



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 B, Advent, Sunday 2, 5/6 December

Getting in touch

Father Anthony G Fenton
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		<i>FB - Parish Facebook live-stream</i>	Mass Intentions
Saturday 5 December	Sacred Heart	5.00pm Mass	<i>Parish Family</i>
Sunday 6 December	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass FB	<i>Michelle Proctor Debbie Lane</i>
Monday 7 December	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.30am Mass <i>11.00am Funeral Mass*</i>	<i>Geoff Marston</i> Andrew Christopher Tyrrell
Tuesday 8 December			
Wednesday 9 December	Sacred Heart	9.30am Mass	<i>Paul Woodgate</i>
Thursday 10 December	St Joseph's	9.30am Mass	<i>Parish Family</i>
Friday 11 December			
Saturday 12 December	Sacred Heart	5.00pm Mass	<i>Eileen O'Reilly</i>
Sunday 13 December	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass FB	<i>Tony Scott Denis & Maidie Donovan</i>

*** For funerals, any not invited as a Mourner by the Deceased's Family need to check directly with Fr Anthony, to know if there are any spare places.**

As numbers have to be limited at all Masses, to enable physical distancing, all are requested to pre-book.
To book for Mass: see our Parish Website, Parish Facebook Page, or telephone the Presbytery.
As the benches are set for 1 metre+ distancing, please remain seated, at prayer, and do not kneel.

Christmas Eve Masses, 24 December

3.00pm at St Joseph's - 5.00pm at Sacred Heart - 7.00pm at Sacred Heart

Christmas Day Masses, 25 December

9.00am at St Joseph's - 10.45am At Sacred Heart

Avoid disappointment: it is hoped none will come to Mass and have to be turned away. But some may have to be turned away, if they have not booked in advance and we have reached the full numbers allowed at our Churches, under Covid-19 regulations. So please, for your own benefit, do make sure to book in advance.

We really need more Stewards, and not just for Christmas. Fr Anthony is waiting to hear from you.

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

From a Commentary on Isaiah by Eusebius of Caesarea

The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight the paths of our God. The prophecy makes clear that it is to be fulfilled, not in Jerusalem but in the wilderness: it is there that the glory of the Lord is to appear, and God's salvation is to be made known to all mankind.

It was in the wilderness that God's saving presence was proclaimed by John the Baptist, and there that God's salvation was seen. The words of this prophecy were fulfilled when Christ and his glory were made manifest to all: after his baptism the heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove rested on him, and the Father's voice was heard, bearing witness to the Son: *This is my beloved Son, listen to him.*

The prophecy meant that God was to come to a deserted place, inaccessible from the beginning. None of the pagans had any knowledge of God, since his holy servants and prophets were kept from approaching them. The voice commands that a way be prepared for the Word of God: the rough and trackless ground is to be made level, so that our God may find a highway when he comes. *Prepare the way of the Lord:* the way is the preaching of the Gospel, the new message of consolation, ready to bring to all mankind the knowledge of God's saving power.



Climb on a high mountain, bearer of good news to Zion. Lift up your voice in strength, bearer of good news to Jerusalem. These words harmonise very well with the meaning of what has gone before. They refer opportunely to the evangelists and proclaim the coming of God to men, after speaking of the voice crying in the wilderness. Mention of the evangelists suitably follows the prophecy on John the Baptist.

What does Zion mean if not the city previously called Jerusalem? This is the mountain referred to in that passage from Scripture: *Here is mount Zion, where you dwelt.* The Apostle says: *You have come to mount Zion.* Does not this refer to the company of the apostles, chosen from the former people of the circumcision?

This is the Zion, the Jerusalem, that received God's salvation. It stands aloft on the mountain of God, that is, it is raised high on the only-begotten Word of God. It is commanded to climb the high mountain and announce the word of salvation. Who is the bearer of the good news but the company of the evangelists? What does it mean to bear the good news but to preach to all nations, but first of all to the cities of Judah, the coming of Christ on earth?

