



# 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 4, 19/20 December 2020

|                         |   |                       |                                      |
|-------------------------|---|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <i>Getting in touch</i> | Father Anthony G Fenton   | <i>Email</i>          | anthony.fenton@dioceseofleeds.org.uk |
|                         | The Sacred Heart Presbytery<br>Market Street, Hemsworth,<br>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>                                  |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| <b>Saturday</b><br>19 December      | Sacred Heart                                | 5.00pm Mass  | <i>Intentions Kazia &amp; Family</i>                    |
| <b>Sunday</b><br>20 December        | St Joseph's<br>Sacred Heart                 | 9.00am Mass<br>10.45am Mass <b>FB</b>                          | <i>Fr Sean O'Toole<br/>Terry O'Brien</i>                |
| Monday<br>21 December               | St Joseph's                                 | 9.30am Mass  | <i>Dennis Garner</i>                                    |
| Tuesday<br>22 December              |   |  |   |
| Wednesday<br>23 December            | Sacred Heart                                | 9.30am Mass  | <i>Sheila Jordan</i>                                    |
| <b>Christmas Eve</b><br>24 December | St Joseph's<br>Sacred Heart<br>Sacred Heart | 3.00pm Mass of Eve<br>5.00pm Mass of Eve<br>7.00pm Mass of Eve | <i>Parish Family<br/>Frank Cronin<br/>Geoff Marston</i> |
| <b>Christmas Day</b><br>25 December | St Joseph's<br>Sacred Heart                 | 9.00am Mass of Day<br>10.45am Mass of Day <b>FB</b>            | <i>Donor's Intention (GF)<br/>Jovico M Gabriola</i>     |
| <b>Boxing Day</b><br>26 December    | St Joseph's                                 | 10.00am Mass<br><i>Nb No Evening Mass</i>                      | <i>Janice Coyle</i>                                     |
| <b>Sunday</b><br>27 December        | St Joseph's<br>Sacred Heart                 | 9.00am Mass<br>10.45am Mass <b>FB</b>                          | <i>Billy Hodgson<br/>Joseph Sankey</i>                  |



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.**

**For Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses: see times and venues above.**

**If your first choice is fully booked, please see whether any of the other times have availability.**

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 ask Fr Anthony to 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 Bernard of Clairvaux*



You have heard, O Virgin, that you will conceive and bear a son; you have heard that it will not be by man but by the Holy Spirit. The angel awaits an answer; it is time for him to return to God

who sent him. We too are waiting, O Lady, for your word of compassion; as the sentence of condemnation weighs heavily upon us.

The price of our salvation is offered to you. We shall be set free at once if you consent. In the eternal Word of God we all came to be, and behold, we die. In your brief response we are to be remade in order to be recalled to life.

Tearful Adam with his sorrowing family begs this of you, loving Virgin, in their exile from Paradise. Abraham begs it, David begs it. All the other holy patriarchs, your ancestors, ask it of you, as they dwell in the country of the shadow of death. This is what the whole earth waits for, prostrate at your feet. It is right in doing so, for on your word depends comfort for the wretched, ransom for the captive, freedom for the condemned, indeed, salvation for all the sons of Adam, the whole of your race.

Answer quickly, O Virgin. Reply in haste to the angel, or rather through the angel to the Lord. Answer with a word, receive the Word of God. Speak your own word, conceive the divine Word. Breathe a passing word, embrace the eternal Word.

Why do you delay, why are you afraid? Believe, give praise, and receive. Let humility be bold, let modesty be confident. This is no time for virginal simplicity to forget prudence. In this matter alone, prudent Virgin, do not fear to be presumptuous. Modest silence is pleasing, but dutiful speech is now more necessary. Open your heart to faith, O blessed Virgin, your lips to praise, your womb to the Creator. See, the desired of all nations is at your door, knocking to enter. If he should pass by because of your delay, in sorrow you would begin to seek him afresh, the One whom your soul loves. Arise, hasten, open. Arise in faith, hasten in devotion, open in praise and thanksgiving. *Behold the handmaid of the Lord*, she says, *be it done to me according to your word*.

