



# 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, Feast of The Holy Family, 28/29 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

<b>Saturday</b> 28 December	6.00pm Mass	Sacred Heart	Mark, Derek & Christopher Jones
<b>Sunday</b> 29 December	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	Michael Murtagh Mrs E Wileman
Monday 30 December	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass 12.00-1.00pm Exposition	St Joseph's St Joseph's Sacred Heart	Donor's Intention (CB)
Tuesday 31 December	7.30am Mass 12.00-1.00pm Exposition	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Yorkshire Brethren
<i>New Year's Day</i> 1 January	<i>9.00am Mass</i> <i>No Exposition today</i>	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Parish Family
Thursday 2 January	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass 12.00-1.00pm Exposition	St Joseph's St Joseph's Sacred Heart	Faithful Departed (Nov List)
Friday 3 January	8.30am Mass 12.00-1.00pm Exposition	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Eileen O'Reilly
<b>Saturday</b> 4 January	9.30-10.30am Exposition 6.00pm Mass	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	Antonio Polidori
<b>Sunday</b> 5 January	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	Jovito & Potenciana Brian Snell

At today's 10.45am Mass, prior to his up-coming Baptism, we present  
**Albie Graham Mills**, son of **Stephanie and Andrew**



### **Baptism Thanksgiving & Blessing of Children** **9.00am and 10.45am Masses** **Sunday 12 January**

All with children, whether they were baptised in our  
or another Parish, are invited to share in this Blessing



**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

Follow us at "Parish of The Sacred Heart, Hemsworth and St Joseph's Moorthorpe"

## From Fr Anthony

*The following is from the Website of the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales.*

**Scripture is at the centre** of everything our Church does. The **Word of God** shapes all our prayer and worship.

The Bible shows us how to understand the world, how we are called to live, and how to relate to each other.

2020 is the 10th anniversary of Verbum Domini – Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation on 'The Word of the Lord' and the 1,600 anniversary of St Jerome's death. These dates have inspired the Bishops of England and Wales to dedicate 2020 as a year of focus on the Bible and 'The God Who Speaks'.

During the year, we will be celebrating, living and sharing God's word within an exciting Scripture initiative. It's an opportunity to enrich current practice and to develop and explore new ways of responding to 'The God who Speaks'.

Throughout 2020 there will be a range of events and resources to participate in, all around the country. We will have a different monthly focus to help explore our three themes: celebrating, living and sharing God's Word.

The book that has had the biggest influence on the history of the world is almost certainly the Christian Bible. It has touched individuals and societies in so many different ways.

How do we make sense of something as big as the Bible? With 73 books it's no small read, let alone trying to remember even a fraction of some of all the characters.

Whenever we celebrate Liturgy, the Scriptures are proclaimed. We listen to God speaking to us with the Church.

We not only need to hear and receive God's Word, but also to put that Word into practice.

With a renewed love of Scripture comes both the opportunity and desire to share it with others.



Working in over 200 countries, the Bible Society is a charity on a global mission to bring the Bible to life for every man, woman and child. We believe that when people engage with the Bible, lives can change for good. The Bible Society is our Partner for The God who Speaks: The Year of the Word.

*Watch for further details as the year goes by, in Parish Bulletins and/or the Diocesan Website.*

## Fr Anthony says

Many thanks to all who have given so much, through 2019. There have been social and fund raising events; adults and children have been prepared for the Sacraments; there has been the care of the housebound and others with special needs; everyday and festive Masses and other Liturgies have continued; a lot more stuff, from cleaning and grounds-works to paper-work, and much else, has also been done. Very many have been involved and Parishioners owe each other a word of thanks - but here I wish to express my deep thanks to all who have given so freely and generously.

**I also much thank our Parish Family** for your generous Christmas greetings, offerings and gifts. They are all appreciated and I, of course, keep you all in my prayers.

*May each and everyone of our Parish Family and all who belong to them be blessed with a Christ-filled and peace-filled 2020.*

## Things happening in our Parish

**Thanksgiving Mass** with those who recently received their First Communion, **Sat 18 Jan**, at 11.00am, in our Sacred Heart Church. All invited and very welcome - and at the shared lunch afterwards.

**Polish Language Masses** We have been advised by the Polish Chaplain that monthly Masses, in Polish, will no longer be celebrated in our Sacred Heart Church. This is on account of small numbers attending and the number of Masses he is otherwise celebrating, at weekends.

Do you know someone who is **thinking of becoming a Catholic** but is unsure what to do about it?  
Fr Anthony would be pleased to meet with them to discuss what might be involved.  
(They might also bring a friend, if they wish.)

