



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, Feast of the Holy Family, 26/27 December 2020

Getting in touch Father Anthony G Fenton
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Parish Website www.hemsthorpe.org.uk

		<i>FB - Parish Facebook live-stream</i>	Mass Intentions
Saturday 26 December	St Joseph's	10.00am Mass	Janice Coyle
Sunday 27 December	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass FB	Billy Hodgson Joseph Sankey
Monday 28 December	St Joseph's	9.30am Mass	Decd Czajko, Tickle, Woodall Families
Tuesday 29 December			
Wednesday 30 December	Sacred Heart	9.30am Mass	Derek, Mark, Christopher Jones
Thursday 31 December	Sacred Heart	9.30am Funeral Mass *	Bernard Conway
New Year Day 1 January	Sacred Heart	9.30am Mass	Potencianna L Gabriola Mr & Mrs Paul & Kath Stuart
Saturday 2 January	Sacred Heart	5.00pm Mass	Mark Keefe
Sunday 3 January	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass FB	Paul Chadwick Andrew Tyrrell

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 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**



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

The following is from an address given by Pope Pius VI, when he visited Nazareth

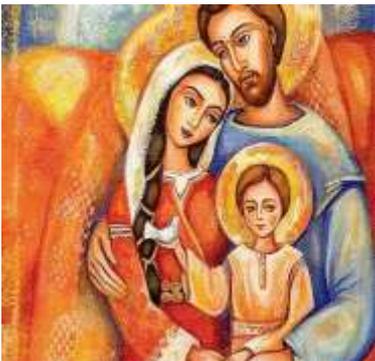
The home of Nazareth is the school where we begin to understand the life of Jesus: the school of the Gospel.

The first lesson we learn here is to look, to listen, to meditate and penetrate the meaning - at once so deep and so mysterious - of this very simple, very humble and very beautiful manifestation of the Son of God. Perhaps we here learn, too, the lesson of imitation.

Here we learn the method which will permit us to understand who Christ is. Here above all is made clear the importance of taking into account the general picture of his life among us, with its varied background of place, of time, of customs, language, religious practices - in fact, everything Jesus made use of to reveal himself to the world. Here everything is eloquent, all has a meaning.

In this school, we learn why it is necessary to have a spiritual rule of life, so as to follow the teaching of the Gospel and be disciples of Christ.

There is, also, a lesson of silence. May esteem for silence, that admirable and indispensable condition of mind, revive in us - besieged as we are by so many uplifted voices, the general noise and uproar, in our seething and over-sensitized modern life. May the silence of Nazareth teach us recollection, inwardness, the disposition to listen to good inspirations and the teachings of true masters. May it teach us the need for and the value of preparation, of study, of meditation, of personal inner life, of the prayer which God alone sees in secret.



There is a lesson on family life. May Nazareth teach us what family life is, its communion of love, its austere and simple beauty, and its sacred and inviolable character. Let us learn from Nazareth that the formation received

at home is gentle and irreplaceable. Let us learn the prime importance of the role of the family in the social order.

Finally, there is a lesson of work. Nazareth, home of the 'Carpenter's Son', in you I would choose to understand and proclaim the severe and redeeming law of human work; here I would restore the awareness of the nobility of work; and reaffirm that work cannot be an end in itself, but that its freedom and its excellence derive, over and above its economic worth, from the value of those for whose sake it is undertaken. And here at Nazareth, to conclude, I want to greet all the workers of the world, holding up to them their great pattern, their brother who is God. He is the prophet of all their just causes, Christ our Lord.

Things happening in our Parish



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 should be returned to him by the first weekend in January.

Mass Bookings via Eventbrite Many now book for our Masses via the Eventbrite website. Bookings may be made as a 'Guest'. However, those who have an account (no cost) can extend their use of the site. To create an account, click on 'Sign in' at the top right of the home page. Then follow a usual type of procedure for creating an account. Once you have an account and sign in, you can click on your account name and find the pop-down menu. If you click on 'tickets' you will be able to see what Masses you have already booked for, and add, change or cancel your bookings.

