



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 Baptism of Our Lord, 9/10 January 2021

Getting in touch Father Anthony G Fenton
The Sacred Heart Presbytery
Market Street, Hemsworth,
Pontefract, WF9 4LB

Email anthony.fenton@dioceseofleeds.org.uk
pp.sacredheartstjoseph@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

Tel 01977-610733

Parish Website www.hemsthorpe.org.uk

		<i>FB - Parish Facebook live-stream</i>	<i>Mass Intentions</i>
Saturday 9 January	Sacred Heart	5.00pm Mass	<i>George Andrusko</i>
Sunday 10 January	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass FB	<i>Audrey Daley Terry Quinn</i>
Monday 11 January	St Joseph's	9.30am Mass	<i>Mary Gallagher</i>
Tuesday 12 January			<i>Michael Sullivan</i>
Wednesday 13 January	Sacred Heart	9.30am Mass	<i>Barbara O'Donnell</i>
Thursday 14 January	St Joseph's	9.30am Mass	<i>Vic France</i>
Friday 15 January			<i>Parish Family</i>
Saturday 16 January	Sacred Heart	5.00pm Mass	<i>Pat Attwood</i>
Sunday 17 January	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass FB	<i>Tony Austin Ronnie, Mary & Andrew Clarkson</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.



Let us all continue to pray for a speedy end to Covid-19 and the well-being of each and all.
Almighty and eternal God, our refuge in every danger, to whom we turn in our distress; in faith, we pray, look with compassion on the afflicted, grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners, healing to the sick, peace to the dying, strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders and the courage to reach out to all in love, so that together, we may give glory to your holy name.

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

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

From Fr Anthony

*From a Sermon of
St Proclus of Constantinople (adapted).*

Christ appeared in the world, and, bringing beauty out of disarray, gave it lustre and joy. He bore the world's sin and crushed the world's enemy. He sanctified the fountains of waters and enlightened the minds of men. Into the fabric of miracles he interwove ever greater miracles.

For on this day land and sea share between them the grace of the Saviour, and the whole world is filled with joy. The feast of the Baptism of our Lord manifests even more wonders than the feast of Christmas.

On the feast of the Saviour's birth, the earth rejoiced because it bore the Lord in a manger; but on today's feast of his Baptism it is the sea that is glad and leaps for joy; the sea is glad because it receives the blessing of holiness in the river Jordan.

At Christmas we saw a weak baby, giving proof of our weakness. In today's feast, we see a perfect man, hinting at the perfect Son who comes from the all-perfect Father. At Christmas, the King puts on the royal robe of his body; at the Baptism the very source enfolds and, as it were, clothes the river.

Come then and see new and astounding miracles: the Sun of righteousness washing in the Jordan, fire immersed in water, God seen in his holiness by the ministry of man.

Today every creature shouts in resounding song: *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.* Blessed is he who comes in every age, for this is not his first coming.

And who is he? Tell us more clearly, I beg you, blessed David: *The Lord is God and has shone upon us.* David is not alone in prophesying this; the apostle Paul adds his own witness, saying: *The grace of God has appeared bringing salvation for all men, and instructing us.* Not for some men, but *for all.* To Jews and Greeks alike God bestows salvation through baptism, offering baptism as a common grace for all.



Come, consider this new and wonderful deluge, greater and more important than the flood of Noah's day. Then the water of the flood destroyed the human race, but now the water of baptism has recalled the dead to life by the power of the one who was baptized. In the days of the flood the dove with an olive branch in its beak foreshadowed the fragrance of the good odour of Christ the Lord; now the Holy Spirit, coming in the likeness of a dove, reveals the Lord of mercy.

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. If any are eligible but their parents have not returned an application form (can be got from Fr Anthony), their application needs to be returned urgently.



