



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 Assumption of B.V Mary, 14/15 August, 2021

<i>Getting in touch</i>	Father Anthony G Fenton The Sacred Heart Presbytery Market Street, Hemsworth, Pontefract, WF9 4LB	<i>Email</i>	anthony.fenton@dioceseofleeds.org.uk pp.sacredheartstjoseph@dioceseofleeds.org.uk
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			Mass Intentions
Saturday 14 August	Sacred Heart	5.00pm Mass	<i>Eileen O'Reilly</i>
Sunday 15 August	St Joseph's Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass 1.00pm Baptism	<i>Josephine Spencer Mick Moran</i>
Monday 16 August	St Joseph's St Joseph's	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass	<i>Decd Muldowney/Holmes Families</i>
Tuesday 17 August			<i>Mary McCloskey</i>
Wednesday 18 August	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	9.30am Mass 5-6.00pm Exposition/Reconciliation	<i>Patrick & Janet Byrne</i>
Thursday 19 August	St Joseph's St Joseph's St Joseph's	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass 10.00am Reconciliation	<i>Joseph & Hilda Woodall</i>
Friday 20 August	Sacred Heart	8.30am Mass	<i>Parish Family</i>
Saturday 21 August	Sacred Heart	5.00pm Mass	<i>Intentions Raymond Ward</i>
Sunday 22 August	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass & Baptism	<i>Catherine Quinn Fran Harrison</i>

To assist with Covid Track & Trace, all are asked to use the QR Code in the Church entrance hall, or to pre-book for weekend Masses (see our Parish Website, Facebook Page, or telephone the Presbytery).

To help keep all as safe as we can, please continue to wear a face-covering at weekend Masses unless exempted on health or under-age grounds

This Sunday, on her Baptism into our Parish and Church Family, we congratulate and pray for Evelyn Grace Lister, daughter of, Jennifer and John

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (in silence) -&- Also Sacrament of Reconciliation available
1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month, 5-6.00pm, at our Sacred Heart Church

Sacrament of Reconciliation only

1st & 3rd Thursday of each month, 10.00am, at our St Joseph's Church
or by appointment with Fr Anthony

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

From Fr Anthony

From the Apostolic Constitution of Pope Pius XII on the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

In their sermons and speeches on the feast day of the Assumption of the Mother of God, the holy fathers and the great doctors of the church were speaking of something that the faithful already knew and accepted. Above all, they made it most clear that this feast commemorated not merely the fact that the blessed Virgin Mary did not experience bodily decay, but also her triumph over death and her heavenly glory, following the example of her only Son, Jesus Christ.

Thus St John Damascene, the great exponent of this tradition, compares the bodily Assumption of the revered Mother of God with her other gifts and privileges: *It was right that she who had kept her virginity unimpaired through the process of giving birth should have kept her body without decay through death. It was right that she who had given her Creator, as a child, a place at her breast should be given a place in the dwelling-place of her God. It was right that the bride espoused by the Father should dwell in the heavenly bridal chamber. It was right that she who had gazed on her Son on the cross, her heart pierced at that moment by the sword of sorrow that she had escaped at his birth, should now gaze on him seated with his Father. It was right that the Mother of God should possess what belongs to her Son and be honoured by every creature as God's Mother and handmaid.*

St Germanus of Constantinople considered the preservation from decay of the body of the Mother of God, as being not only appropriate to her Motherhood but also to the peculiar sanctity of its virgin state: *It is written, that you appear in beauty, and your virginal body is altogether holy, altogether chaste, altogether the dwelling-place of God; from which it follows that it is not in its nature to decay to dust, but that it is transformed, being human, into a glorious and incorruptible life, the same body, living, glorious, unharmed, sharing in perfect life.*

All that the holy fathers say refers ultimately to Scripture as a foundation, which gives us the vivid image of the great Mother of God as being closely attached to her divine Son and always sharing his lot.

It is important to recall that from the second century onwards the holy fathers have been talking of the Virgin Mary as the new Eve for the new Adam: not equal to him, of course, but closely joined with him in the battle against the enemy, which ended in the triumph over sin and death that had been promised even in Paradise. The glorious resurrection of Christ is essential to this victory and its final prize, but the blessed Virgin's share in that fight must also have ended in the glorification of her body. For as the Apostle says: *When this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the scripture will be fulfilled that says "Death is swallowed up in victory".*

Things happening in our Parish

Can we, can't we? There are hopes that we can resume the Sunday morning, after Mass, serving of tea/coffee at both of our Churches, from September. *But this can only happen if we have enough helpers*, so that none need to cover week in week out. Please, don't leave it to others. To bring some milk, set out mugs, and wash the crocks after, requires no great expertise, but is a wonderful act of service, to help bring together our Parish Family.



NB Male help wanted too!

Please offer your help to Janet Reagan at St Joseph's, Caroline Donovan or Mary Day at Sacred Heart, or for either to Fr Anthony.

