



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, Ordinary Time, Sunday 24, 12/13 September

Getting in touch Father Anthony G Fenton
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		<i>FB - Parish Facebook live-stream</i>	<i>Mass Intentions</i>
Saturday 12 September	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	12.00nn Mass 4.00pm Mass	<i>Bill Torpey</i> <i>Geoff Marston</i>
Sunday 13 September	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass FB	<i>Dominic Stones</i> <i>Martha Kirwan</i>
Monday 14 September	St Joseph's	9.30am Mass	<i>Parish Family</i>
Tuesday 15 September			
Wednesday 16 September	Sacred Heart	9.30am Mass	<i>Doris & Ted Ventom</i>
Thursday 17 September	St Joseph's	9.30am Mass	<i>Joseph Abraham</i>
Friday 18 September	Sacred Heart	<i>9.30am Funeral Service</i>	Pamela Harrison
Saturday 19 September	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	12.00nn Mass 4.00pm Mass	<i>On University Entry (Al.B)</i> <i>Geoff Marston</i>
Sunday 20 September	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.00am 10.45am Mass FB	<i>Our Church Helpers</i> <i>Clare Ventom</i>

At this Saturday's 4.00pm Mass, prior to her up-coming Baptism, we present and pray for Harriet Severn Roper, with her parents, Louise and Craig

As numbers have to be limited at all Masses, to enable physical distancing, all are requested to pre-book. All Saturday and Sunday Masses are of the Sunday.

To book: see our Parish Website, our Parish Facebook Page, or contact Fr Anthony.

Please remember: the Government has stated that face coverings must now be worn in Churches, as well as in many other indoor spaces, unless a person is exempted by age or for medical reasons.

Let us all pray for a speedy end to Covid-19 and the well-being of each and all.

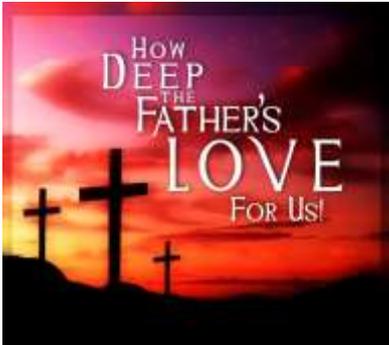
Almighty and eternal God, our refuge in every danger, to whom we turn in our distress; in faith, we pray, look with compassion on the afflicted, grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners, healing to the sick, peace to the dying, strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders and the courage to reach out to all in love, so that together, we may give glory to your holy name.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: presently can be celebrated by appointment with Fr Anthony.

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

From Fr Anthony

Jesus' apostle John said, 'God is love.' If 'God' is one of our most commonly used words, we have to say the word 'love' is even more in common use. And again we have to question ourselves as to what images and pictures come to mind when we use this word. What reality lies behind the word 'love' for each of us? There is the love of friendship, love of a mother for her baby, love of husband and wife, love of sport, music, nature, love of country, sexual expression of love, love which moves a person to sacrifice life itself. It might take us some minutes to describe our image of the reality behind the word. But all of us, deep down, know that we want to love and be loved. We know love is happiness, love is life. Now John says, 'God is love.' He does not say God has love, but God is love.



For many years, I did not think God was love. Awe, anxiety – even fear – were more common emotions. I believed God created me and put me on earth to test me. If I passed the test I would be rewarded with 'heaven'. My ideas of heaven were vague. (Even today, I have to pray a lot to get anywhere near the reality of heaven.) If I failed the test I should be sent to hell. Sad to say, my ideas of hell were much more vivid than my ideas of heaven. To qualify for heaven, I had to pass the Ten Commandments Test. Now, I have been a schoolteacher for many years and have often had to prepare students for tests. Together we would try to spot likely questions which might appear on the paper. Knowing a question in advance is a great advantage. But knowing I would be examined in the Ten Commandments was no help at all! They were too tough and I constantly failed to observe them. I was bound to fail in the finals, and so fear and not love was the dominant emotion in my religious life. Yet at the same time I was commanded to love this God, with my whole heart and soul.

We are not made by God to be tested. Heaven is not a reward for keeping laws and rules and passing a morality test. God is love and acts only out of love. God's love is unconditional. It is gift, not reward. It is easy to say these things but not as easy to believe them. God's love for you or me is not offered as a reward for being good. It has nothing, absolutely nothing, to do with what we do, but everything to do with what we are. And what are we? As Isaiah says (43:1):

*Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by your name, you are mine.*

*Abbreviated from 'Be Still and Know',
Chapter 3, by Robert Kelly SJ*

Things happening in our Parish

For Our Children All our children are invited, each week, to make sure to take home from Church a copy of 'Look' - interesting puzzles, pictures and learning, just for them.

