



# 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 Epiphany, 4/5 January 2020

*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> 4 January	6.00pm Mass	Sacred Heart	Antonio Polidori
<b>Sunday</b> 5 January	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	Jovito & Potenciana Brian Snell
Monday 6 January	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass 12.00-1.00pm Exposition	St Joseph's St Joseph's Sacred Heart	Thanksgiving (CMD)
Tuesday 7 January	7.30am Mass 12.00-1.00pm Exposition	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Donor's Intention (CB)
Wednesday 8 January	12.00-1.00pm Exposition 7.00pm Mass	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Joan Aston
Thursday 9 January	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass 12.00-1.00pm Exposition	St Joseph's St Joseph's Sacred Heart	Friends & Family of Hilda Bailey
Friday 10 January	8.30am Mass 12.00-1.00pm Exposition	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Monica Lowe
<b>Saturday</b> 11 January	9.30-10.30am Exposition 6.00pm Mass	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Kathleen Walsh
<b>Sunday</b> 12 January	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	Parish Family David McAndrew & Family

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



### **Baptism Thanksgiving & Blessing of Children** **9.00am and 10.45am Masses** **next 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

*Adapted from an article of Fr Stephen Wang*

Books, films, music, are some of the things that influence how we see the world and that shape hearts and minds. The book that has probably most influenced the history of the world is the Bible. It has touched individuals and societies in so many different ways. It has been a source of fascination even for those without faith.

But what exactly is the Bible? It looks like a book. You can pick it up, hold it in your hands. It has a table of contents. It has a big section at the front, usually called the Old Testament; and a shorter section at the back, called the New Testament.

But it's not a single book; it's an astonishing whole library of different writings from Jewish and Christian traditions - written by different people, in different places, over many centuries.

It includes history, poetry, prayer, moral codes, legal documents, religious instruction. Yet amid its diversity, there is a common theme. It is the story of God's plan for humankind, as it unfolds from the creation of the world to the end of time.

It speaks about God's love for all people; the coming of the Saviour, Jesus Christ; his death and resurrection; the gift of the Holy Spirit; the beginnings of the Christian Church. It finishes with an extraordinary vision of heaven.

The most important books in the Bible are the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. They tell the story of Jesus from different perspectives. They are trustworthy, historical documents that connect us directly with his life and his teaching.

Christians believe the Bible is inspired by the Holy Spirit. That doesn't mean it dropped down from heaven, fully formed, or that God dictated it by speaking into the ears of the authors. No. They were real authors, and the history of the Bible is complex. But God was guiding them and giving us the truth we need for our salvation.



The Bible is absolutely central to the Christian life and to the Church. God speaks to us through the words and events of the Bible. They are not just words on a page. They come alive and we are drawn into the reality of the events.

There is spiritual power in God's Word. His Word created the universe. His Word walked among us in Jesus Christ. His Word has the power to change our lives today. This is why it's said that Christianity is a religion of the Word, rather than a religion of the Book. We read this book, but in and through it we hear the voice of Christ.

## Things happening in our Parish

**Our Parish SVP** is to meet **Wed 8 Jan**, 7.30pm, in our Sacred Heart Hall. To know more of their work or to join them, please have a word with any present Member.

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

**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.

**First Sacraments 2020** All those who have returned an application form to join our Preparation Programme for First Reconciliation, this year, are reminded that the first meeting for the *Children with their Parents* will be in our Sacred Heart Hall., **Sat 25 Jan**, 10.00-12.00am, and that the Children are to be enrolled the same weekend, at our Sunday Masses.

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.)

**It has been suggested** that we compile a pamphlet of favourite prayers old and new. If any have suggestions of prayers for inclusion, please let Fr Anthony have a copy (but please appreciate that this does not guarantee it being included, owing to space and/or copyright matters). Please note the *author's name* or state *author unknown*. Copies may be sent electronically, or returned on paper via the offertory basket or direct to Fr Anthony.

**Our Parish Prayer Trees** are for any to use. If you have an intention you wish us to pray for, write it on one of the cards provided and hang it on the Prayer Tree, where it will remain for four weeks. If the need continues, after four weeks write another card and again hang it on the Prayer Tree. About monthly on Sundays and weekly on weekdays, the intentions listed on our Prayer Trees are included in the Intercessions, at our Parish Mass.

### & In our Diocese

**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?

In Menotti's opera, 'Amahl and the Night Visitors', Amahl wants to give a gift to the infant, like the three kings who brought him to visit Jesus, but being so poor, all he owns is his crutch. Willingly he gives his crutch to the Child Jesus. In but a moment he initially begins to feel rather odd, and then discovers that he can now walk without needing a crutch.

*We have seven Sacraments in our Catholic Church. Which of these can be given to a person only once?*

### AND SERIOUSLY!

A group of young children were sitting in a circle with their teacher. She was going round in turn asking them questions.

"Peter, what noise does a cow make?"

"Moo"

"Jamie, what sound does a lamb make?"

"Baaa"

"Anna, what noise does a cat make?"

"Meow"

"Jenny, what sound does a mouse make?"

