



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 3, 12/13 December

<i>Getting in touch</i>	Father Anthony G Fenton	<i>Email</i>	anthony.fenton@dioceseofleeds.org.uk
	The Sacred Heart Presbytery Market Street, Hemsworth, Pontefract, WF9 4LB	<i>Tel</i>	01977-610733
		<i>Parish Website</i>	www.hemsthorpe.org.uk

		<i>FB - Parish Facebook live-stream</i>	<i>Mass Intentions</i>
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</i> <i>Denis & Maidie Donovan</i>
Monday 14 December	St Joseph's	9.30am Mass	<i>Janice Coyle</i>
Tuesday 15 December	Sacred Heart	<i>10.00am Funeral Mass*</i>	Peter Townend
Wednesday 16 December	Sacred Heart St Joseph's	9.30am Mass <i>10.45am Funeral Mass*</i>	<i>Paul Woodgate</i> Mary Bridget Gallagher
Thursday 17 December	St Joseph's	9.30am Mass	<i>Bridie McNally</i>
Friday 18 December	Sacred Heart	<i>9.15am Funeral Mass*</i>	Barbara Elizabeth O'Donnell
Saturday 19 December	Sacred Heart	5.00pm Mass	<i>Intentions Kazia & Family</i>
Sunday 20 December	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass FB	<i>Fr Sean O'Toole</i> <i>Terry O'Brien</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 be turned away. But some may have to be, if they have not booked in advance and we have reached the full numbers allowed under Covid-19 regulations.

So please, for your own benefit, do make sure to book in advance.

Also, please do not take another's place. Book only for any you fully expect to come, or, if plans are changed please remember to cancel (or contact Fr Anthony and he will cancel for 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 Sermon of St Augustine

John is the voice, but the Lord is *the Word* who was *in the beginning*. John is the voice that lasts for a time; from the beginning Christ is the Word who lives for ever.

In my search for a way to let this message reach you, so that the word in my heart may find place also in yours, I use my voice to speak to you. The sound of my voice brings the meaning of the word to you and then passes away. The word which the sound has brought to you is now in your heart, and yet it is still also in mine.

When the word has been conveyed to you, does not the sound seem to say: *The word ought to grow, and I should diminish?* The sound of the voice has made itself heard in the service of the word, and has gone away, as though it were saying: *My joy is complete.* Let us hold on to the word; we must not lose the word conceived inwardly in our hearts.

Do you need proof that the voice passes away but the divine Word remains? Where is John's baptism today? It served its purpose, and it went away. It is Christ's baptism that we celebrate now. It is in Christ that we believe; we hope for salvation in him. This is the message the voice cried out.

Because it is hard to distinguish word from voice, even John himself was thought to be the Christ. The voice was thought to be the word. But the voice acknowledged what it was, anxious not to give offence to the word. *I am not the Christ*, he said, *nor Elijah, nor the prophet.* And the question came: *Who are you, then?* He replied: *I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way for the Lord. The voice of one crying in the wilderness is the voice of one breaking the silence. Prepare the way for the Lord*, he says, as though he were saying: "I speak out in order to lead him into your hearts, but he does not choose to come where I lead him unless you prepare the way for him."

What does *prepare the way* mean, if not "pray well"? What does *prepare the way* mean, if not "be humble in your thoughts"? We should take our lesson from John the Baptist. He is thought to be the Christ; he declares he is not what they think. He does not take advantage of their mistake to further his own glory.

If he had said, "I am the Christ," imagine how readily he would have been believed, since they believed he was the Christ even before he spoke. But he did not say it; he acknowledged what he was. He pointed out clearly who he was; he humbled himself.

He saw where salvation lay. He understood that he was a lamp, and his fear was that it might be blown out by the wind of pride.



Things happening in our Parish

**Please remember,
if you wish to be sure of a place
at one of our Christmas Eve/Day Masses,
you need to book in advance.
See details on page 1.**

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 by the first weekend in 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 - **and do please ensure physical distancing of at least 1 metre +.**

Altar Servers Because of Covid-19 distancing, at our Sacred Heart Church we can have no more than six serving at any one Mass. It is important that any wishing to serve at our Christmas Eve or Day Masses check with Paul Stuart, to know whether we have enough places for them on the Sanctuary.

**Places may well be limited at Christmas Eve/Day Masses.
If you book but then have to change your plans,
please be sure to cancel your place so others can take it.**



God of hope, we cling to you,
for your renew the face of the earth.
Through the gift of your Son, our Lord Jesus,
we follow you on the path of dawn.
Enlightened by your love and wisdom,
help us to lead each other and all creatures
back to your open arms. Amen.

Rachel McCarthy

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 next take place 7.00-8.30pm, in our Sacred Heart Hall, **Weds 3 & 10 Mar**. 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.