Things happening in our Parish

Parish Family Christmas Greetings On account of the recent lockdown restrictions, there is a small extension to the return date for names, so:

If you would like your family included in sending your Christmas greeting to our Parish Family:

- you can write on an envelope *Christmas Card* - add your Family name (Christian name/s, too, if you wish) - add at least £2 as a donation - and put the envelope in the offertory basket this weekend, or deliver it to our Sacred Heart Presbytery, by this **Mon 7 Dec**, at latest:

- or, if you are unable to do this, you may telephone or email Fr Anthony, noting the same details, again by this **Mon 7 Dec**, at latest - and you can give your donation at a later date.

Please note that any names not received by this coming Monday will not be included in the Card, which should become available at our Churches next weekend.

First Reconciliation Parents of our Children *who have begun their preparation* for First Confession should have recently received a letter, about meetings from January on. It is important that those who did not receive a letter via email should please contact Fr Anthony, within the next day or so, at latest, either with their email address or to let him know that they do not use email.

Confirmation Plans are progressing to begin our next Preparation Programme during January. Those who are Baptised Catholics, in school year 6 or older, and not yet Confirmed, should be eligible. Application forms are now available from Fr Anthony, and need to be returned to him before January.

Christmas Cards are available at both our Churches, also some calendars and diaries. Any wishing to buy:

at our Sacred Heart Church, may enter the Hall, and view the packs well spaced out on tables;

at our St Joseph's Church, the packs may be found near the confessional and in the main exit hall.

At both Churches, please leave the appropriate money in the pot provided - **ensure physical distancing of at least 1 metre+** - and please remember that others also need time to look and buy.

& In our Diocese

'He Comes, He is Revealed'. Sat 12th Dec, 4.00pm (on Zoom), Growing Old Grace-fully invites you to join a short reflective Advent Service: readings, reflections, hymns and recordings from our Diocesan choirs. To book please go to www.growingoldgracefully.org.uk and see the link on the home page.



Advent Project As our Lent Project for 'Maidie's Minibus' was cut short, by the first 'Lockdown', our Advent Project is taking up the same cause, to help towards the buying of a Minibus for use by the Burntwood Nursing Home Residents. Please note carefully the labels on the collection baskets, at Church. Suitably labelled donations may also be delivered to our Sacred Heart Presbytery.

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 continue in our Sacred Heart Hall, 7.00-8.30pm, **Wed 9 Dec**. To join a Programme, Parents need to talk with Fr Anthony, after one of our Parish Masses, 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 6 or older*, before the summer of 2021. Watch for application details, coming next weekend.

First Reconciliation Our *Children* are next due to meet in our Sacred Heart Parish Hall, **Sat 9 Jan**, 10-11.15am, and their parents in our Sacred Heart Church, 10-10.15am.

On arrival, Parents should please not enter the Hall with the Children, but go immediately into the Church.

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

But seriously

DO YOU KNOW?

During Advent, a change of note comes eight days before Christmas, on 17 December, when an increasing emphasis is given to the approaching commemoration of the Nativity Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Each of these days has a different 'O Antiphon' associated with it. But what are the 'O Antiphons' and where, in the Divine Office of our Church, do they appear?

AND SERIOUSLY!

A child psychologist checking how children respond to negative things, filled a room with manure.

The pessimistic child cried with the smell.

The optimistic child went crazy digging.

He said, 'With all this manure, there must be a horse in here somewhere!'



Parish Monies

Offertory Monies

2-29 Nov will be noted next week.

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

Inner Chaos and False Images of God

*Every single time I want to do good,
it is something evil that comes to hand. (Rom 7:21)*

The Book of Wisdom says:

Yes, you love all that exists, you hold nothing of what you have made in abhorrence, for had you hated anything, you would not have made it. And how, had you not willed it, could a thing persist, how be conserved if not called forth by you? You spare all things because all things are yours, Lord, lover of life, you whose imperishable spirit is in all. (Wis 11:25-7)

He is at work in the heart of every human being, loves each one and is drawing each to himself. He is no respecter of persons or of our human hierarchies of rank and status, which he upsets: 'He casts the mighty from their thrones and raises the lowly.' He is at work across the Christian denominations, across the religions and in the hearts of those who profess to have no religion. No religion can monopolise God, although most of them will try to do so, claiming that unless you follow their particular way, you cannot be saved.