Father God, look upon us with love,  
and fill us with your Holy Spirit.

Help us to love you more and more,  
and keep us safe during this week,

as we look forward to the coming of Jesus,  
your Son and our Lord, for ever and ever. Amen.

## 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.**



**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.

**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.

**Christmas Offerings** Your donations on Christmas Eve/Day are, by tradition, your gift to your Parish Priest.

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

### **& Nationally**

**Act now** The assisted suicide lobby have launched a campaign to put pressure on the Government to change the legalisation of assisted suicide. It is vital that it is clear to the Government that the public want them to continue to hold strong against this pressure from assisted suicide campaigners and reject their demands. Right To Life UK have set up an easy to use tool for you to email MPs asking them to oppose any moves to assisted suicide at <https://righttolife.org.uk/StopAssistedSuicide>: *it only takes 30 seconds using the link.*



Come Lord, your wounded world is  
yearning for you to come again.  
Come Lord, your weary world is crying out  
for you to lift us up,  
out of our despair, our hunger,  
our thirst for something better,  
our need for the food that will last.  
Come Lord, come again,  
we need to begin again.  
*Sue Allerton/CAFOD*

**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

|                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Offertory Monies</b> | <b>Many Thanks</b> |
| 30 Nov - 6 Dec.         |                    |
| Loose                   | £ 122.80           |
| Envelopes               | £ 938.00           |
| Nov Bank Orders         | £1701.00           |
| Donation                | £1000.00           |

## 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)

....“And now don't you love Uncle George with all your heart and soul, mind and strength?” And we, loathing the monster, say, ‘Yes I do,’ because to say

anything else would be to join the queue at the furnace. At a tender age religious schizophrenia has set in and we keep telling Uncle George how much we love him and how good he is and that we want to do only what

pleases him. We observe what we are told are his wishes and dare not admit, even to ourselves, that we loathe him.

Uncle George is a caricature, but a caricature of a truth, the truth we can construct a God who is an image of our tyrannical selves. Hell-fire sermons are out of fashion, but they were in fashion a few decades ago and they may well come in again. Such sermons have a great appeal to certain unhealthy types of mind, but they cause havoc with the more healthy and sensitive.

Our notion of God is mediated to us through parents, teachers and clergy. We do not come to know God directly. If our experience of parents and teachers has been of dominating people who show little affection or respect for us as persons, but value us only in so far as we conform to their expectations, then this experience is bound to affect our notion of God and will influence the way we relate to him. Our notion of God is not only inadequate; it may also be distorted. Intellectually, I may know that God is not like Uncle George, but it is about my feelings about God which determine how I approach him, and they do not change as easily as my ideas. Uncle George is not easily exorcised from my emotions and, although I may know in my mind that God is not like that, I may still experience a strong disinclination to approach him, without knowing why, and find a thousand reasons for not praying –I am too busy, I prefer to find him through my work, etc. We have to pray constantly to be rid of false notions of God, and we have to beg him to teach us who he is, for no one else can. ‘God is known by God alone,’ as one of the early writers of the Church said. What we are praying for is not merely and intellectual knowledge, but a felt knowledge which effects our whole being and therefore affects the way we are ourselves, other people and the world around us. This felt knowledge of God changes the patterns of our thinking and therefore of acting, breaks open the cocoon of our minds and hearts and liberates us from the constrictions which our upbringing and present environment are imposing on us.

*To be continued . . .*

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



Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

## But seriously

### DO YOU KNOW?

The ‘O’ Antiphons, used at Evening Prayer of the Church and Mass from 17 to 23 December, give the following titles to our Messiah:

- O Wisdom - O Adonai (Lord) -
- O Root of Jesse - O Key of David -
- O Dayspring - O King of the Nations -
- O Emmanuel (God with us).

*The very first to greet the Infant Christ, according to St Luke, were representatives of the sinful and woe-betide, namely the shepherds. Why were shepherds then generally considered to be a bad lot?*

### AND SERIOUSLY!

What athlete is warmest in winter?  
A long jumper!



What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck?  
A Christmas Quacker!