Parish Monies

Offertory Monies

2-29 Nov £753.00

7 Dec

Tyrrell Funeral £ 80.00

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

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)

God is mystery, but if we turn to him, he will lead us. All that we have to do is trust that he will do so. But how do I turn to him with all my being? The general answer to be found in books and from anyone who advises on spiritual matters is, 'Pray to him'. The problem is that having heard this advice and perhaps having read enthusiastic books about the wonderful things that prayer can do and has done for others, when we try to pray we find we are talking to emptiness, or we become more than ever aware of our inner

restlessness, our inability to concentrate, and we may also discover that we have a deep unwillingness to pray. This reluctance to get started can arise from a variety of reasons, but I shall list a few of the more common. When we try to pray, we must have some idea of God in our minds,



and this idea will influence how we pray and whether we pray. As a university chaplain I used to spend much time listening to people who had either given up their Catholic faith, or were thinking of doing so, or they were worried about their own honesty in continuing as Catholics when they felt that they no longer really believed in the teachings of the Catholic Church. Having listened to them, I always tried to encourage them to speak about their own understanding of God. After many conversations, an identikit image of God formed in my imagination.

God was a family relative, much admired by Mum and Dad, who described him as very loving, a great friend of the family, very powerful and interested in all of us, eventually we are taken to visit 'Good Old Uncle George'. He lives in a formidable mansion, is bearded, gruff and threatening. We cannot share our parents' professed admiration for this jewel in the family. At the end of the visit Uncle George turns to address us. 'Now listen dear,' he begins, looking very severe, 'I want to see you here once a week and if you fail to come let me just show you what will happen to you.' He then leads us down to the mansion's basement there are steel doors. Uncle George opens one. 'Now look in there, dear,' he says. We see a nightmare vision, an array of blazing furnaces with little demons in attendance, who hurl into the blaze those men, women and children who failed to visit Uncle George or to act in a way he approved. 'And if you don't visit me, dear, that is where you most certainly go', says Uncle George. He then takes us upstairs again to meet Mum and Dad. As we go home, tightly clutching Dad and Mum, Mum leans over us and says, 'And now don't you love Uncle George with all your heart and soul, mind and strength?'

To be continued . . .

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

But seriously

DO YOU KNOW?

The 'O' Antiphons accompany the Magnificat recited during Evening Prayer of the Church (Vespers), from 17 to 23 December. Each begins with 'O' and then a title, from Scripture, to address our Lord, Jesus. They are also used as the 'Alleluia' verses at Mass, on these days, but not necessarily in the same order.

What are the seven titles given to our Lord, Jesus, in the 'O' Antiphons?

AND SERIOUSLY!

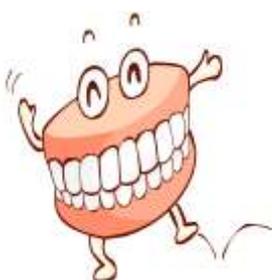


What happened to the man who stole an Advent Calendar?

He got 25 days!

What is the best thing to put into a Christmas cake?

Your teeth!



**Please Keep
in Prayer**

All whose **Anniversaries** occur about this time
All who have **died recently**, especially Mary Bridget Gallagher,
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 3, Commentary

Gospel: John 1:6-8,19-28



So, John the Baptist came as a witness to the light. In today's gospel reading he seems rather to refuse witness. He is quite negative, answering with a stalwart and repeated 'No!'. He witnesses only that 'There is one standing among you whom you do not know'. It is not always easy to find Jesus. All the way through the Gospel of John there are misunderstandings about Jesus; people fail to recognise him for what he is: there's the Samaritan at the well, Nicodemus in the night, Mary Magdalene beside the empty tomb, even Peter and the disciples as they fish on the Lake. We can easily become so wrapped up in our own troubles and worries that we fail to recognise the one figure who can provide the solution to them, although he is standing among us, the one who 'has the words of eternal life'. He may come to us in a way we do not like, as a corrective - blocking or diverting the way we have chosen. He may come as suffering, disappointment, failure or bereavement. All of these may be acts of God's love, to show us the way, though we cannot see it at the time. It is just like John the Baptist, saying steadily 'No!', until eventually we turn around and see Christ as our true light.

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11

The Book of Isaiah reflects the thoughts and prayers of Israel over at least two hundred years. The original prophet Isaiah was speaking in Jerusalem in 740 BC. Further prophecies were added during the Babylonian Exile in the 6th century BC, and still more after the return from Exile. Through them all runs the promise that God will send his Spirit upon his Chosen One. In the first part there is the wonderful promise of a sevenfold Spirit which we always associate with Confirmation. In the dark days of the Exile came the prophecy of 'my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have sent my Spirit upon him', which is echoed at Jesus' baptism. Now, after the return from Exile, we are presented with this prophecy in today's reading of the Anointed One to whom the Spirit has been given so that he may heal. All these promises are fulfilled in Jesus. Jesus also gives his Spirit to his followers, and it is our task, as we live by the Spirit, to heal, to bring good news to the poor and to bind up hearts that are broken.