During Lockdown *Presently* any wishing to marry may do so only under exceptional circumstances (eg if one of the couple has a terminal illness). Otherwise, regulations for Churches are mostly as they have been since early December - 30 mourners maximum for funerals, numbers at Masses measured by 1mtr+ distancing - Baptisms and Receptions of Deceased possible, but with limitations (for details relating to our own Parish and Churches, please consult Fr Anthony). Fr Anthony will continue to seek to update, as and when regulations alter. Details as given by Government can be found at www.gov.uk/coronavirus,

Any Questions? A cradle Catholic, who had attended Catholic Schools, asked a question that a priest might expect any such Catholic to know the answer to. The one asking also thought they should have known. Asking a few other people, the priest learned that some other cradle Catholics did not know the answer. They certainly didn't remember their Primary School telling them. Thus began 'Do You Know' in our Newsletter.

While our Parish Newsletter isn't a book and so can't address complicated or long questions of religion, if any have little questions about - our Bible, Church, Liturgy . . . other Catholic stuff - you can be sure others would like to know the answers, too. If you would like such questions put in our Newsletter, let Fr Anthony know, and he will do his best to find/give answers (but no guarantees given). If you can, please write the question/s down - it's up to you whether you give your name. If you have answers to such questions, but think others would benefit, again let Fr Anthony know.

Remember: asking a question is never silly - only not asking might prove silly.

Please do be sure when you leave Church, to take with you all that you brought, but also any papers that you have used, such as Newsletters and Readings' sheets.

Diocesan Directories (Year Book). A couple of copies are now available for purchase, at both of our Churches, at £4 per copy.

Catholic News Each week we have a handful of copies of the Catholic Universe (now incorporating the Catholic Times, also), at £2.40 per copy. If you're not familiar with the same, you might like to purchase a copy, to see if you would like to buy a copy regularly.

It's totally OK, if you wish to purchase something from the little shop, in the entrance at St Joseph's, or in the Hall at Sacred Heart, to do so. You should also there find a box, in which you can put the money for items bought.

*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. If any have not yet returned their application form, they need to do so urgently.

First Reconciliation Next Preparation Meeting, at Sacred Heart, **Sat 23 Jan**,

Children: in the Hall, 10.00-11.15am

Parents: in the Church, 10.00-10.15am

If we need to meet on-line, instead, parents should receive notice of this, with an allocated 45min time slot that will be between 10.00-11.30am.

Fr Anthony will contact our families soon, by email, about arranging the times for the Children to celebrate their First Reconciliation, set to occur on a date after the 23 Jan meeting.

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

But seriously

DO YOU KNOW?

Jewish priests only married within priestly families, to ensure the purity of the line of priests. We know Zechariah, father of John the Baptist, was a priest, and so we can assume that his wife, Elizabeth, was of a priestly family. As Jesus's mother, Mary, was a cousin of Elizabeth, we can assume that Mary, too, was of a priestly family, thus making Jesus of a priestly family.

Did Jesus actually ever undertake the work of a priest?

AND SERIOUSLY!

Q. Why are Christmas trees so bad at knitting?

A. They have too many needles.



Q. What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

A. Ice Crispies.

Parish Monies

Offertory Monies **Many Thanks**
21-27 Dec.

Loose	£ 21.10
Envelopes	£322.00
Tyrrell Funeral	£125.00

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)

If the 'oughts' of childhood, given to us by others, have become a permanent and accepted part of our thinking; take for example, the child for whom its parents have great hopes and they are constantly urging the child to do better. 'Only the best is good enough for our family,' perhaps reinforced with, 'only the best is good enough for God.' The child struggles and fails, but failure is intolerable because it incurs the wrath of Mum and Dad, and, if God has been introduced, his wrath too descends on the child. The child, like any child, has a desperate need of affection and security, which are as important for its survival as food and shelter. The child struggles on. Winning Mum's approval becomes the object of its existence. Eventually, if Mum is strong enough and the child is too weak to enter the critical stage of its development, it will become a model child in Mum's eyes. She will revel in the child's success, docility and regard for her. The child will assimilate to itself mother's ambitions, and long after Mother's death, her ambition will remain goading the child on through its life. The child's own personality has never had a chance to grow and so it will live a driven, frustrated, anxious life, but



without knowing the reason. The reason is that the child's own ego has never had the chance to grow. It will never find freedom until liberated from this tyrannical super-ego. Without that liberation the child, now an adult, will live striving to attain an ideal which tortures and wears out both physically and mentally, because the ideal is alien to it.