We are constantly tempted to make God in our own image, to divinize our narrowness and self-importance and then call it the will of God. God is mystery, a beckoning word, and he calls us out beyond our narrowness. Our one security is that he *is*, not in our formulation of how he is.



Because we are made in God's image, therefore we share in his mystery. If we all have different finger-prints, it is not so surprising that we should also have our own unique way of knowing and understanding God. We are all making the same journey, but the route is different for each and we have to discover it in freedom. There are guidelines given to us within the Christian Church through Scripture above all, and through the teaching tradition of the Church, but ultimately we must find our own way and we are responsible for our own journey.

God is the destination of our journey, but God is mystery, which does not at first seem to be a very helpful piece of information. It is as though someone sends us on a journey, assures us that the journey is not only necessary, but is a matter of life or death, and when we ask the destination of this all-important journey, they tell us that they do not know, but nevertheless wish us 'Bon voyage' and Bon courage'.

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 Mary Bridget Gallagher,
Andrew Christopher Tyrrell, Peter Townend, Paul Chadwick,
Barbara Elizabeth O'Donnell, 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, Peggy Heneghan, Kazia Andruszko, Liz Allen, Dennis Fricker John O'Brien
Monica Lowe, Nicola Glew, Elizabeth Taylor, and all our housebound

The Word: Year B, Advent, Sunday 2, Commentary

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Each Advent has two 'John the Baptist' Sundays: the first when we see John preparing a community for the Messiah, the second when he points out Jesus as the Lamb of God. Today is the first of these. John chose a point where the busy road from Jerusalem to the East crossed the Jordan River. There he button-holed all the busy financiers, merchants and other travellers and tourists, warning them to change their ways - and to change them now, before it was too late. 'I am too busy,' no doubt they said. 'I have other things to worry about; I have a wife and family to feed.' John was forming a community of repentance; but not so much a community which wept 'Boo-hoo!' about their sins, as a community of people determined to set their scale of values right. He meant them to stop going in one direction, to turn round and go in a different direction - towards God. Do we give ourselves a moment to pause and ask whether we have our priorities right? Where on that list of priorities does the entry of Christ into our lives come?



desert at the Exodus, and will manifest his glory again. For Christians the excitement is that John the Baptist picks up this message as he prepares the people for the coming of Christ. The coming of the Lord to Jerusalem was never wholly fulfilled, and we can see that the great fulfilment of this passage is in the coming of Christ to his own. He brought the beginning of the kingship of God, and it is for us Christians to show Him, the glory and the love and the generosity of God, to a world which has not yet seen the splendour of his coming. This is the daunting responsibility of those who bear the name of 'Christian', who see in Jesus the manifestation of God's reign.

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

The Second Letter of Peter, probably the last of all the writings of the New Testament to be written, here sets out to comfort Christians who were disappointed that the 'Big Bang' at the end of the world had not yet happened. The first generations of Christians had expected the world to come rapidly to an end - and yet it still goes on. Our task, says the

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11

The reading from the Old Testament for today is the joyful song which opens the second part of Isaiah. After the 70 years of the Exile Israel is looking forward to the return to Jerusalem, aware that they are soon to be released from their captivity. They have 'served their sentence' in Babylon and their sin has been forgiven. The Lord will lead them in joy across the great desert as he led them across the

author, is to live holy lives in peace, and to wait in patience. From this point of view, the annual cycle of Church feasts and festivals, even of Christmas, is a reminder that God is in control of his universe.