Second Reading: Thessalonians 5:16-24

Writing to the Thessalonians, Paul gives his final blessing, asking that they may be kept safe for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are now waiting for the coming of Christ at Christmas. Paul was waiting in a very different sense. He was waiting for the coming of Christ at the end of the world, a triumphal procession in which we would join Christ 'in the clouds' as he presented the whole universe to his Father as God's completed kingdom. We don't always see things in such dramatic, pictorial terms, but we do know that the whole universe is focused on God, and will reach its fulfilment only when his sovereignty is complete, when the world has been transformed by God's divine life in Christ.

Courtesy of 'The Wednesday Word Trust'

The Word: Year B, Advent, Sunday 4

1st Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5
2nd Reading: Romans 16:25-27
Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Prayer of the Church

Psalter Week 3

Sun Seasonal Proper
Mon Seasonal Proper + Proper of Saints
Tue Seasonal Proper
Wed Seasonal Proper
Thu Seasonal Proper
Fri Seasonal Proper
Sat Seasonal Proper

This Week's Feasts & Saints

Mon St John of the Cross, Priest
Tue Of Advent
Wed Of Advent
Thu Of Advent
Fri Of Advent
Sat Of Advent

Gathering Verse

See, the Lord will come,
and will mount his glorious throne.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel!
He has visited his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up for us a mighty saviour
in the house of David his servant,
as he promised by the lips of holy men,
those who were his prophets from of old.

A saviour who would free us from our foes,
from the hands of all who hate us.
So his love for our fathers is fulfilled
and his holy covenant remembered.

He swore to Abraham our father to grant us,
that free from fear, and saved
from the hands of our foes,
we might serve him in holiness and justice
all the days of our life in his presence.

As for you, little child,
you shall be called a prophet of God, the Most High.
You shall go ahead of the Lord
to prepare his ways before him,

To make known to his people their salvation
through forgiveness of all their sins,
the loving-kindness of the heart of our God
who visits us like the dawn from on high.

He will give light to those in darkness,
those who dwell in the shadow of death,
and guide us into the way of peace.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

See, the Lord will come,
and will mount his glorious throne.

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up hearts that are broken;
to proclaim liberty to captives,
freedom to those in prison;
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.
'I exult for joy in the Lord,
my soul rejoices in my God,
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,
like a bride adorned in her jewels.
'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,
as a garden makes seeds spring up,
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise
spring up in the sight of the nations.'

Responsorial Psalm

R My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my saviour.

He looks on his servant in her nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him.

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy.

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

Second Reading: Thessalonians 5:16-24

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.
He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel: John 1:6-8,19-28

A man came, sent by God.
His name was John.
He came as a witness,
as a witness to speak for the light,
so that everyone might believe through him.
He was not the light,
only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:

Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

Mass continues over page . . .

Year B, Advent, Sunday 3

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

Blessed be the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ
with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

just as he chose us in Christ
before the foundation of the world
to be holy and blameless before him in love.
He destined us for adoption as his children
through Jesus Christ,
according to the good pleasure of his will,
to the praise of his glorious grace
that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.
In him we have redemption through his blood,
the forgiveness of our trespasses,
according to the riches of his grace
that he lavished on us.
With all wisdom and insight
he has made known to us the mystery of his will,
according to his good pleasure
that he set forth in Christ,
as a plan for the fullness of time,
to gather up all things in him,
things in heaven and things on earth.
In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance,
having been destined according to
the purpose of him
who accomplishes all things according to
his counsel and will
so that we, who were the first to
set our hope on Christ,
might live for the praise of his glory.
In him you also, when you had heard the
word of truth,
the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him,
were marked with the seal of
the promised Holy Spirit;
this is the pledge of our inheritance
towards redemption
as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

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Saint of the Week

St John of the Cross

born Juan de Yepes y Álvarez, at Fontiveros, Old Castile, was descended from Jewish converts to Catholicism. His father was an accountant to richer relatives. In 1529, Gonzalo married John's mother, Catalina, an orphan of a lower class; he was rejected by his family and forced to work with his wife as a weaver. Gonzalo died in 1545, while John was still only around three years old. Later, John's mother took him and his brother, Arévalo, to Medina del Campo, in order to find work.



In Medina, John entered a school for poor children, to receive a basic

education. Growing up, John worked at a hospital and studied at a Jesuit school from 1559 to 1563. In 1563 he entered the Carmelite Order.

He made his First Profession as a Carmelite in 1564. In 1568, Saint Teresa of Ávila persuaded him to pioneer the reform of the Carmelite order. This was a difficult task: he suffered imprisonment and severe punishment at the hands of the Church authorities.

He died at the monastery of Ubeda, in Andalusia, on 14 December 1591: the monks there had initially treated him badly, but by the time he died they had recognised his sanctity and his funeral was the occasion of a great outburst of enthusiasm.

His works include two major mystical poems, and detailed commentaries on them, and the spiritual truths they convey. He was canonized in 1726 and declared a Doctor of the Church in 1926.