Our Lent-Advent Project has now closed. The total of monies raised should be in our Newsletter next week. Here a quick thank you to all who contributed.

Fr Anthony says

Many thanks to all who have given so much, through 2020. While so many things have not happened, such as a lot of social and fund raising events, we have adapted as best we could and done what could be done. For such as Masses and some Sacramental Preparations to continue, we have depended on the help of many. This last year, our Stewards, and others who have helped clean/sanitise after Masses, have had a special importance. A lot more essential stuff, from general cleaning and grounds-works to paper-work, and much else, has also been done. Very many have been involved and Parishioners owe each other a word of thanks - but here I wish to express my deep thanks to all who have given so freely and generously of their time.

I also add a big thank you to all who have contributed financially. So many, for instance, have continued with their bank orders or continued with their envelopes during lock-downs, and a number of 'one-off' donations have been made to help counteract other losses of income, as well as towards our much improved Hall and Entrance lights at our Sacred Heart site.

I also much thank our Parish Family

for your generous Christmas greetings, offerings and gifts. They are all very much appreciated!

No doubt even the more hardy have, by now, had enough of Covid-19, We certainly pray for an end to its extensive effects sooner, rather than later. So my prayer for all of you continues, and just now, especially that physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually, for each of you and all who belong to you, 2021 will develop into being a good and happy year, full of well-being. Nor do I forget those who have experienced the death of ones close to them, from whatever cause.

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.

But seriously

DO YOU KNOW?

St Luke's shepherds, who visited the Infant Jesus, were not sheep owners, but hired shepherds. Such shepherds were viewed with much distrust, as they could easily disappear a sheep or two for themselves, saying that a thief or wild animal had taken the sheep. At lambing time, many believed that if a sheep had two lambs, hired shepherds would again disappear one and claim only one had been born. So they were generally considered to be liars and thieves (as well as being otherwise rough in character and language).

It was believed by many Jews, and was therefore important to them, that the Messiah would be born of the royal line of David. From whom did Jesus receive this lineage?

AND SERIOUSLY!

A farmer finds all his cows frozen in the snow. He prays for help and a woman appears. She waves her arms and

they immediately defrost.

"O, thank you," says the farmer, "are you an angel?"

"No," she said, I'm Thaw-ra Herd.



Parish Monies

Offertory Monies	Many Thanks
7-13 Dec.	
Loose	£ 68.70
Envelopes	£544.50
Christmas Card	£268.50
Advent Project	£ 34.50

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)

Uncle George is a caricature of a false notion of God, but there are many others. We may get rid of Uncle George and put in his place a Santa Clause notion of God, a benevolent figure who enters our life occasionally to give us presents. He is nice to have around as everything is going well, but when disaster strikes we give up believing in him. Santa Clause is closer to God, who is love, than Uncle George, but bears little relation to the God of Scripture who 'counts the very hairs of our heads' and who 'created my inmost self and put me together in my mother's womb.'

The particular image we have of God will depend very much on the nature of our upbringing and how we have reacted to it, because our ideas and our felt knowledge derive from our experience. If our experience has taught us to think of God as a policeman-like figure, whose predominant interest is in our faults, and if our encounters with him have been mostly in cold churches, where we were bored out of our minds with barely audible services and sermons presenting God as he who disapproves of most of the things we like, then we are not likely to want to turn to him, no matter how many people may tell us that prayer is necessary.

To become aware that we have a distorted notion of God is to have made progress on our journey towards him. As the journey continues, we shall discover other distortions of which we were not aware. Such discoveries can be very painful at first, but it is like the pain we feel when our limbs are at last free after being constricted it is the pain of freedom. The journey to God is a journey of discovery and it is full of surprises. Here is an example of someone who discovered, through prayer, his own distorted notion of God.

