



# 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, Ordinary Time, Sunday 21, 21/22 August, 2021

*Getting in touch* Father Anthony G Fenton  
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			<b>Mass Intentions</b>
<b>Saturday</b> 21 August	Sacred Heart	5.00pm Mass	<i>Intentions Raymond Ward</i>
<b>Sunday</b> 22 August	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass & <i>Baptism</i>	<i>Catherine Quinn Fran Harrison</i>
Monday 23 August	St Joseph's St Joseph's	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass	<i>Decd Crossland/Whitehouse Fams</i>
Tuesday 24 August			
Wednesday 25 August	Sacred Heart	9.30am Mass	<i>Deceased Frudd Family</i>
Thursday 26 August	St Joseph's St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass <i>11.00am Funeral Service</i>	<i>Decd Eades/Mannion/Stuart Fams Sylvia Evans</i>
Friday 27 August	Sacred Heart	8.30am Mass	<i>Deceased of Withers Family</i>
<b>Saturday</b> 28 August	Sacred Heart	5.00pm Mass	<i>Dennis Fricker</i>
<b>Sunday</b> 29 August	St Joseph's Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass <i>1.00pm Baptisms</i>	<i>Joseph &amp; Kathleen Smith Richard Smythe TMA &amp; TMI Omoniyi and AJ Kehoe</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 Harriet Rose Cleary, daughter of, Patrick and Helen

**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

The following, by St Ambrose, is something of an antidote to the reaction of those disciples who deserted Jesus, in today's Gospel.

*My father and I will come to him and make our home with him.* Open wide your door to the one who comes. Open your soul, open the depths of your heart to see the sweetness of grace, the riches of simplicity, the treasures of peace. Open your heart and run to meet the Sun of eternal light *that illuminates all people.* That true light shines on all; but if anyone closes his shutters against it he will defraud himself of the eternal light. To close the doors of the mind is to exclude Christ. Of course, he is capable of entering even so, but he does not want to force his way in or seize you against your will.

Born of the Virgin's womb, he shone on the whole world to give light to all. It is received by those who desire the brightness of perpetual light that no night can obscure. For the sun that we see daily in the sky is followed by darkness and night; but the Sun of righteousness never sets, since evil cannot defeat wisdom.

Blessed is he, therefore, at whose door Christ comes knocking. Faith is the door of the soul, and if it is strong then it fortifies the whole house. Through this door Christ enters. Thus it is that the Church herself says, *The voice of my brother is knocking on the door.* Listen to him knocking, listen to him asking to be let in: *Open to me, my sister, my beloved, my dove, my perfect one, for my head is wet with dew, my hair with the drops of night.*

You see that when the Word of God knocks hardest on your door, it is when his hair is wet with the dew of the night. In fact, he chooses to visit those who are in tribulation and trial, lest one of them be overwhelmed by distress. So his head is covered with dew, with drops, when his body is labouring hard. It is important to keep watch so that when the Bridegroom comes, he is not shut out. If you are asleep and your heart is not watching, he will go away without knocking; but if your heart is alert for his coming, he knocks and asks for the door to be opened to him.

Thus you see that our soul has a door, but we have gates too, as the psalm says: *Gates, raise your heads. Stand up, eternal doors, and let the king of glory enter.* If you raise your gates, the King of glory will come to you, celebrating the triumph of his own Passion. For righteousness has gates, as we see when the Lord Jesus tells through his prophets: *Open to me the gates of righteousness.*

It is the soul that has its door, that has its gates. To that door Christ comes and knocks, he knocks at the door. Open to him, therefore: he wishes to come in, the Bridegroom wishes to find you keeping watch.



## 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.

**Parish Pastoral Council** is next due to meet **Thu 9 Sep**, 7.00pm, in our Sacred Heart Hall. Please give Items for the Agenda to Janet Ward, Elizabeth Smith or Fr Anthony by **Sun 5 Sep**, at the latest. Any of our Parish Family are welcome at Parish Council meetings.

**Covid Steps** It is now expected that on the first weekend of September, at our Parish Saturday/Sunday Masses, we will resume the regular singing of both a Gathering and a Communion Hymn, in addition to the parts we are already singing. We then need to watch Covid infection rates as schools and more places of work reopen. But it is hoped that by October, we can return to standing and kneeling at Liturgies, and see other changes also.

**November Faithful Departed** Last autumn, as per usual, a number handed in their November Faithful Departed Intentions. Monthly Masses have been celebrated during the past months. However, some like to attend the Mass when their own Family Departed are commemorated. As people are now returning to Mass in greater numbers, the individual Masses will be celebrated in coming weeks.

**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.*

**Off Chance** If you know of anyone who has lost a sleeping angel (composite, about 9"x18") from, quite likely, a Hemsworth grave, please contact Fr Anthony, as he knows where one is now fast asleep.

*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?

At the end of Chapter 6 of his Gospel, John tells that many ceased to believe in Jesus, and left him. But speaking for the apostles, St Peter asserts their belief in him with the words, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

*A particular link, between two of the saints whose feasts are celebrated this week (see pg 4), causes them to stand out from among the others. Who are the two and what is the link?*

### AND SERIOUSLY!

My local church had trouble getting their insurance to pay for lightening damage. The insurance claimed it was deliberate damage by the owner.



