



# 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, Eastertide, Sunday 4, 24/25 April 2021

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		(FB) - Facebook livestream	Mass Intentions
<b>Saturday</b> 24 April	Sacred Heart	5.00pm Mass	<i>Kazia Andruszko</i>
<b>Sunday</b> 25 April	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass	<i>Mary Fennelly</i>
Monday 26 April			
Tuesday 27 April			
Wednesday 28 April			
Thursday 29 April			<i>Yorkshire Brethren</i>
Friday 30 April			<i>Parish Family</i>
<b>Saturday</b> 1 May	Sacred Heart	5.00pm Mass	<i>Kazia Andruszko</i>
<b>Sunday</b> 2 May	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass (FB)	<i>John Porter</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.**

This weekend, we welcome Fr Sean Durcan, with us to celebrate each of our Parish Masses

Jesus said:  
**'I AM THE**  
good shepherd:  
the good  
shepherd is one  
who I lays down  
his life  
for his sheep.



**'I AM THE**  
good shepherd;  
I know my own  
and my own  
know me,  
just as  
the Father  
knows me.

Sacrament of Reconciliation with Fr Anthony, presently by appointment.  
It is expected that set times will resume by mid May.

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

## From Fr Anthony

*I appeal to you by the mercy of God.* This appeal is made by Paul, or rather, by God through Paul, because of God's desire to be loved rather than feared, to be a father rather than a Lord. God appeals to us in his mercy.

Listen to the Lord's appeal: In me, I want you to see your own body, your members, your heart, your bones, your blood. You may fear what is divine, but why not love what is human? You may run away from me as the Lord, but why not run to me as your father? Perhaps you are filled with shame for causing my bitter passion. Do not be afraid. This cross inflicts a mortal injury, not on me, but on death. These nails no longer pain me, but only deepen your love for me. I do not cry out because of these wounds, but through them I draw you into my heart. My body was stretched on the cross as a symbol, not of how much I suffered, but of my all-embracing love. I count it no less to shed my blood: it is the price I have paid for your ransom. Come, then, return to me and learn to know me as your father, who repays good for evil, love for injury, boundless charity for piercing wounds.

Listen now to what the Apostle urges us to do. *I appeal to you*, he says, *to present your bodies as a living sacrifice.* By this exhortation of his, Paul has raised all men to priestly status.

How marvellous is the priesthood of the Christian, for he is both the victim that is offered on his own behalf, and the priest who makes the offering. He does not need to go beyond himself to seek what he is to offer to God: with himself and in himself he brings the sacrifice he is to offer God for himself. The victim remains and the priest remains, always one and the same. Sacrificed, the victim still lives: the priest who dies cannot kill.

Paul says: *I appeal to you by the mercy of God to present your bodies as a sacrifice, living and holy.* The prophet said the same thing: *Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but you have prepared a body for me.* Each of us is called to be both a sacrifice to God and his priest. Do not forfeit what divine authority confers on you. Put on the garment of holiness, gird yourself with the belt of chastity. Let Christ be your helmet, the cross on your forehead your unfailing protection. Your breastplate should be the knowledge of God that he himself has given you. Keep burning continually the sweet smelling incense of prayer. Take up the sword of the Spirit. Let your heart be an altar. Then, with full confidence in God, present your body for sacrifice. God desires not death, but faith; God thirsts not for blood, but for self-surrender; God is satisfied not by slaughter, but by the offering of your free will.

*From a sermon by St Peter Chrysologus, a saint known for his ability as a preacher and his ability to capture the hearts of many, for Christ.*

## Things happening in our Parish

**Baptisms** It might well soon be possible to celebrate the Baptism of infants and under 7s with up to 30 attending, and from mid-June, still more attendees. But do remember that parents need first to share in our Preparation Programme, for infant Baptism. The first step is for parents to have a short chat, after a weekend Mass, with Fr Anthony, to set things in motion.



For children over 7 as well as adults, a greater time of preparation is required, much involving the one to be Baptised (more information can be got from Fr Anthony).

**Please Note** Fr Anthony is taking his Spring 'Jollies' until Thursday 6 May, inclusive. If a need arises for the arranging of a funeral, it is important that the family have their Funeral Director contact/leave a message at the Sacred Heart Presbytery. The Director should receive a response by the end of their next working day, at latest.