'Fred' was considered a model Christian. He was young, married and, in addition to his professional work, he belonged to several voluntary bodies, took an intelligent interest in theology, lived a very simple life-style, rarely dining out or going to films or theatre, and he and his wife spent most of their holiday time at conferences. On one of his holidays he came to make an individually given retreat. I encouraged him to pray by using his imagination on scenes from the Gospel, entering the scene as though it were now happening and himself a participant. At the ends of each day he would tell me his experience. He had imagined the marriage feast at Cana. He had seen tables heaped with food beneath blue sky. Guests were dancing in a scene of great merriment. 'Did you see Christ?' 'Yes', he said. 'Christ was sitting upright on a straight-backed chair, clothed in a white robe, a staff in hand, a crown of thorns on his head, looking disapproving.....'



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 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, Feast of The Holy Family, Commentary

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

The story of the Presentation of the child Jesus in the Temple is dominated by Simeon's welcome, 'a light to enlighten the gentiles and the glory of your people Israel', and by his warning to Mary, 'a sword will pierce your heart'. Simeon reiterates the angel's promise that the child would fulfil the destiny of Israel and Israel's task to the nations. Much like any family life, the promised future included the delights of the growing, developing child, and the background fear that the great destiny of each child may include sorrow and even heart-break. How much did Mary and Joseph know about the precious child they were nurturing? As he grew to independence did he become more loving and supportive? How did his contemporaries find him? Was he a leader? Did he stand out from the pack?



Each of us has a private picture of Jesus - the child, the boy, the adolescent, the young man. All we know for sure is that 'the child grew to maturity', and that Mary 'pondered all these things in her heart', while keeping in mind Simeon's welcome and warning.

First Reading: Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6,12-14

The Book of Ecclesiasticus is a collection of wise instructions on how to behave in accordance with the Law. The author must have been an expert in the Law, living in Jerusalem. He sees the Law not as a tiresome set of rules to be obeyed, but as God's loving gift to his People, to show them how they should act to keep close to God. The Law is therefore to be treasured, a guide of inestimable value. The reading for today is a meditation and expansion on the commandment, 'Honour your father and your mother', explaining just how this should be put into practice. What was Jesus like as a baby? Did he cry? He must have done, to make his baby feelings known. Did he bawl and howl? Did he cry when he

scraped the skin off his knees? Did he fall out of trees and break his arm? Did he make mistakes? Did he play pranks? He must have made jokes. He must have been a wonderful joy to his parents, loving, delightful company, full of the devastatingly simple wisdom of children. And they must have been loving, wonderful company for him too, an anchor of affection and security.

Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-21

In an incredibly short space the Letter to the Colossians gives a whole series of instructions on living in community: compassion, forgiveness, love and peace – not to mention gratitude. Love is a sort of overcoat, holding all the other qualities together. If we reflect on these values and put them into practice there can be no rivalry or hostility in the Christian community – even within a family, where the strains of Christmas often make love grow thin. A loving family is the model for the different relationships of a loving Christian community. God's fatherhood and motherhood is the model for human parentage, and Christ's devotion to his body the Church is the model for the devotion of spouses to one another. Today's second reading begins with an inspiring reminder that we form the chosen people of God; God's choice leaves us little alternative but to behave as God's people. The paragraph ends with the counsel to do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus. Christians are those over whom the name of the Lord Jesus has been uttered, making us members of his company and putting us under his power. This is the challenge for us, really to act as God's people.

Courtesy of 'The Wednesday Word Trust'

The Word: Year B, Christmas, Sunday 2

1st Reading: Sirach 24:1-4
2nd Reading: Ephesians 3:1-6
Gospel: John 1:1-18

Prayer of the Church

Psalter Of Christmas Day (to Friday)

- Sun** Proper of Feast
- Mon** Proper of Feast
- Tue** Proper of Feast
- Wed** Seasonal Proper
- Thu** Seasonal Proper
- Fri** Proper of Feast
- Sat** Week 1 + Seasonal Proper

This Week's Feasts & Saints

- Mon** Holy Innocents, Martyrs
- Tue** St Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr
- Wed** Of Christmas, Day 6
- Thu** Of Christmas, Day 7
- Fri** **Feast of Mary, Mother of God**
- Sat** Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen,
Bishops & Doctors of Church



Gathering Verse

See amid the winter's snow,
Born for us on earth below,
See, the tender Lamb appears,
Promised from eternal years.