In Christianity, emphasis on the institutional element, especially if it includes a heavy dose of moral teaching imposed with threats of eternal damnation for non-observance and excludes the critical and mystical, can have the same effect on its members as the ambitious mother on her child. Christianity imposed in this way will develop a tyrannical religious super-ego in its members, stifling the individual personality, depriving them of inner freedom and leading them into a state of Christian neurosis. Christ's yoke, instead of being easy and light as he promised, becomes a painful burden which buries us under its weight of anxiety and guilt.

This phenomenon of the super-ego is not something to be found only in psychiatrist's clients. It is in all of us, a good and necessary element in our growth, especially in infancy, but if we are to develop as human beings we have to learn to shed the super-ego. We cannot love and serve God with all our heart and mind and soul and strength if we have not yet found a mind and heart of our own.

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**
Terence Michael Cawthorne, and his family



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

Br Hilarion Durkin, Margaret Hinchliffe, Isabelle Blake, Elizabeth Olbison, Catherine Brown, Karen Dearing
George Potts, Cynthia Potts, 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 Baptism of Our Lord, Jesus Christ: Commentary

Gospel: Mark: 1:7-11

What can Jesus have experienced at his baptism? It is described as 'the heavens torn apart', a voice, and the Spirit coming down like a dove. It must have given him the experience of being treasured, being embraced by the Person whom he called 'Father'. But he is given a task too, for the Spirit of God is an empowering Spirit. It must have felt like a new impetus, a thrill of challenge, a surge of energy and opportunity, an exciting new task. In this new Spirit he went out to bring the good news of peace, gradually gathering his community and spreading God's healing love by his personality, his teaching and his healing. This is the power which baptism has given to us also, to bring God's healing and God's love, to build a community of love which reflects and extends God's own love. Jesus must have been daunted by the task. He knew it would test him to the limit of his endurance, but he knew he had received the Power of God, and put his trust in his Father. He never promised us at baptism that it would be easy to live as Christians, but he did promise us that he would give us the surge of strength and power which is the Holy Spirit.



First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-11

The reading from Isaiah is positively bursting with ideas which prepare us for today's festival. To begin with, Isaiah proclaims the invitation to the rich messianic banquet. Perhaps we have had enough of rich food for the moment! But the picture of the Israelite relaxedly quaffing wine under his fig tree was an important part of the expectation of the kingdom of God. Perhaps the social aspects of the banquet are more important in Jesus' frequent teaching about the banquet, and especially the warmth of the host and the company of the saints. But at Cana he does change the water into huge quantities of wine! Secondly, there is the aspect of witness. The son of

David is a witness, calling to God the nations that do not know him. By our baptism we too are constituted witnesses for the world, accomplices of the word of God. But witnesses to what? The last part of the reading centres on the forgiveness of God, for God is nothing if not a forgiving God, and the covenant nothing if not a covenant of forgiveness. The baptism of John, which Jesus himself underwent, is an invitation to change our ways and return to God.

Second Reading: 1John 5:1-9

This is our first reading from the attractive First Letter of John, mostly about love. It is usually read during the Easter season, but the Church reads it during today's Feast to emphasise the mutual love of Father and Son, so fully expressed in the Baptism – 'with you I am well pleased'. By our own baptism we share in this love. But, as with all love, there is a price to pay, not only in obedience to God's commandments. This love is a victory, a love which conquers the world. How it conquers the world is hinted by the mysterious reference that Jesus 'came by water and blood'. With John there are always multiple layers of meaning. Does he mean the water and blood which flowed from Jesus' side as he was pierced by the soldier's spear on the Cross? Or is it – and this understanding lies deep in the tradition of the Church – that the water symbolizes baptism and the blood symbolizes the Eucharist? The sacraments flow from the side of Christ as he breathes forth, or gives over, his Spirit to the new community gathered beneath his cross – his Mother and the Beloved Disciple, the representatives of the Church. It is by the water and the blood that we meet Christ in these two fundamental sacraments.