### ?Remember this little story?

*This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have.*

### How can you help our Parish Family?

**Our Parish Prayer Trees** are for any and all to use. If you have an intention you wish us all to pray for, write it on one of the cards provided and hang the card on the Prayer Tree, where it will remain for four weeks. If the need continues, after four weeks simply write another card and again hang it on the Prayer Tree. Whether any identifying names/details are given is completely up to the one who places the intention.

Quite a number of Parishioners read and pray for the intentions so placed and all are encouraged to do so.

## In Memory of . . .

Already, the first anniversary has passed for some whose deaths occurred during Covid-19 regulations. It is hoped that from mid-June, numbers of people in Churches can be determined not on distancing, but simply on the size of the Church. Some families may wish to have memorial services for those whose funerals happened during the past year or so, when limited numbers were allowed. Any thinking of this are welcome to contact Fr Anthony. Do bear in mind, however, that until attendance restrictions cease, any dates fixed would be subject to the end of the limitations not being delayed.

*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 16 & 30 Jun**. 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** Our next Preparation Meeting will be on **Sat 15 May**, and will be in our -

Sacred Heart Hall, **9.30-11.30am**. It is important all arrive in good time, so as to start on time.

**First Communions** Our Children will rehearse for their celebration of their First Communion, on **Sat 8 May** -

9.30-10.30am, *St Joseph's*, for all who are to receive Communion there, 11-12.00am, *Sacred Heart*, for all who are to receive Communion there.

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

## Parish Monies

**Offertory Monies** **Many Thanks**  
5-11 April

Loose	£ 76.09
Envelopes	£ 351.00
Mar Bank Orders	£1594.00

## 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

### Tools for digging – Some Methods of Prayer

*Be still and know that I am God (Psalm 40:10)*

A major cause of disillusionment among Christians is a dichotomy we observe in ourselves and others between prayer and action, a dichotomy which Christ observed and castigated so severely: 'Alas for you scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You who are like whitewashed tombs that look handsome on the outside, but inside are full of dead men's bones and every kind of corruption.' (Matt. 23:27-8)

Why is it that very religious people, who may spend much time in prayer, can often become so intolerant, inhuman and cruel? Their conviction of their own righteousness is so strong that, far from being troubled by their cruelty, they congratulate themselves on their single-minded dedication to the cause of right. They are so convinced that God is on their side, that God's ways and their ways have become indistinguishable. The God of mystery has been reduced and domesticated to become an image of themselves. God is no longer allowed to be God he is superfluous. This is the temptation which afflicts all of us, the temptation to pride. How are we to avoid this danger of creating God in our own image and likeness? That is the question we shall be considering.

Exercises:

- Practice the stillness
- Practice the prayer of the senses
- Practice some form of rhythmic prayer



Here are a few texts to start with in praying from the scriptures:  
Psalms 8, 23, 63, 131, 139  
Isaiah 25; 40; 43; 1-7; 45; 9-13; 54; 4-10; 55.  
John 15: 1-17.  
Romans 8: 28-39  
Ephesians 1:3-14; 3:14-21.  
Philippians 2: 1-11  
Colossians 1:14-20

*To be continued . . .*

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

## But seriously

### DO YOU KNOW?

Each day, Middle Eastern shepherds can be seen leading their sheep out to find good pasture, often walking in front of the sheep and talking to them all the while. At evening, they take the sheep back to their village in a similar manner. As well as a dog might, the sheep know their shepherd's voice and will follow it - but usually not someone else's voice. A good image for Jesus' disciples following his voice.

*Next week's first reading tells how the first Christians were afraid of Paul as he previously persecuted Christians, but Barnabas helped bring them to accept Paul. But what does the name Barnabas mean?*

### AND SERIOUSLY!

As a little girl climbed on to Santa's lap, Santa asked the usual, "and what would you like for Christmas?" The child stared at him open mouthed and horrified for a minute, then gasped: 'Didn't you get my e-mail?'