*Hail, thou ever blessed morn,
Hail, redemption's happy dawn,
Sing through all Jerusalem:
Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

Lo, within a manger lies
He who built the starry skies;
He who, throned in height sublime,
Sits amid the cherubim.

Hail, thou ever . . .

Say, ye holy shepherds say,
What your joyful news today?
Wherefore have ye left your sheep
On the lonely mountain steep?

Hail, thou ever . . .

As we watched at dead of night,
Lo, we saw a wondrous sight;
Angels singing "Peace on Earth"
Told us of our Saviour's birth.

Hail, thou ever . . .

Sacred infant, all divine,
What a tender love was thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss
Down to such a world as this.

Hail, thou ever . . .

Teach, O teach us, holy Child,
By thy face so meek and mild,
Teach us to resemble thee
In thy sweet humility.

First Reading: Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6,12-14

The Lord honours the father in his children,
and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons.
Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins,
he who honours his mother is like someone
amassing a fortune.
Whoever respects his father will be happy with
children of his own,
he shall be heard on the day when he prays.
Long life comes to him who honours his father,
he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience
to the Lord.

My son, support your father in his old age,

do not grieve him during his life.

Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy,
do not despise him in your health and strength;
for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten
but will serve as reparation for your sins.

Responsorial Psalm

R He, the Lord, is our God.

He remembers his covenant for ever.

Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
O sing to him, sing his praise;
tell all his wonderful works!

Be proud of his holy name,
let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.
Consider the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face.

Remember the wonders he has done,
his miracles, the judgements he spoke.
O children of Abraham, his servant,
O sons of the Jacob he chose.

He remembers his covenant for ever,
his promise for a thousand generations,
The covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath he swore to Isaac.

R. He the Lord, is our God.

He remembers his covenant for ever.

Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-21

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you,
and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in
kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear
with one another; forgive each other as soon as a
quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you
must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep
them together and complete them, put on love. And
may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because
it is for this that you were called together as parts of
one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a
home with you. Teach each other, and advise each
other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing
psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and
never say or do anything except in the name of the
Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through
him.

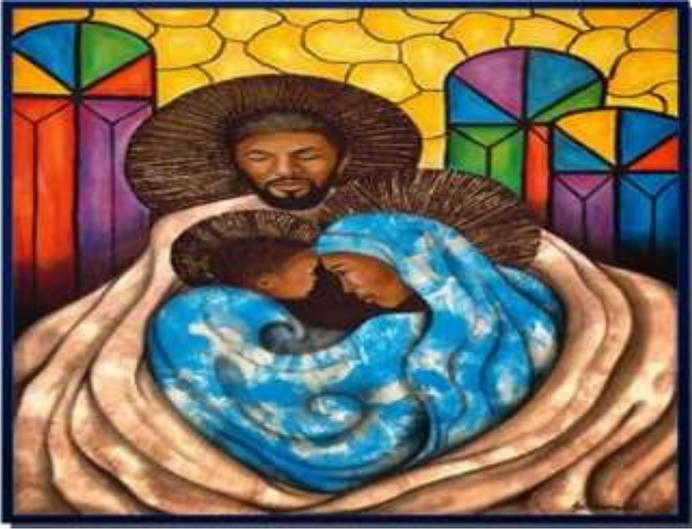
Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should
in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat
them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your
parents always, because that is what will please the
Lord. Parents, never drive your children to
resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts;
Let the message of Christ find a home in you.
Alleluia!

Mass continues over page . . .



Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: *Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord* – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own

town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

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.

Communion Verse

In the bleak midwinter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him,
Nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When he comes to reign;
In the bleak midwinter, a stable place sufficed
The Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom Cherubim
Worship night and day
A breast full of milk
And a manger full of hay.
Enough for him, whom angels fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel, which adore.

Angels and archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air;
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the Beloved, with a kiss.

What can I give him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wise man, I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give Him - give my heart.

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