## & In our Diocese

**The God Who Gives Life:** Our Diocese is to host a series of talks, to explore the theme of human flourishing in Scripture. The first talk: "The God Who's There: The Psalms and Mental Health" by Dr Simon Hewitt of Leeds University, will be at Hinsley Hall, Leeds, Thu 9 Jan, 7.00pm. For more details or to confirm a place, please contact: [gregory.stacey@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:gregory.stacey@dioceseofleeds.org.uk).

**Youth 2000: Leeds Retreat:** 21-23 Feb 2020, at Leeds Trinity University: a weekend of friendship, prayer and fun, as we come together as young people to grow in our relationship with God, with the support of the Church. Whether you've wandered far or just need a weekend at 'home' with the Father, the Leeds retreat is for you! For any aged 16-35 (any under 18 must accompanied by an over 18 year old). Families also welcome. Details/tickets at <https://youth2000.churchsuite.co.uk/events/zaqce8na>. Some subsidised places may be available.

*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?

Menotti's opera, 'Amahl and the Night Visitors', is about Amahl and his mother being visited by three kings, who were on their way to find the infant King and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

*Amahl and his mother were exceedingly poor and Amahl had also been crippled in an accident. He was excited when the Kings took him to meet the infant, Jesus. Amahl gave the infant a gift, the only possession he had and something much needed by him. What was his gift and what did he receive in return?*

### AND SERIOUSLY!

Every one a cracker:

Q What kind of bird can write?

A A PENguin

Q Why did Santa spell Christmas N-O-E?

A Because the angel said, "No L!"

Q What do elves learn in school?

A The Elf-abet

Q Why does Santa have 3 gardens?

A So he can ho-ho-ho



## Parish Monies

**Thank You** very much for your offerings last weekend:

Loose £278.54

Envelopes £695.60

## Collections, etc

**Advent Project** Our monies raised for Cafod came to:

Last weekend £233.65

Total through Advent £884.72

*Our Advent Project has now ended. Many thanks to all contributors.*

## WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE WORLD: A SYNTHESIS

### The Great Omission

Note that we can even sin by omission—by inaction, by silence, by *not* doing something we should rightly have done. Sometimes these sins result from neglect and sometimes from choice; either way it is sin. The Letter to the Hebrews tells us: "If the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we *neglect* such a great salvation?" (2:2-3). Indeed when Jesus speaks of judgment and hellfire in Matthew 25, He speaks almost exclusively in terms of sins of omission and neglect. "Lord when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?" (v. 44). Jesus' answer allows for no omission: "Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these you did it not to Me" (v. 45).

Neglect is hardly a negligible sin. In fact, it can be mortal. It is



no excuse, for example, to say that we missed Mass on Sunday because we forgot that it was Sunday. "The message declared by angels" commands us that we must *remember* the Lord's Day and keep it holy. Forgetting is a direct violation of the command to remember. Thus in our moral life, as in our workday life, negligence can kill.

Just as we can damage our natural life by mutilation, or end our human life by suicide, so we can damage or end our supernatural life by sin. And just as we receive this life of grace through a sacrament, so we must have it restored through a sacrament—the sacrament of confession.

### Mortality Rates

This brings us to the first distinction between types of sin. There is venial sin and there is mortal sin. Put simply, venial sins damage our supernatural life, mortal sins end our supernatural life. Venial sins mark spiritual illness; mortal sin means spiritual death.

Mortal sin destroys life more certainly than any weapon or disease. A man who has committed mortal sin is more dead than a week-old corpse—even though his mind and body continue to show every sign of biological life.

This death is the only thing that Jesus advised His followers to fear: "Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul: rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell" (Mt 10:28). Hell—the "lake of fire" in the Book of Revelation—is the ultimate consequence when someone chooses to commit a mortal sin. For if divine life is choked off in a person, that person cannot share God's life in heaven. If we have no communion with Christ, we are incapable of life in the Trinity.....