## Parish Monies

### Offertory Monies

25 July

Loose £193.87

Envelopes £340.50

Many  
Thanks

## 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)*

Jesus sums up his own teaching in the first of the Beatitudes: 'Blessed {that is, 'blissfully happy'} are you who are poor: yours is the kingdom of heaven.' Blissfully happy are you who know your own emptiness and throw yourselves on the mercy of God. The opposite case is described in Luke's Gospel: 'But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now.' 'Rich' refers not only to material possessions, but to that attitude of mind and heart which finds its ultimate security in anything that is not God. That is why religious people, closed in their own religiosity, are greater sinners than 'the tax gatherers and prostitutes'. Sin is destructive of human life. It is worth noting that the most violent conflicts today are among people with strong religious beliefs, convinced that God is on their side as they murder their enemies – Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Ethiopia.

Sin is the refusal to let God be God.

Repentance is letting God be God in our lives.

Knowing our sinfulness and repenting is a lifelong, continual process. We can never reach a stage before death when we no longer need repentance, because there are layers upon layers of consciousness within us and each moment of existence can reveal these layers, if we let it, and show us the depth of the tendency within us to refuse to let God be God.

God is gentle. He gradually reveals our sinfulness to us. He does not seem to worry about our past wrongdoing, even when



though its effects may still be causing suffering to ourselves and others. 'Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white a snow' (Isa. 1:18). What does concern him is the direction in which we are moving. If we turn towards him, no matter how far away we may be, he readily reaches out to welcome us. Our real sin

is in refusing, or fearing to turn back, either because we are quite content with ourselves as we are, or because we think we must first put ourselves in order before we can turn to him.

What may seem to us as a reason for despair – some failure, loss of job, reputation, disgrace, persistent moral weakness, physical and mental illness, failure in a marriage or religious vocation – can become a moment of grace and the beginning of a new life, if only we can acknowledge our failure and turn trustingly to God. The answer is in the pain and no human state is ever hopeless.

*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 Sylvia Evans, and her family.



*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, Ordinary Time, Sunday 21: Commentary on the Readings**

**Gospel: John 6:60-69**

At the end of the Bread of Life Discourse there is a parting of the ways, but it is not primarily about belief in the Eucharist. That is the starting-point, but the lesson is wider. The Gospel of John is like a series of great forks in the road, one after another leading off the true path. A series of decisions is called for, whether to follow Jesus or not. Or it is like a series of court scenes, except that people are not judged; they judge themselves by their reaction to Jesus: at the Marriage Feast at Cana the disciples believe, but then in the Temple the people reject him; later Nicodemus sits on the fence, but the Samaritan Woman moves from cheeky scepticism to fervent apostleship; the great scenes in Jerusalem (the man at the Pool of Bethzatha, the blind man in the Temple) ironically show the people rejecting Jesus in such a way that they drive others to accept him; finally, before Pilate, the people think they are condemning Jesus when in fact they are condemning themselves by saying, 'We have no king but Caesar'. But what about the Lord as King of Israel? Day by day the challenge is aimed at ourselves too; do we believe or betray him?



**First Reading: Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18**

This final chapter of the Book of Joshua shows Israel settled into the 'land flowing with milk and honey', having concluded the great trek of the Exodus. At Shechem they held a great assembly of all the tribes, and renewed the covenant, with promises of loyalty to the Lord. The renewal of the covenant was necessary because in the course of their desert wandering a number of various tribes had joined Moses' original group of escaped slaves, and not all of them had been present at the original covenant. This scene at Shechem is put in parallel to today's gospel reading because Joshua challenged the people to make up their minds whether or not they

intended to remain loyal to the Lord; in the same way, Jesus challenges the disciples at the end of the Bread of Life Discourse. The similarity is not only a challenge to loyalty, but specifically to covenant loyalty: the Eucharistic setting of the Discourse puts the departure of some of the disciples and the acceptance by Peter and the others into the context of refusing or accepting the New Covenant made by Jesus at the Last Supper.

**Second Reading: Ephesians 5:21-32**

This final reading from Ephesians is rightly a favourite reading for weddings. Reading the first sentence it is, of course, vital to avoid the impression of male chauvinism: wives should be subject to their husbands, but also husbands to their wives! The really enriching teaching, however, is that the devotion and self-sacrifice of husband for wife is seen as a parable for the love of Christ for his spouse, the Church. The love and devotion of spouses for each other – and it works both ways – gains greater dignity from this Christological truth. It is designated as a 'mystery', which in Pauline language does not mean 'something I can't understand', but the great profound truths about God which are to be finally revealed in the last times. In this case the 'mystery' is the depth and intensity of Christ's love for his Church, of which the love of spouses for each other is only an echo. The bonding and binding love and self-sacrifice of spouses echoes and reveals Christ's love for the Church. From this comparison we gain in understanding and awed respect for both husband and wife, and for Christ and the Church. This image also nicely.

*Courtesy of 'The Wednesday Word Trust'*

**The Word: Year B, Ordinary Time, Sunday 22**

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1,2,6-8

2nd Reading: James 1:17,18,21,22,27

Gospel: Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

**Prayer of the Church**

**Psalter: Week 1**

**Sun** Of the Feast

**Mon** Of Weekday (or + Proper of Saints)

**Tue** Proper of Saints

**Wed** Of Weekday (or + Proper of Saints)

**Thu** Of Weekday (or + Common of Pastors)

**Fri** Of Weekday + Proper of Saints

**Sat** Of Weekday + Proper of Saints

**This Week's Feasts & Saints**

**Mon** St Rose of Lima, Virgin

**Tue** St Bartholomew, Apostle

**Wed** St Louis, Holy Man /

St Joseph Calasanz, Priest

**Thu** Blessed Dominic of the Mother of God, Priest

**Fri** St Monica, Holy Woman

**Sat** St Augustine, Bishop, Doctor of the Church