Courtesy of 'The Wednesday Word Trust'

The Word: Year B, Advent, Sunday 3

1st Reading: Isaiah 61: 1-2,10-11
2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Gospel: John 1:6-8,19-24

Prayer of the Church

Psalter Week 2

- Sun** Seasonal Proper
- Mon** Seasonal Proper + Proper of Saints
- Tue** Proper of Saints
- Wed** Seasonal Proper (or + Proper of Saints)
- Thu** Seasonal Proper (or + Common BVM)
- Fri** Seasonal Proper (or + Proper of Saints)
- Sat** Seasonal Proper (or + Common BVM)

This Week's Feasts & Saints

- Mon** St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of Church
- Tue** Immaculate Conception
of Mary, Mother of God
- Wed** St John Diego Cuahtlatzoatzin, Holy Man
- Thu** Our Lady of Loretto
- Fri** St Damasus I, Pope
- Sat** Our Lady of Guadalupe



Gathering Song

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh:
awake and listen for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.

Let every heart be cleansed from sin,
make straight the way for God within,
and so prepare to be the home
where such a mighty guest may come.

For you are our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward
without your grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.

To heal the sick, stretch out your hand,
and make the fallen sinner stand;
shine out, and let your light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.

To you, O Christ, all praises be,
whose advent sets your people free;
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Spirit evermore!

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11

'Console my people, console them'
says your God.

'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem
and call to her

that her time of service is ended,
that her sin is atoned for,
that she has received from the hand of the Lord
double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness
a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God
across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low.

Let every cliff become a plain,
and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all mankind shall see it;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain,
joyful messenger to Zion.

Shout with a loud voice,
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear,
say to the towns of Judah,
'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power,
his arm subduing all things to him.

The prize of his victory is with him,
his trophies all go before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
gathering lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm 84

R Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.

I will hear what the Lord has to say,
as voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.

His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land.

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven.

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps.

R Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

Mass continues over page . . .



Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

And so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate
of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and is seated
at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Communion Verse

O come, divine Messiah!
The world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph,
And sadness flee away.
Dear Saviour haste;
Come, come to earth,
Dispel the night and show your face,
And bid us hail the dawn of grace.

O Christ, whom nations sigh for,
Whom priest and prophet long foretold,
Come break the captive fetters;
Redeem the long-lost fold.

You come in peace and meekness,
And lowly will your cradle be;
All clothed in human weakness
Shall we your Godhead see.

O come, divine Messiah!
The world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph,
And sadness flee away.
Dear Saviour haste;
Come, come to earth,
Dispel the night and show your face,
And bid us hail the dawn of grace.

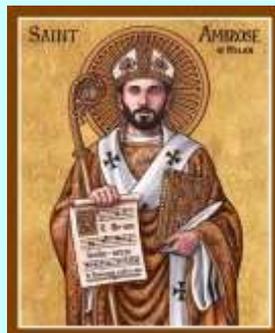
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Saints of the Week

St Ambrose

was born in Trier (now in Germany) around 337, to a Roman family. Ambrose was educated at Rome and followed the path of Roman administrators. In about 372 he became prefect of Liguria and Emilia, whose capital was Milan.

In 374 the bishopric of Milan fell vacant. When Ambrose tried to pacify the conflict between the Catholics and Arians over the appointment of a new bishop, the people demanded that he become the bishop. He was a layman and not yet baptized (it was then common for baptism to be delayed and for people to remain catechumens for years). Still, coerced by the people and the emperor, he was baptized, ordained, and installed as bishop within a week, on 7 December 374.



He immediately gave his money to the poor and his land to the Church and set about learning theology.

He was attentive in carrying out his work, acting with charity to all: a true shepherd and teacher of the faithful. He defended the rights of the Church and attacked the Arian heresy, but with learning, firmness and gentleness. He also wrote a number of hymns still in use today.

Ambrose was key in St Augustine's conversion to Catholicism, impressing Augustine (up to now unimpressed by Catholics he had met) with his scholarship. He died on Holy Saturday, 4 April 397.