"Click"



## Parish Monies

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

Loose £275.25

Envelopes £440.35

## Collections, etc

**Next Weekend** After our Masses, Door Collection to assist the poorer (mostly small, rural) parishes within our Diocese.

## WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE WORLD:

### A SYNTHESIS

#### Mortality Rates

What makes a sin mortal rather than venial? There are three necessary conditions: grave matter, full knowledge, and deliberate consent.

The Church's tradition and the scriptures make clear what sorts of sins are mortal. Sometimes, an individual's guilt may be reduced because he was unaware that a certain action was sinful—perhaps he was misinformed—or because he did not have full possession of his will—perhaps he was forced or manipulated. We must, however, avoid the temptation to apply these conditions too lavishly, since we bear a certain responsibility for our own ignorance of Christian morality or for the particular circumstances that prove, for us, an occasion of sin.

In order for our sacramental confession to be valid, we must confess all mortal sins (at least those we are aware of) that have been committed since our last confession.

#### Hardened, Not Pardoned



Is there a sin so deadly that it can never be forgiven? Jesus said there is: "every sin and blasphemy; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. And whoever says a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come" (Mt 12:31-32).

Theologians, saints and sinners have debated the meaning of this passage for the better part of two millennia. Some favour so broad a definition that the majority of people might despair of ever reaching heaven. Others strain the broth so thin that unforgivable sin seems almost uncommittable.

The Church teaching, as always, strikes the perfect balance. First, the Church warns us that we can indeed place ourselves beyond forgiveness. In the words of the catechism "There are no limits to the mercy of God, but anyone who deliberately refuses to accept His mercy by repenting, rejects the forgiveness of his sins and the salvation offered by the Holy Spirit. Such hardness of heart can lead to final impenitence and eternal loss" (CCC, n. 1864)

This seems to be common sense. If we cut off our own arms and legs, we should despair of ever winning the Olympic decathlon. If we cut off our own repentance, we should certainly not expect to obtain forgiveness.....



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, 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, 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 Epiphany**

**Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12**

The contrast is overwhelming: Herod, the King of the Jews, the nation prepared since all ages to welcome the coming of God to set all things right, fails to recognise the coming of the Lord. Herod is so blind as even to make every attempt to liquidate this herald of the completion of history and of Jewish hopes. By contrast the trio of wise men from the East, the traditional home of natural wisdom, show their conviction that the turning-point of history has arrived by journeying over desert and mountain to welcome and pay homage to the Lord. The evangelist is clear that this is the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy of the coming of peoples from the East to worship to the Lord. Especially in Eastern Christianity, the festival of the Epiphany rather than the birthday of Jesus is seen as the manifestation of Christ to the world. 'Manifestation' is the meaning of the Greek word 'Epiphany': it was first used of the public 'manifestation' of the Roman emperor on a state visit, for he was regarded as a deity to whom worship and adoration were due.



**First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6**

This passage from the Book of Isaiah was written at a thrilling moment of Israel's development. The people had returned from Exile in Babylon and were beginning to realise the universal task of Israel. The salvation promised to Israel was not just for the Jews but was for the whole world! Hence these cries of joy in today's reading at all these curious camels and exotic nations thronging to Jerusalem. There is a similar invitation for us too to be open: Christ brings salvation not just to us, to those who come to our church, but to the whole world.—to all those grumpy, depressed, selfish, worried, suffering, disadvantaged people we meet in the street; the call is not only to Christians of every kind, but also to those who have not yet found Jesus. The Epiphany is the time when

Jesus 'went public', symbolized by the coming of the Wise Men from the East, the first people outside his own sphere to greet him. So we ought to go out into the street and shout for joy to alert people to what is on offer. Probably better to be a bit less crazy about it, and simply show the happiness it has brought to us by sharing our happiness in any generous way we can.

**Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3.5-6**

This letter to the Ephesians talks about the 'mystery'. It really means God's great 'secret' to be revealed at the end of time. The climax of the long history of the world did indeed come to the Crucifixion and Resurrection, because all our hope is in Christ's Resurrection. That was the moment when history reached its highest point. This is the only Christian way of viewing the world, its slow evolution and then its history of human development, all directed to Christ and his Resurrection. We are much more aware these days that the immense universe, with stars millions of light-years away, is one great system of which we are a tiny part. The angels hovering over Bethlehem at Christ's birth tell us that all the power of God was focussed on that one event. The Christian believes that one tiny baby, presented to those Wise Men from the East, brought the secret of the universe to fulfilment. They represent all the races of the world, even far beyond the known world, coming to greet the Saviour who was presented to all people on that day.

*Courtesy of 'The Wednesday Word Trust'*

**The Word: Year A, Feast of Baptism of the Lord**

1st Reading Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7  
2nd Reading Acts 10:34-38  
Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

**Prayer of the Church**

**Psalter Week**

**Sun** Of the Solemnity

**Mon** + Proper of Seasons

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

**Wed** + Proper of Seasons

**Thu** + Proper of Seasons

**Fri** + Proper of Seasons

**Sat** + Proper of Seasons

**This Week's Feasts & Saints**

**Mon**

**Tue** St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**