From: Lord, Have Mercy—Scott Hahn

**Please Keep  
in Prayer**

All whose **Anniversaries** occur about this time  
All who have **died recently**  
especially Eileen O'Reilly, Ann Pearson, and their families



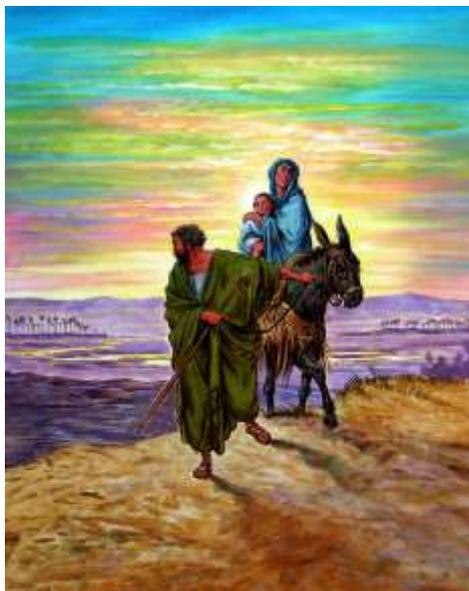
Also: All those **sick** or **infirm**, especially:

Br Hilarion Durkin, Margaret Hinchliffe, Isabelle Blake, Elizabeth Olbison, Catherine Brown, Karen Dearing  
George Potts, Cynthia Potts, Sheila Jordan, Peggy Heneghan, Kazia Andruszko, 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, Feast of The Holy Family**

**Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15. 19-23**

The flight into Egypt is a splendid gospel for the feast of the Holy Family. It tells of a time of the acutest danger, when Mary and Joseph must have been at their wits' end in caring for their precious child, and so were most bound together as an endangered family, and at their most reliant on God in a situation humanly hopeless. The powerful, resourceful and pitiless Herod was a formidable threat; he would have no scruples about killing a few male children in the little hill-town of Bethlehem. There is also a further dimension: on many occasions, and especially here, Matthew depicts Jesus as a Second Moses: from the beginning Herod threatens Jesus' life just as Pharaoh had threatened Moses' survival as a baby. Just as Moses went into exile after killing the Egyptian overseer, so Jesus also goes into exile, to return when the threat is past. Of both it is said, 'Those who wanted to kill you/the child are dead' (cf. Exodus 4:19). Later Jesus will be seen as the Second Moses when he stays forty days and nights fasting in the desert, and when he delivers the new Law at the Sermon on the Mount and at the Transfiguration.



he scraped the skin off his knees? Did he fall out of trees and break his arm? Did he make mistakes? Did he play pranks? He must have made jokes. He must have been a wonderful joy to his parents, loving, delightful company, full of the devastatingly simple wisdom of children. They must have been loving, wonderful company for him too, an anchor of affection and security.

**Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-21**

In an incredibly short space the Letter to the Colossians gives a whole series of instructions on living in community: compassion, forgiveness, love and peace—not to mention gratitude. Love is a sort of overcoat, holding all the other qualities together. If we reflect on these values and put them into practice there can be no rivalry or hostility in the Christian community—even within a family, where the strains of Christmas often make love grow thin. A loving family is the model for the different relationships of a loving Christian community. God's fatherhood and motherhood is the model for human parentage, and Christ's devotion to his body the Church is the model for the devotion of spouses to one another. Today's second reading begins with an inspiring reminder that we form the chosen people of God; God's choice leaves us with little alternative but to behave as God's people. The paragraph ends with the counsel to do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus; Christians are those over whom the name of the Lord Jesus has been uttered, making us members of his company and putting us under his power. This is the challenge for us, really to act as God's people.

**First Reading: Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6. 12-14**

The Book of Ecclesiasticus is a collection of wise instructions on how to behave in accordance with the Law. The author must have been an expert in the Law, living in Jerusalem. He sees the Law not as a tiresome set of rules to be obeyed, but as God's loving gift to his People, to show them how they should act to keep close to God. The Law is therefore to be treasured, a guide of inestimable value. The reading for today is a meditation and expression on the commandment, 'Honour your father and your mother', explaining just how this should be put into practice. What was Jesus like as a baby? Did he cry? He must have done, to make his baby feelings known. Did he bawl and howl? Did he cry when

*Courtesy of 'The Wednesday Word Trust'*

**The Word: Year A, Feast of The Epiphany**

1st Reading Isaiah 60:1-6  
2nd Reading Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6  
Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

**Prayer of the Church**

**Psalter Week 1**

**Sun** Proper of Seasons.  
**Mon** Proper of Seasons  
**Tue** Proper of Seasons  
**Wed** Proper of Saints  
**Thu** + Proper of Saints  
**Fri** + Proper of Seasons  
**Sat** + Proper of Seasons

**This Week's Feasts & Saints**

**Mon**  
**Tue** St. Silvester I, Pope  
**Wed** SOLEMNITY OF MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD  
**Thu** Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Drs of the Church  
**Fri** The Most Holy Name of Jesus  
**Sat**