Booking for Mass Those booking on-line, for either of our Churches, should now find required details fully as should be. Any booking for more than one need to add the first and sur-names of each individual for whom they are booking. A contact person (usually the one booking) *needs* to provide their email address, but, *if they wish*, may add their telephone number. Email addresses and/or telephone numbers for any others being booked for are optional. Where all are of the same household, the one email contact should suffice. If someone being booked for is not of the same household, the one booking may prefer to add that person's telephone number or email address, so that if a track and trace event should occur, that person can be contacted directly. Please remember: we are required to register all who attend a Mass or other Liturgy, but the records are destroyed after three weeks.

First Reconciliation Preparations are now progressing to re-start our First Reconciliation Programme, from **Sat 17 Oct**, with a view to our Children celebrating their First Confession during Advent, and then preparing for First Communion around Easter. Parents should receive a letter about this during the coming week.

In case any have not received notice, the meeting previously scheduled for 19 Sep will not take place.

Holy Water While we are unable to retain Holy Water at our Churches, if any wish to have Holy Water, they might bring a suitable container, to fill with plain water from one of the taps at Church or already filled with water, and ask Fr Anthony to bless it.

Volunteers with or without trades' qualifications, are always welcomed to help with general maintenance and/or the grounds of our Churches. To offer your help please have a word with Mike Moran for our Sacred Heart Church and grounds, Barry Palmer for our St Joseph's Church, or Fr Anthony.



Our Parish Prayer Trees are for any and all to use. If you have an intention you wish us all to pray for, write it on one of the cards provided and hang the card on the Prayer Tree, where it will remain for four weeks. If the need continues, after four weeks simply write another card and again hang it on the Prayer Tree. Whether any identifying names/details are given is completely up to the one who places the intention.

Quite a number of Parishioners read and pray for the intentions so placed and all are encouraged to do so. At both of our Churches, monthly on Sundays and weekly on weekdays, the intentions placed on our Prayer Trees are included in the Intercessions at Mass.

**Please, if you can, volunteer to be a Steward, and/or after Mass cleaner/sanitizer: much help needed.
Fr Anthony can provide details of what is required.**

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

Sacraments

Baptism Our Preparation Programme, for Parents of Children to be baptised, will next take place 7.00-8.30pm, in our Sacred Heart Hall, over **Weds 16 & 23 Sep**. To join a run of the Programme, Parents need to talk with Fr Anthony, after one of our Parish Masses, so as to arrange an initial meeting with him.

The Programme is for any expecting, as well as Parents with baby born.

Confirmations will hopefully next be celebrated, for Baptised Catholics now in *school year 5 or older*, before the summer of 2021. Watch for application details, during the coming Autumn.

First Reconciliation Preparations are progressing to re-start our Programme from **Sat 17 Oct**, to ready our Children to celebrate their First Confession in Advent, and then to prepare for First Communion around Easter. Parents should receive a letter about this during the coming week.

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

But seriously

DO YOU KNOW?

The foundation of the Carmelite male and female Orders is more vague than that of many Orders. Around the time of the crusades, a group of hermits (some former crusaders included) from several European countries, formed a community, on Mount Carmel, in Israel (so the name Carmelites). The Order was forced out of the Holy Land in 1291, and then 'reforms' led to a division between the 'Calced' and 'Disalced' Orders, but Carmelites is the name that stayed with them.

Those who know Latin will know the literal meaning of 'calced' and 'disalced'. But what is the more significant difference between the 'Calced' and Disalced' Carmelites?

AND SERIOUSLY!

A nun received a crisp £10 note from home. Sitting at her window she saw a poorly dressed man in the street. She put the £10 note in an envelope, addressed 'Don't Despair' and tossed it out of the window. The man accepted it gratefully. Next day the man arrived at the convent door with a handful of money and said to the nun: Lady it's your cut 'Don't Despair' paid five to one, yesterday.

Parish Monies

Many Thanks for donations,
30 Aug - 6 Sep:

Loose	£ 96.72
Envelopes	£284.00
Aug Donate/Text	£117.00
Donation	£100.00

Donations to our Parish

Can also be made by texting -
CHURCH SHSJ to 70500
to contribute £5 - weekly
- fortnightly - other;
- or by using the **Donate Button**
on our Parish Website Home Page.

GOD OF SURPRISES

Clearing the Approaches

In religion, criticising and questioning can have most serious consequences, as the victims of the Inquisition knew with a felt knowledge. Questioning and criticism on religious matters can still break up marriage and family relations, can lead to exclusion from church membership and in some countries, it can lead to long terms of imprisonment. I am not maintaining that everyone within a family, Church or nation should be allowed to believe and act out whatever they pleased while still being accepted as full members, but simply pointing out that questioning



and criticism on religious matters can be very risky. It is good that it is so. If it did not matter what we believed, or how we acted out of those beliefs, then it would follow that religion is of no importance in everyday life. One of the signs that Christianity is vigorously alive in some parts of the world is the large number of Christians who are in prison for acting out their beliefs in their political options.