Courtesy of 'The Wednesday Word Trust'

The Word: Year B, Ordinary Time, Sunday 2

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 3:3-10,19
2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:13-15,17-20
Gospel: John 1:35-42

Prayer of the Church

Psalter Of Week 1

Sun Proper of Feast
Mon Of the week
Tue Of the week (or + Common Holy Men/Women)
Wed Of the week (or + Common Pastors or Doctors)
Thu Of the week
Fri Of the week
Sat Of the week

This Week's Feasts & Saints

Mon Of weekday
Tue St Aelred of Rievaulx, Abbot
Wed St Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of Church
Thu Of weekday
Fri Of weekday
Sat Of weekday

Gathering Verse

Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom my soul delights.
I have endowed him with my spirit
that he may bring true justice to the nations.
He does not break the crushed reed,
nor quench the wavering flame.

Faithfully he brings true justice;
he will neither waver, nor be crushed
until true justice is established on earth,
for the islands are awaiting his law.

Thus says God, the Lord,
he who created the heavens and spread them out,
who gave shape to the earth and what comes from it,
who gave breath to its people
and life to the creatures that move in it:

I, the Lord, have called you to serve
the cause of right;
I have taken you by the hand and formed you;
I have appointed you as covenant of the people
and light of the nations,
to open the eyes of the blind,
to free captives from prison,
and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

My name is 'The Lord',
I will not yield my glory to another,
nor my honour to idols.
Islands, listen to me, pay attention, remotest peoples.
The Lord called me before I was born,
from my mother's womb he pronounced my name.

Thus says the Lord:
At the favourable time I will answer you,
on the day of salvation I will help you.
(I have formed you and have appointed you
as covenant of the people.)
I will restore the land
and assign you the estates that lie waste.

Glory to God

Glory to God in the highest
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

First Reading: : Isaiah 55:1-11

Thus says the Lord:
Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;
though you have no money, come!
Buy corn without money, and eat,
and, at no cost, wine and milk.
Why spend money on what is not bread,
your wages on what fails to satisfy?
Listen, listen to me, and you will have
good things to eat and rich food to enjoy.
Pay attention, come to me;
listen, and your soul will live.
With you I will make an everlasting covenant
out of the favours promised to David.
See, I have made of you a witness to the peoples,
a leader and a master of the nations.
See, you will summon a nation you never knew,
those unknown will come hurrying to you,
for the sake of the Lord your God,
of the Holy One of Israel who will glorify you.
Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.
Let the wicked man abandon his way,
the evil man his thoughts.
Let him turn back to the Lord who will
take pity on him,
to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.
Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the
heavens and do not return without watering the earth,
making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for
the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that
goes from my mouth does not return to me empty,
without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it
was sent to do.

Responsorial Psalm

R With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.
Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.
Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name.
Sing a psalm to the Lord
For he has done glorious deeds,
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.
R With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.

Year B, Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord, Jesus Christ

Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-9

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ
has been begotten by God;
and whoever loves the Father that begot him
loves the child whom he begets.
We can be sure that we love God's children
if we love God himself and do what he has
commanded us;
this is what loving God is –
keeping his commandments;
and his commandments are not difficult,
because anyone who has been begotten by God
has already overcome the world;
this is the victory over the world – our faith.
Who can overcome the world?
Only the man who believes that Jesus
is the Son of God:
Jesus Christ who came by water and blood,
not with water only,
but with water and blood;
with the Spirit as another witness –
since the Spirit is the truth –
so that there are three witnesses,
the Spirit, the water and the blood,
and all three of them agree.
We accept the testimony of human witnesses,
but God's testimony is much greater,
and this is God's testimony,
given as evidence for his Son.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
John saw Jesus coming towards him, and said:
This is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of
the world. Alleluia!



Gospel: John 1:1-18

In the course of his preaching John the Baptist 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.'

It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth
in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John.
No sooner had he come up out of the water than he
saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a
dove, descending on him. And a voice came from
heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour
rests on you.'

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

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
re clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee,
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love!

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm!

J.G Whittier (1807-92)

Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible: copyright© 1966, 1967 &1968 by
Darton, Longman & Todd, Ltd and Doubleday, a division of Random House, Inc.
Text of the Psalms: Copyright © 1963, The Grail (England).
Copyright hymn texts & live-streaming license with One License.