bare Jordan valley, below sea-level, where merchants would be crossing the Jordan on the road to the East. So John makes a deliberate claim to be this final prophet and to be preparing a way for the Lord. We see Jesus as the Messiah, the loving saviour, but John was not at this point proclaiming this Jesus. He was proclaiming the threatening and imminent arrival of the sovereignty of God, when rotten trees would be cut down and evil swept away to be burnt in unquenchable fire. If we are to be open to the arrival of the Kingship of God, we may need to look to our own scale of values.



First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

From this reading the seven gifts of the Spirit are, rather artificially derived. Seven is the perfect number, so this prophetic text intends to signify that the promised ruler will have all possible gifts of what we more generally call wisdom and understanding. He will be a ruler before whom one can stand in the secure knowledge that his judgement will be deeply fair and satisfying. The 'fear of the Lord' ensures that the ruler will govern in accordance with the divinely-ordered bases of creation. Just such a Ruler is the one we are waiting for at Christmas. It was surely these qualities which made Jesus such an attractive and Charismatic figure, so that he could, as a wholly unknown

stranger, pass those fishermen, and they would drop everything and respond to his call, 'follow me'. Confrontation with his person was shock enough and inspiring enough to cure sickness. His simple word gave assurance of forgiveness of sin. His command reduced the elements of nature to serenity. In the second half of the reading we see the consequences of this rule: a return to the peace of the Eden. No more hostility, no more jealousy. Nature, even human nature, will not be red in tooth and claw.

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9

Paul is here summing up his message to the Romans, a fragmented community of several house-churches, some drawn from the Jewish community, some from the gentiles. He has described and analysed Christ's work of salvation, the generosity of Christ in giving himself up for us, to win us back to the Father. Then he calls upon his hearers to imitate Christ's generosity. He speaks first to the Christians sprung, like himself, from Judaism, reminding them of the promises of scripture (the heritage of Judaism) which were to inspire them with hope, for God's promises are never-failing and sure. Then he reminds them with a string of quotations (only the first of which is given at the end of today's reading) that God's promises were intended for the gentiles too, so that they too should praise God's name. Why are we given this reading in Advent? Because the perfect generosity of Jesus Christ is taking on this work of our salvation must be the model for our own generosity, both to those who are our natural friends and to those who are not, and because it must be the basis of our hope; however neglectful and ungrateful we are, Christ's work for us cannot have been in vain.

Courtesy of 'The Wednesday Word Trust'

The Word: Year A, Advent, Sunday 3

1st Reading Isaiah 35:1-6. 10

2nd Reading James 5:7-10

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

Prayer of the Church

Psalter Week 2

Sun + Proper of Seasons.

Mon Proper of Saints

Tue + Proper of Seasons

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

Thu + Proper of Seasons (or + Cm'n of the BVM)

Fri + Proper of Saints

Sat + Proper of Saints

This Week's Feasts & Saints

Mon IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BVM

Tue

Wed St. Damasus I, Pope

Thu Our Lady of Guadalupe

Fri St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

Sat St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the
Church