The Church must encourage the critical element in its members. If it fails to do so then the individual will not be able to integrate religious belief with everyday experience or, put in other words, God will be excluded from most of the individual's life until religion comes to be considered a private but harmless eccentricity of a minority.

If the Church does encourage the critical element, then it must expect to be questioned and challenged by its members and it must be prepared to change its own ways of thinking and acting,

submitting itself to the light of truth. Such an attitude is only possible in a Church which has a strong faith in God's presence in all things. Just as a child with its strong trust in its parents is encouraged by that very trust to ask all kinds of questions, so a Church which



really trusts God is not afraid, but encourages its members to search and question, guiding them in her wisdom and warning them of routes which she knows from long experience to be cul-de-sacs. Her teachings will never be delivered as the last word on any subject, but rather as signposts, encouraging her members to explore the route further for themselves.

To be continued . . .

Abridged from: The God of Surprises – Gerard W. Hughes

**Please Keep
in Prayer**

All whose **Anniversaries** occur about this time
All who have **died recently**
especially Pamela Harrison, 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, Dennis Fricker
John O'Brien, Monica Lowe, Janice Coyle, Nicola Glew, and all our housebound

The Word: Year A, Ordinary Time, Sunday 24, Commentary

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-45

This is a favourite theme of Matthew, continuing and concluding Jesus' teaching that forgiveness is the life's-blood of any Christian community. We cannot live together without upsetting one another, unwittingly, or even deliberately. So forgiveness is the vital step. So important is this matter of forgiveness that two consecutive Sunday gospels are devoted to it. It expands and stresses our petition in the Lord's Prayer, 'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive others.' The importance of this petition was already underlined by Matthew; it is the only petition of the Lord's Prayer to which he adds at the end a confirmatory saying of Jesus. Like so many of Matthew's parables, this one about a king and his servants revolves round contrasting characters, the 'goodie' and the 'baddie' (wedding-guests and guest without a wedding-garment; the two who use their talents and the one who hides it; the girls with and without oil for their lamps; the sheep and the goats; and here, the generous king and the ungenerous servant). There is also a contrast between the two sums of money which is deliberately fantastic: the first slave owes the equivalent of millions of dollars, a sum no private person could ever repay, let alone a slave; it is more than a year's tax for a whole province. The second owes the couple of months' wages of a casual labourer.

First Reading: Ecclesiasticus 27:33-28:9

It is some months since we had a reading from this wise old scribe. He was on the staff of the Temple at Jerusalem (or at any rate moved in these circles), and clearly had the greatest love and respect for the Temple and the Law of God. He gathered together and reflected on the wisdom of the ancients, aware all the time that the Lord God is the source of all true wisdom. Most of his proverbial wisdom accords with that elusive quality, common sense, but it is none the worse or less important for that! Here he already looks forward to the message of today's gospel parable: the quality of God which we know best is the divine mercy and forgiveness. The very meaning

of the divine name revealed to Moses on Sinai is 'God of mercy and compassion', and this echoes again and again down the scriptures. We are made in the image of God, and our glory is to imitate in our own poor, human way, this forgiveness at the heart of God. Once we see love and forgiveness as our divine mode of living, our whole relationship with other people changes. The last few lines of the reading give us a good, common sense summary of the foolishness of quarrelling.

Second Reading: Romans 14:7-9

The context of this wonderful statement of Paul is the moral exhortation to the Roman Christians towards the end of his letter. Paul has been insisting that no one should tamper with the conscience of another. He has been discussing a particular problem of the time, whether eating meat which had once been offered to idols implicated the eater in idol-worship. He states his own opinion, but will not force it on anyone else. For Paul, to be living with Christ's life gives every Christian a dignity, a trustworthiness and a freedom ultimately to make his or her own decision. It is a delicate balance: Paul gives his opinion, which means that we must listen to the voice of the Church and its teachers. At the same time he realizes the presence of the Spirit of Christ, guiding every individual Christian who is genuinely living for the Lord. To a modern believer this raises a host of questions. Have I really listened? Am I being simply stubborn, deceiving myself into avoiding truths which I find inconvenient? What is the voice of the Church? Whatever the answers, Paul's confidence in the guidance of the Spirit shows the dignity of the Christian and the respect with which the Christian must be honoured.