**Please Keep  
in Prayer**

All whose **Anniversaries** occur about this time  
All who have **died recently**  
especially Bernard Conway, Victor France,  
and their families



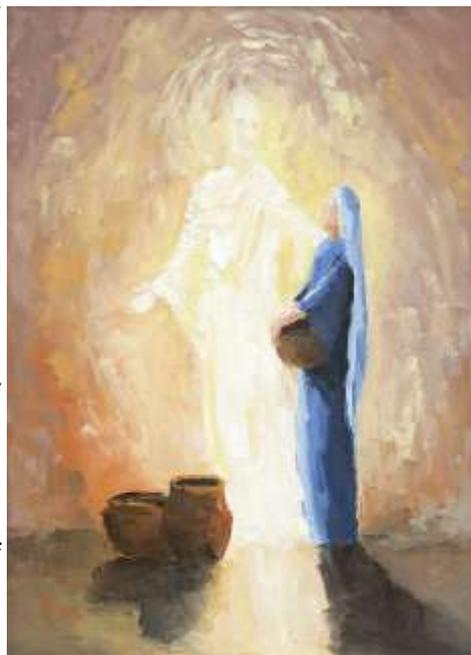
*Also:* All those **sick** or **infirm**, especially:

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 4, Commentary**

**Gospel: Luke 1:26-38**

As we prepare for the birth of Jesus, the final Sunday of Advent always focuses on Mary. What was the young girl Mary doing when the message came? Kneeling in prayer? Feeding the sheep? Fetching water? Sweeping the mud floor? What was she thinking? Engaged to be married, surely about her approaching wedding to Joseph and about the children she would mother. Then came the message which she could accept or refuse, the message on which hung the future of the world: her child would be different from all others. How 'different'? Her thoughts were turned back to the promise to David. It had been read to her so often in the Bible, and now the words echoed in her mind as she listened to the angel say, 'His reign will have no end'. This would all be the work of the Spirit which she had so often heard about in Isaiah: 'the Holy Spirit will come upon you', the Spirit which was to come upon the Servant of the Lord, the Spirit of Emmanuel, 'God with us'. Her young body was to grow, nourish and develop this child. Then she would have the child in her arms to cherish and shape as both Son of God and her own son.



**First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5**

At the height of his powers King David wants to thank God for his lavish favours by building him a house. No human being patronises God, and David was not allowed to build the Temple. But God replies with the promise that he will build David a House. In one sense David's House crashed into ruins when the last king of Judah was blinded and taken off into exile in Babylon. But the promise of an eternal kingship still stands. It is fulfilled in the eternal kingship of the Son

of David who is also Mary's Son, and this fulfilment begins at the Annunciation. This is why so many phrases from the prophet Nathan's promise are echoed in the annunciation of the angel to Mary. 'Your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever', says Nathan. 'He will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end', says the angel.

**Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27**

This reading gives the final cry of excitement and triumph at the end of Paul's great letter to the Christians of Rome. His task is to reveal to the nations (not just to the Jews) God's secret plan, which has been brewing all through human history and now comes to its climax in Christ. God has offered his friendship and his divine wisdom in Christ. Human beings respond with the obedience of 'faith', a keyword of the letter: we need only trust God's promises for all our weakness to be buried under God's glory. Ultimately, all we need do in this 'obedience of faith' is simply hang on by our finger-tips, accepting God's promised help. Our celebration of Christmas is not just of a baby born at Bethlehem. It is of the climax of God's plan for the world, the keystone of history. So we do not merely look back on it as a great event. Christians must see it as the anchor of God's design for the whole of history and for the course of each day.