## Collect Prayer from the Feast of St George (23 April)

*God of hosts, who so kindled the fire of charity in the heart of Saint George your martyr, that he bore witness to the risen Lord, both by his life and by his death; grant us through his intercession, the same faith and power of love, that we who rejoice in his triumph may be led to share with him in the fullness of the resurrection.*



Please Keep  
in Prayer

All whose **Anniversaries** occur about this time  
All who have **died recently**



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, Liz Allen, Dennis Fricker, Elizabeth Taylor, Monica Lowe  
John O'Brien, Nicola Glew, Ann Stoner, Tim Byrne, and all our housebound

## The Word: Year B, Eastertide, Sunday 4: Commentary on the Readings

### Gospel: John 10:11-18

Each year on this 4th Sunday of Easter there is a reading from John about the Good Shepherd. To think of ourselves as woolly and cuddly sheep, obedient to the shepherd, would be a mistake. Sheep are renowned as being silly, contradictory creatures, always starting off in the wrong direction, getting themselves into tangles and difficulties. In the Holy Land they are scraggy beasts, pastured on rocky and often dangerous ground, amid boulders and cliffs, threatened by wild animals and marauders. It was not simply a matter of the shepherd sitting on a rock and idly playing his pipe. He needed alert, to save the sheep from hurting themselves. So Jesus as the good shepherd is kept well occupied by our foibles, our fears, our stubbornness, our mistakes. Again, as in this Sunday's other readings, there is the reassurance of a close relationship with the Father. Jesus knows us intimately, just as he knows the Father. It is questionable whether in real life a shepherd should lay down his life for his sheep. What would happen to the remainder of the flock? But it is an expression of Jesus' whole-hearted devotion to the flock that he shepherds.

### First Reading: Acts 4:8-12

The Acts of the Apostles shows that the Church carries on the life of Jesus. Under the leadership and power of the Spirit the Church represents the Risen Christ in the world of the first century and of today. So Peter and Paul work the same sorts of miracles as Jesus did, as signs and works of power. They heal people, raise the dead, forgive sins and spread the Good News of the sovereignty of God, just as Jesus did. In less spectacular ways the life of the Church community still continues the work of Jesus. Peter



explains that all this is done 'in the name of Jesus'. The name signifies the power of a person. So we are baptised in, or even into, the name of Jesus, and in this way take on his personality and his power in the Spirit. We become the company of Jesus. It is in his name or power that we hope. In the early years of the Church, Christians were known as those over whom the name of Jesus had been pronounced, that is, those who have entered under Jesus' patronage and who trust in his name.

### Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-2

From beginning to end this first letter of John is a meditation on Christian love and its implications. The innermost motivation of all Christian activity is the awareness that we have been raised to the sonship of God and to be co-heirs of God with Jesus. This is a new sort of 'sonship', for both women and men have been raised to it, whereas in the world of the apostles only sons (not daughters) could inherit. This 'sonship' enables us to call God 'Father'. When Paul speaks of this, he uses the Aramaic word 'Abba' as a sort of talisman and guarantee that we can pray 'Father', using the same address as Jesus himself used. 'Abba' is not a children's word like 'Daddy', as has sometimes been supposed, but is the expression of a warm and responsible adult relationship. Just as Jesus' sonship to the Father consisted in doing perfectly the Father's will and being about the Father's business in his whole life, so the Christian, spurred on by this relationship, is drawn to a heartfelt obedience to God. This must be a challenge for us.

*Courtesy of 'The Wednesday Word Trust'*

### The Word: Year B, Eastertide, Sunday 5

1st Reading: Acts 9:26-31

2nd Reading: 1 John 3:18-24

Gospel: John 15:1-8

### Prayer of the Church

#### Psalter: Week 4

Sun + Seasonal Proper

Mon + Seasonal Proper

Tue + Seasonal Proper

Wed + Seasonal Proper (+ Proper Saints)

Thu + Seasonal Proper + Proper Saints

Fri + Seasonal Proper (or + Proper Saints)

Sat + Seasonal Proper (or + Proper Saints)

### This Week's Feasts & Saints

Mon Of Easter Week 4

Tue Of Easter Week 4

Wed St Peter Chanel Priest, Martyr /

St Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort, Priest

Thu St Catherine of Sienna, Virgin, Dr of Church

Fri St Pius V, Pope

Sat St Joseph the Worker