



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 3, 14/15 December 2019

Getting in touch Father Anthony G Fenton
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Saturday 14 December	6.00pm Mass	Sacred Heart	Hilda Bailey
Sunday 15 December	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	May Myatt Johnny & Peggy Senior
Monday 16 December	<i>No Morning Prayer today</i> 9.30am Mass 12.00-1.00pm Exposition	St Joseph's St Joseph's Sacred Heart	<i>With our St Joseph's School</i> Anthony Bickerstaffe
Tuesday 17 December	7.30am Mass 12.00-1.00pm Exposition	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Yorkshire Brethren
Wednesday 18 December	9.30am Mass 12.00-1.00pm Exposition 7.00pm Mass	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	<i>With our Sacred Heart School</i> Parish Fam Moira Mary Ward
Thursday 19 December	9.45am <i>Funeral Mass</i> 12.00-1.00pm Exposition	<i>Sacred Heart</i> Sacred Heart	Joan Aston
Friday 20 December	8.30am Mass 12.00-1.00pm Exposition	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Davis, Parson, Mongon Families
Saturday 21 December	9.30-10.30am Exposition 6.00pm Mass	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	Dennis Garner
Sunday 22 December	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass 1.00pm <i>Baptism</i>	St Joseph's Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Jim Taylor Terry O'Brien Agata Kamila Kolodziej

The Rite of Election for Confirmation

Is being celebrated at Masses at both of our Churches, this weekend. Please keep our Candidates in prayer.



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 after

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 we receive Christ in the bread of life and the cup of salvation, we do indeed receive him whole and entire, body and spirit, his humanity and his divinity. He gives us himself to draw us into communion with himself. He gives himself as gift and we are invited to give ourselves to him in response. There is no compulsion, but there is the invitation not just to receive communion but to be in communion.

This Holy Communion is not just between Jesus and an individual. It is between Jesus in his union with the Father and the Spirit, and us in our union with each other in his and our Church Family. So then, we are invited to share in the communion between God and the Church. And there is more yet - for the Church is called to invite others, indeed the whole world, to enter into this same communion. But we are not, then, called to sacrifice our diversity. Rather, we are invited to enter into a quality of relationship which enables us to recognise in each other and all others, whoever they are, a brother, a sister, and a child of God.

This is a focus through the Communion rite as a whole: the Our Father; the exchange of the Sign of Peace and the receiving of Holy Communion itself. The Church's teaching stresses that while this has a personal aspect, between the Lord and the individual, it is not a private act, but an act within and as a part of the whole Church.



This communal dimension gains a special focus in the Communion Procession. The Church asks us to make a sign of reverence as we go forward to

receive Holy Communion. The sign we are to make is to process reverently together. This can be a challenge! How do I process? Am I mindful and respectful of others in the procession? Do I appreciate that this procession is something we all do together? Or do I focus only on my own prayers? These are questions for us to think of. For while the quality of our communion, what it means to us, has much to do with our individual approach, again it is something we do together. How each one in procession reacts effects the overall atmosphere among all who are coming together in communion.

Father, in the sacrament of communion, you feed your people and strengthen them in holiness, so that the family of humankind may come to walk in the light of one faith and in one communion of love. So we come to this wonderful sacrament, to be fed at your table and grown into the likeness of the risen Christ.

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.

Parish Christmas Cards printed on **larger (A5) 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. Please do take one today and, if you visit a housebound Parishioner, please take one for them with our Parish Bulletin.

First Sacraments/Reconciliation 2020 Copies of the Preparation Programme for those eligible to prepare for First Confession, in the New Year, were recently posted to all those who returned application forms. If any have not received their copy, they should contact Fr Anthony, please, as soon as possible.

All most welcome at our St Joseph's School Hall for:

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.



Our Parish now has a Facebook Page. Just search "Parish of The Sacred Heart, Hemsworth and St Joseph's Moorthorpe" and request to join.

Please remember that this is a site for Parish news and events, not a critique site.

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 should receive their prize this week: namely, Caidee Hall, Liam Palmer, and George Womack.

Important Warning! Do remember that Parish Bulletins are posted on the Internet (via our Parish Website and now also Facebook). Theoretically, anyone can access them. Recently, some other Parishes have had such as telephone numbers included, which have been picked up and used by consters. Such as telephone numbers and email addresses appear in our Parish Bulletin only if the person or organisation giving a notice request this, and they must accept that the responsibility for any misuse (if any) of their details is theirs alone, and not on our Parish or Diocese.

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 A Preparation Programme, for Parents of Children to be baptised, will be held in our Sacred Heart Hall, **Weds 11 & 18 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 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 Gutenberg Bible was an edition of the Latin Vulgate translation of the Bible. It was the first printed Bible using movable metal type (thus it could be mass produced). It was printed in the 1450s by Johannes Gutenberg, in Mainz. The few copies still existing are thought to be among the world's most valuable books.

'Amahl and the Night Visitors' is an opera, composed by Gian Carol Menotti. What made it so notable when it was broadcast in 1951?

AND SERIOUSLY!



It was Christmas and the judge was in merry mood as he asked the prisoner, "What are you charged with?"

"Doing my Christmas shopping early," replied the defendant.

"That's no offence," said the judge, "How early were you doing this shopping?"

"Before the shop opened," answered the defendant.