*Courtesy of 'The Wednesday Word Trust'*

**The Word: Year B, Feast of the Holy Family**

1st Reading: Genesis 15:1-6,21:1-3  
2nd Reading: Hebrews 11:8,11,12,17-19  
Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

**Prayer of the Church**

**Psalter Week 4** (to Thursday am)

**Sun** Seasonal Proper

**Mon** Seasonal Proper

**Tue** Seasonal Proper

**Wed** Seasonal Proper

**Thu** Seasonal Proper (am) / Of Christmas Eve (pm)

**Fri** Of Christmas Day

**Sat** Of Feast: St Stephen (am) / Holy Family (pm)

**This Week's Feasts & Saints**

**Mon** Of Advent

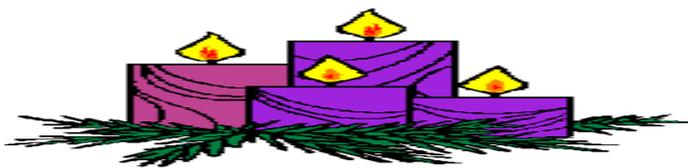
**Tue** Of Advent

**Wed** Of Advent

**Thu** Of Advent (am) / **Christmas Eve** (pm)

**Fri** **Christmas Day**

**Sat** St Stephen, First Martyr



### Gathering Verse

O Wisdom,  
you come forth from the mouth of the Most High.  
You fill the universe and hold all things together  
in a strong yet gentle manner.  
O come to teach us the way of truth.

O Adonai and leader of Israel,  
you appeared to Moses in a burning bush  
and you gave him the Law on Sinai.  
O come and save us with your mighty power.

O stock of Jesse,  
you stand as a signal for the nations;  
kings fall silent before you whom  
the peoples acclaim.  
O come to deliver us, and do not delay.

O key of David and sceptre of Israel,  
what you open no one else can close again;  
what you close, no one can open.  
O come and lead the captive from prison;  
free those who sit in darkness  
and in the shadow of death.

O Rising Sun,  
you are the splendour of eternal light  
and the sun of justice.  
O come and enlighten those who sit in darkness  
and in the shadow of death.

O King whom all the peoples desire,  
you are the cornerstone which makes all one.  
O come and save man, whom you made from clay.

O Emmanuel,  
you are our king and our judge,  
the One whom the peoples await and their Saviour.  
O come and save us, Lord our God.

### First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them

as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me; if he does evil, I will punish him with the rod such as men use, with strokes such as mankind gives. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

### Responsorial Psalm

I will sing forever of your love, O Lord;  
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.  
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,  
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn to David my servant:  
I will establish your dynasty for ever  
and set up your throne through all ages.'

He will say to me: 'You are my father,  
my God, the rock who saves me.'  
I will keep my love for him always;  
for him my covenant shall endure.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

### Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the handmaid of the Lord:  
let what you have said be done to me.  
Alleluia!

*Mass continues over page . . .*



**Gospel: Luke 1:26-38**

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

**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**

Like a sea without a shore  
love divine is boundless.  
God is now and evermore  
and his love surrounds us.  
*Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus, come!*

So that we could all be free  
he appeared among us,  
blest are those who have not seen,  
yet believe His promise.  
*Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus, come!*

All our visions, all our dreams,  
are but ghostly shadows  
of the radiant clarity  
waiting at life's close.  
*Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus, come!*

Death where is your victory?  
Death where is your sting?  
Closer than the air we breathe  
is our risen King.  
*Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus, come!*  
*Estelle White (1926-2011)*

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**Saint of the Week**

Isaiah

We usually refer to the Old Testament prophets as prophets, but our Church would also consider them to be saints. During Advent, we use many sections from the prophecies of Isaiah, in our Masses.

Within the Book of Isaiah, Isaiah is referred to as **'the prophet'**, but the relationship of the Book of Isaiah to the historical person is complicated. One view is that the whole Book was written by one man, Isaiah, possibly in two periods, between 740 and 686 BC, separated by approximately 15 years, but that it also includes prophetic declarations of Emperor Cyrus the Great, when acting to restore the nation of Israel from their captivity in Babylon. Another widely held view is that parts of the first

half of the book (chapters 1-39) originated with the historical prophet, but herein also includes some commentaries written about a hundred years later. This theory holds that the rest of the book dates from just before and after the end of the exile in **Babylon, about 200 years after Isaiah's death.**

The first verse of his Book states that Isaiah prophesied during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. Uzziah reigned for 52 years in the middle of the 8th century BC, and Isaiah must have begun his ministry a few years before Uzziah's death, perhaps in the 740s. Isaiah lived until the fourteenth year of the reign of Hezekiah (who died 698 BC). So Isaiah may have prophesied for as long as 64 years.