Diary Dates The following Celebrations are now planned for this coming autumn. Those in red are to occur at all three of our Parish Masses on the given weekend. Those in blue are to occur at both Sunday Masses, and some or all may also occur at Saturday evening Masses.

Sep	18/19	1st Sacraments: Giving of Scriptures
	25/26	Sacrament of Anointing & Healing
Oct	2/3	Enrolment Rite, 1st Communion
	9/10	Enrolment Rite, Confirmation
	30/31	Commemoration Faithful Departed
Nov	27/28	First Communion Celebration
Dec	11/12	Election Rite, Confirmation

Further details of these will be given nearer the time. However, some may wish to especially note our Parish Commemoration of the Faithful Departed. This is to occur on the same weekend as the Feast of All Saints. We will remember all those belonging to members of our Parish Family, who have died since the beginning of the first Covid-19 lockdown, *whatever the cause of their death.*

Please Be Sure to leave our Churches in a tidy manner.

At our Sacred Heart Church, please leave hymn books and Mass Parts booklets neatly in the benches - and be sure to take home your copies of the Mass Readings and Parish Newsletter.

At our St Joseph's Church, please return Mass Parts booklets to the basket in the entrance hall - and be sure to take home your copies of the Mass Readings and Parish Newsletter.

At both of our Churches, please be sure not to leave any debris (eg paper tissues, children's toys).

Do you know someone who is
thinking of becoming a Catholic
but is unsure what to do about it?

Fr Anthony would be pleased to meet with them
(they might also bring a friend, if they wish)
to discuss what might be involved.

& In our Diocese

Fountains Abbey Mass Feast of St Bernard, Fri 20 Aug, 12:00nn. Principal celebrant: Fr Richard Duffield, Provost York Oratory. Free entry for any attending Mass. See poster in our Church Entrance.

*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 22 & 29 Sep**. To join a Programme, Parents need to talk with Fr Anthony, after one of our weekend Parish Masses, to arrange an initial meeting with him.

The Programme is for any expecting, as well as Parents with baby born.

Confirmations Any eligible who have not yet applied, need an application form from Fr Anthony (can be got at a Weekend Mass) and to return it to him **before September**.

The first meeting, when Parents are to attend to assist the Children, will be in our Sacred Heart Hall,

Sat 11 Sep, 9.30-11.30am

First Communion Our Children, who are to prepare for their First Eucharist, will next meet, along with their Parents, in our Sacred Heart Hall,

Sat 18 Sep, 10-12.00am

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

But seriously

DO YOU KNOW?

On 1 November 1950, Pope Pius XII issued an apostolic constitution in which he stated the belief of our Church, that Mary, Mother of God, never rested in an earthly grave, but was assumed, in body and spirit, directly into heaven. This confirmed a very ancient Catholic belief, also shared by many Orthodox Churches, the Lutheran Church, and parts of the Anglican Church.

Following Jesus' great teaching on the Eucharist, in John's Gospel (Ch 6), which apostle asserts the belief of the apostles in Jesus, with the words, 'You have the message of eternal life ...', and can you add his last four words to, 'We know you are the _ _ _ _ _'?

AND SERIOUSLY!

A man called Jacob finds himself in financial trouble and so asks God for help to win the lottery. Lotto night comes but no luck. He prays again but still no luck. He prays to God saying 'I've lost my business, my home and car, why have you forsaken me?' God replied 'Jacob meet me half way and buy a lottery ticket.'



Parish Monies

Offertory Monies **Many Thanks**
25 July

Loose	£ 139.39
Envelopes	£ 275.50
July Bank Orders	£1702.00

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

CHANGING DIRECTION

Repent and believe the good news (Mark 1:15)

We become selective in our morality, foster an individualist morality which does not look beyond the perimeter of its own defence lines, and we become increasingly convinced of our self-righteousness.

The Old Testament prophets were constantly attacking the false securities of Israel, especially Israel's attempts to justify its behaviour by using God, feeling safe because it practiced religious ritual and external observances. God, through the prophet Isaiah, (1:11-17) says to them:

What are your endless sacrifices to me? I am sick of holocausts of rams and the fat of calves. The blood of bulls and goats revolts me... Bring me your worthless offerings no more, the smoke of them fills me with disgust. New moons, Sabbaths, assemblies – I cannot endure festival and solemnity. Your new moons and pilgrimages I hate with all my soul. They lie heavy on me. I am tired of bearing them. When you stretch out your hands I turn my eyes away. You may multiply your prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are covered with blood, wash, make yourselves clean. Take your wrong-doing out of my sight. Cease to do evil. Learn to do good, search for justice, help the oppressed, be just to the orphan, plead for the widow.