Parish Monies

Thank You very much for your offerings last weekend:

Loose £271.10

Envelopes £308.31

Collections, etc

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

Last weekend £102.88

Total to date £536.30

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE WORLD: A SYNTHESIS

What's WRONG with the world?" is a question that leads nicely into long, ponderous sermons or thick volumes on the decline of civilization. G.K. Chesterton answered it with two words: "I am"

It's the essence of confession that we all do the same. To confess our sins is to accept responsibility for our actions and their consequences, to take the blame squarely on our own shoulders, to admit the decision to sin was ours alone and to do all this—as best we can—without excuses, disclaimers, or euphemisms.

This does not come easily to us. Though we will occasionally admit some tangential relationship with minor wrongdoing, we usually follow up quickly with "but..." and then describe the exonerating circumstance. "I was only doing what so-and-so did." "I was only following orders." "How was I to know...?" "It's the way I was brought up." Or even the famous blame-throwing of comedian Flip Wilson: "The devil made me do it."

What's wrong with the world? It's easy to probe the ills of the nation, the Church and the planet to come up with a grave diagnosis: It's the collapse of family values, the destruction of the ecosystem, or the last moral crisis in the Church. But it takes all the strength we can muster to stand up at Mass and honestly say, "I have sinned through my own fault, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do."



Sin-Cerity

It takes more courage still to kneel down in the confessional and accuse ourselves of each sin by name. Yet this has always been the inevitable corollary to a close relationship with God. We all want to know God's nearness, His help, His fatherly love. However all that comes, inevitably, with an increased awareness of His goodness, His purity, and His perfect judgement. The prophet Isaiah suddenly found himself in the presence of God, surrounded by glory, attended by angels. What did he do? He made his confession; "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!" (Is 6:5). The apostle Peter witnessed a single small miracle and immediately threw himself at the feet of Jesus, begging, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man O Lord" (Lk 5:8).

Sin is not out there; it's deep inside you and me. "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a man" (Mt 15:19-20).

What's wrong with the world? *I am*, because I sin, and my sins well up from the darkness in my own heart.

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, Eileen O'Reilly, and their families



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

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

The Word: Year A, Advent, Sunday 3

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

John the Baptist was expecting a Messiah of judgement, who would cut down the rotten tree and burn the useless chaff. When, in prison, he hears that Jesus is not doing this, he is puzzled and sends messengers to ask if Jesus is really the Messiah. Jesus sends back the message that he is fulfilling the prophet Isaiah—the passage which we hear about in today's first reading. Jesus' understanding was that healing, not punishment, was the task of the Messiah. He goes and seeks out those who need healing, both physically and spiritually. He does not wait for sinners to repent before gathering them into the kingdom; he makes the first advance. Then he turns to praising the Baptist. It is a fascinating point of speculation as to whether Jesus was once himself a disciple of John the Baptist. After all, John says he did not recognise Jesus until he saw the spirit coming down on him. But he also says that Jesus, who came after him, has passed before him. This is a typical position of a rabbi, leading his disciples, and suggests that John had been Jesus' rabbi, then became his disciple. Jesus was fully man, and even he needed to learn as all human beings do.



First Reading: Isaiah 35: 1-6. 10

Like all the other first readings of the Sundays in Advent this year, this passage is from Isaiah and rejoices in coming deliverance. Most of the Book of Isaiah was written in a dark period of Israel's history, under the threat of the reality of defeat, devastation and deportation. In this context the promises of a Deliverer became all the more important and life-sustaining. The prophet (or prophets, for the Book of Isaiah can hardly be the work of a single person) never wavered in his/their confidence that deliverance was sure. The prophecies prepare for the coming of the Lord, but it is the coming of the Lord God of Israel which they expect. On the one hand, there is not the clarity which appears once Jesus, the Deliverer, has actually come: the prophecies do not make clear in what way or

what form God would come to the rescue of his people. Would the promised Redeemer be God himself or a messenger or a herald of the end? Whatever the answer, the prophecies are certain that it is God who would be at work. On the other hand, when Jesus came it was not immediately clear whether he was God, or that God was at work in Jesus or whether Jesus was the first prophet. This only became clear on reflection in the light of the Spirit that 'the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.'

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

The Letter of James is rarely read on a Sunday, indeed only once in this year. Yet it is full of comforting, homely images, like the farmer waiting patiently for the autumn and spring rains, or—less comforting—the judge waiting at the gates. Whether it was written by James, who was the leader of the Christian community at Jerusalem, is harder to determine. It may be an assemblage of the oral Wisdom teaching of this important Christian leader, written up by a disciple. In any case the Letter was written at a time when the eschatological fever of expectation had begun to wane, when Christians no longer felt that they were in the final generation of world history, and were prepared to settle down and wait for the coming of the Lord. Indeed, in contrast with Paul's stress on the imminence of the Second Coming, the delay of the Second Coming is for James and incitement to patience. He believes that it will certainly happen, but there is plenty of opportunity beforehand for tolerance, both towards the annoying and tiresome people within the community and towards those persecuting the community from outside.

Courtesy of 'The Wednesday Word Trust'

The Word: Year A, Advent, Sunday 4

1st Reading Isaiah 7:10-14
2nd Reading Romans 1: 1-7
Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

Prayer of the Church

Psalter Week 3

Sun + Proper of Seasons.
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
Sat St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the
Church