Courtesy of 'The Wednesday Word Trust'

The Word: Year A, Ordinary Time, Sunday 25

1st Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9

2nd Reading: Philippians 1:20-24,27

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

Prayer of the Church

Psalter Week 2

Sun Seasonal Proper

Mon Proper Saints

Tue Seasonal Proper + Proper Saints

Wed Seasonal Proper + Proper Saints

Thu Seasonal Proper (or + Proper Saints)

Fri Seasonal Proper

Sat Seasonal Proper (or + Proper Saints)

This Week's Feasts & Saints

Mon Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Tue Our Lady of Sorrows

Wed Ss Cornelian, Pope, & St Cyprian, Bishop,
Martyrs

Thu St Robert Bellarmine, Bishop, Doctor of Church

Fri Ordinary Time

Sat St Theodore of Canterbury, Bishop /
St Januarius, Bishop, Martyr

Gathering Psalm 117 (All say)

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love endures for ever.

Let the sons of Israel say:

'His love endures for ever.'

Let the sons of Aaron say:

'His love endures for ever.'

Let those who fear the Lord say:

'His love endures for ever.'

I called to the Lord in my distress;
he answered and freed me.

The Lord is at my side; I do not fear.

What can man do against me?

The Lord is at my side as my helper;

I shall look down on my foes.

It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in men;

it is better to take refuge in the Lord

than to trust in princes.

I was hard-pressed and was falling,
but the Lord came to help me.

The Lord is my strength and my song;

he is my saviour.

There are shouts of joy and victory

in the tents of the just.

The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me.

The Lord's right hand has triumphed;

I shall not die, I shall live

and recount his deeds.

I was punished, I was punished by the Lord,
but not doomed to die.

Open to me the gates of holiness:

I will enter and give thanks.

This is the Lord's own gate

where the just may enter.

I will thank you for you have answered

and you are my saviour.

Glory to God

Glory to God in the highest
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you,

we adore you, we glorify you,

we give you thanks for your great glory,

Lord God, heavenly King,

O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

you take away the sins of the world,

have mercy on us;

you take away the sins of the world,

receive our prayer;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father,

have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

First Reading: Ecclesiasticus 27:33-28:9

Resentment and anger, these are foul things,
and both are found with the sinner.

He who exacts vengeance will experience
the vengeance of the Lord,

who keeps strict account of sin.

Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you,
and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

If a man nurses anger against another,
can he then demand compassion from the Lord?

Showing no pity for a man like himself,
can he then plead for his own sins?

Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment;
who will forgive him his sins?

Remember the last things, and stop hating,
remember dissolution and death,

and live by the commandments.

Remember the commandments, and do not bear
your neighbour ill-will;

remember the covenant of the Most High,
and overlook the offence.

Responsorial Psalm 102(103)

R. The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.

My soul give the thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.

My soul give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings.

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
Who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion.

His wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry for ever.

He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults.

For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.

As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.

R. The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.

Second Reading: Romans 14:7-9

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life: it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:

love one another just as I have loved you,
says the Lord.

Alleluia!

Mass continues over page . . .

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-45

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time" he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me" he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Lord Jesus, you have taught us to know and trust that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the Altar.

We love you above all things and passionately desire that you be in our hearts and minds, for you to be one with and within each of us.

With all who cannot now receive you sacramentally, but wish to do so, we trust you to spiritually be among them and within them, and to enable us all, each and every one, to unite ourselves wholly to you now and forever. Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Sing of Mary, pure and lowly,
Virgin Mother undefiled.

Sing of God's own Son most holy,
who became her little child.

Fairest child of fairest Mother,
God the Lord who came to earth,
Word made flesh, our very brother,
takes our nature by his birth.

Sing of Jesus, son of Mary,
in the home at Nazareth.

Toil and labour cannot weary
love enduring unto death.

Constant was the love he gave her,
though it drove him from her side,
forth to preach, and heal, and suffer,
till on Calvary he died.

Sing of Mary, sing of Jesus,
holy Mother's holier son.

From his throne in heav'n he sees us,
thither calls us ev'ry one,
where he welcomes home his Mother
to a place at his right hand,
there his faithful servants gather,
there the crowned victors stand.

Joyful Mother, full of gladness,
in your arms your Lord was borne.

Mournful Mother, full of sadness,
all your heart with pain was torn.

Glorious Mother, now rewarded
with a crown at Jesus' hand,
age to age your name recorded
shall be blest in every land.

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This Week's Feast -

St Theodore of Canterbury
Theodore was born in Tarsus, in modern Turkey. He became a monk in Italy, but was not ordained a priest until, at the age of 65, he was appointed to be Archbishop of Canterbury, by Pope Vitalian. He

arrived in England in 669 and spent the rest of his life reorganising and reforming the life of the Church, in England, undertaking visitations and holding synods, creating new dioceses and a great school at Canterbury, and reconciling the divisions between the Roman and Celtic traditions. He died in 690 on 19 September. He is especially remembered for scholarship and bringing unity to a divided church.