Christ, the fulfilment of all the prophets, continues their message, warning against the evil of finding security in wealth. 'It is



easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.' Even more dangerous than security in wealth is the security of our own self-righteousness when we reject God while at the same time claiming him in defence of our rejection. Gentle Jesus is vitriolic in his condemnation of this false security, calling those who practice it hypocrites, whited

sepulchres, people who shut the kingdom of God in other peoples' faces, neither going in themselves nor allowing others to go in, people who strain at gnats and swallow camels. Jesus, image of the God we cannot see, is gentle with those who sin through weakness and who acknowledge their evil. He is harsh with those who consider themselves righteous, because they are abusing God, making him the justification of their evil deeds. Jesus welcomed sinners and dined with them. It was religious men who, with the co-operation of those responsible for law and order, crucified him as a blasphemer.

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**,



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

Br Hilarion Durkin, Margaret Hinchliffe, Isabelle Blake, Elizabeth Olbison, Catherine Brown, Karen Dearing
Peggy Heneghan, Liz Allen, Elizabeth Taylor, Monica Lowe, John O'Brien, Nicola Glew, Betty O'Donnell
Tim Byrne, John Lovely, Raymond Ward, and all our housebound

The Word: Year B, Feast of the Assumption of B.V. Mary, to Heaven: Commentary on the Readings

Gospel: Luke 1:39-56

The core of this gospel reading is Mary's canticle of thanksgiving for God's gifts to her. It is, however, fitting that, on the Feast of the bodily Assumption of Mary, it should begin with her bodily attention to the bodily needs of her elderly relative. With her own baby on the way, she would have plenty of other priorities, making her long journey a real act of kindness. Her canticle, sung daily in the liturgy of Evening Prayer, sums up God's faithfulness to his promises, focussed on his gifts to this simple peasant girl. It combines a wonderful sense of the holiness of God with warmth of gratitude, showing the thoughts that revolved constantly in Mary's mind. As is fitting in the mouth of a girl whose only knowledge of books was the Bible, Mary's song is a texture of scriptural phrases. We cannot assume that Luke wrote it down at Mary's dictation, for putting words in the mouth of his characters is a feature of Luke the historian; but it must reflect her thinking. If any theme resounds again and again throughout the Bible, it is God's care for the poor, the simple and those in need. It is this which sets the Hebraeo-Christian tradition apart from the ways of the world.



First Reading: Revelations 11:19; 12:1-6,10

This vision of the Woman giving birth and of the huge red Dragon is bewilderingly rich in biblical symbolism. The context of the Book of Revelation is the struggle between the Church and the demands of Roman paganism, particularly the demand that all should worship the Emperor as God. The purpose of Revelation is to reassure the faithful of victory, despite the threat of martyrdom. The Woman represents Israel, the people of God, who gives birth to a son, the true ruler of the universe. The Dragon, of great sagacity and immense power, is the Roman Empire. The Son is unhesitatingly whipped up to heaven, frustrating the evil Dragon of its prey and issuing immediately in the hymn of triumph. The

perspective is, of course, foreshortened, omitting the details of Christ's earthly life, to show the certainty of the Son's triumph. Secondly, tradition sees in the Woman the earthly mother of the Saviour, Mary, mother of Jesus and mother of the Church, who triumphs over all the powers of evil. The secondary symbolism, therefore, is that Mary is the great sign in heaven of triumph over evil. Evil has no hold on Mary, and her children are sure of victory.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-26

On the Festival of the Assumption of Mary it is important to get things in the right order. Christ is the first-born from the dead. In him all will be brought to life, but all in their proper order. Mary is the first after her Son, and raised by her Son because she is part of his Body, the Church. The perfection of the Mother of the Saviour is won for her by her Son. He draws her after him in his retinue. In this chapter Paul is teaching about bodily resurrection. This is not just immortality of the soul, but the resurrection of the whole person, an animated body, not a soul hidden in a body. Bodily resurrection is particularly fitting when we consider Mary, the physical mother of Jesus, who gave to him her genes, her personality, her features and her talents. If any son takes after his mother physically, it must have been Jesus. The declaration by the Church of the Assumption of Mary is an assertion of the saving value of all our activity, the healing touch, the conquest of pain, exhaustion, moodiness and physical temptation in all its forms. That is why Mary goes ahead of us all and leads the way to full resurrection.

Courtesy of 'The Wednesday Word Trust'

The Word: Year B, Ordinary Time, Sunday 21

1st Reading: Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18

2nd Reading: Ephesians 5:21-32

Gospel: John 6:60-69

Prayer of the Church

Psalter: Week 4

Sun Of the Feast

Mon Of Weekday (or + Proper of Saints)

Tue Of Weekday

Wed Of Weekday

Thu Of Weekday (or + Proper of Saints)

Fri Of Weekday + Proper of Saints

Sat Of Weekday + Proper of Saints

This Week's Feasts & Saints

Mon St Stephen of Hungary

Tue Of Weekday

Wed Of Weekday

Thu St John Eudes, Priest

Fri St Bernard, Abbot, Doctor of Church

Sat St Pius X, Pope