



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 23, 4/5 September, 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

			Mass Intentions
Saturday 4 September	Sacred Heart	5.00pm Mass	<i>Int Betty & Denis O'Donnell</i>
Sunday 5 September	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass	<i>Michael Murtagh Jerzy Gorecki</i>
Monday 6 September	St Joseph's St Joseph's	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass	<i>Decd Hodgson ... Knepshield Fams</i>
Tuesday 7 September			<i>Parish Family</i>
Wednesday 8 September	Sacred Heart	9.30am Mass	<i>Deceased Goblin & Ince Fams</i>
Thursday 9 September	St Joseph's St Joseph's	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass	<i>Intentions Aleesha</i>
Friday 10 September	Sacred Heart	8.30am Mass	<i>Decd Ward, Baugh ... Potts Fams</i>
Saturday 11 September	Sacred Heart	5.00pm Mass	<i>Deceased of E & K Dixon</i>
Sunday 12 September	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass	<i>Jerry O'Mahony Daniel Kirwan</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



Sacrament of Anointing & Healing
Any with a *serious* (but not necessarily life threatening) physical or mental illness or infirmity, whether short term or on-going are invited to receive this Sacrament, at any *one* of our Masses
Saturday/Sunday, 25/26 September
If any are at all unsure whether they qualify, please ask Fr Anthony



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 text below is from a treatise by Baldwin of Canterbury (1125-1190). When a bishop, he had a mixed reputation, as a good theologian, but a controversial Canon lawyer, and a usually rather dour character. Whatever of that, the following is quite inspiring.

Death is strong: it has the power to deprive us of the gift of life. Love is strong: it has the power to restore us to the exercise of a better life.

Death is strong, strong enough to despoil us of this body of ours. Love is strong, strong enough to rob death of its spoils and restore them to us.

Death is strong; for no man can resist it. Love is strong; for it can triumph over death, can blunt its sting, counter its onslaught, overturn its victory. A time will come when death will be trampled underfoot; when it will be said: 'Death, where is your sting? Death, where is your attack?'

'Love is strong as death,' as Christ's love is the death of death. For this reason he says: 'Death, I shall be your death; hell, I shall grip you fast.' The love, too, with which Christ is loved by us is itself strong as death, since it is a kind of death, being the extinction of our old life, the abolition of vice, and the putting aside of dead works.

This love of ours for Christ is a sort of return, though not equal to his love for us; and it is a copy, a likeness of his. For he first loved us, and by the example of love that he sets before us, he has become a seal by which we are moulded to his image - putting off the likeness of the earthly and bearing that of the heavenly, loving him as we are loved. In this he leaves us an example, that we may follow in his footsteps.

That is why he says: 'Set me as a seal on your heart.' As though to say: Love me, as I love you; have me in your mind, your memory, your desire; in your sighing, groaning, weeping. Remember, man, in what state I fashioned you, how far I preferred you before the rest of creatures, the dignity with which I ennobled you; how I crowned you with glory and honour, made you a little less than the angels, and subjected all things under your feet. Remember not only the great things I did for you, but what harsh indignities I bore on your behalf; but see if you are not acting wickedly against me, if you do not love me. For who loves you as I love you? Who created you, if not I? Who redeemed you, if not I?

Lord, take away from me the heart of stone, a heart shrunken and uncircumcised - take it away and give me a new heart, a heart of flesh, a clean heart. You cleanse our heart and love the heart that is clean - possess my heart and dwell in it, both holding it and filling it. You surpass what is highest in me, and yet are within my inmost self! Pattern of beauty and seal of holiness, mould my heart in your likeness: mould my heart under your mercy, God of my heart and God my portion for ever. Amen.

Things happening in our Parish

Parish Pastoral Council Elections for new/on-going members are due on **16/17 Oct**. Nomination Forms for Members, to serve for three years, are now available, in the Entrance Halls of our Churches or from Fr Anthony, for return by **18/19 Sep**. We are seeking **six** who can be considered associated with our *St Joseph's Church* and **six** who can be considered associated with our *Sacred Heart Church*. In both cases, **at least one should be less than twenty five**, but older than thirteen. Some are regular faces at both Churches, so might be nominated for either (but not both).

It is required that Council Members regularly attend our Parish Masses (or they would not be so representative of our Parish Mass Congregations), and are committed to the well-being of our Parish Family and neighbourhood.

At St Joseph's All are welcome to have tea/coffee and good chat served after our Sunday 9.00am Masses, from this **Sunday**, through September (and beyond, if there is sufficient interest).

At Sacred Heart for operational reasons, refreshments after Sunday Masses will be delayed, but are expected to resume from the beginning of October.

Parish Pastoral Council is next due to meet **Thu 9 Sep**, 7.00pm, in our Sacred Heart Hall. Items for the Agenda are due this weekend, at latest. Any of our Parish Family are welcome at Parish Council meetings.

The Headteachers of both St Wilfrid's and our Parish Schools are to attend, to address an item about school uniforms (and the cost of). Any attending non-council members, who might wish to speak on this issue, should have a word with Elizabeth Smith, Chairwoman, *before* the meeting begins. Any not attending, as usual, can ask any Council Member to present their opinion/question.

Confirmations The first Preparation Meeting is due next Saturday (see pg 3). As the Programme is tight packed, it is not possible to join this next run after the first meeting.

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.

Readers Please remember that the concluding words, at the end of the First (and Second) Reading are now *The Word of the Lord*, not as in the Lectionary (so omitting the words *This is*). Please also do not add notifications, but, for instance, go from the First Reading straight into the words of the Psalm (so no need to add *The response to the Psalm is*).

Boundary Wall Some will have noticed that the wall, to the right of the terrace, when entering our St Joseph's Church main entrance, is in danger of collapse. Plans are afoot to clear the shrubs to that side, demolish the wall in question and replace it with a fence. Meanwhile, please do not go beyond the taped cones and especially ensure that children do not do so.

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 Our Children, who are to prepare for their Confirmation, will meet, along with their Parents, 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

Please note: this programme is for our Children who have already celebrated First Confession. Application Forms for the next Preparation Programme for First Reconciliation should be available during October.

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

Parish Monies

Offertory Monies

22 August

Loose £234.82
Envelopes £348.01

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

Beginning to Dig for the Treasure

After thanksgiving, the next step is to recall your inner moods and feelings, noting, if you can, what occasioned them, but again refraining from any self-judgement. Be with Christ as you look at these moods and beg him to show you the attitudes which underlie them. For your part, do not try to analyse the moods: just relive, in Christ's presence, the events which gave rise to them. Contemplate the events of the day and pray to Christ out of your experience of them.



Sometimes this can be very painful, for if we look at the scene and refrain from judging, the facts can begin to judge us and we can begin to see with clarity our own refusal to understand, listen, be compassionate and treat the other person, or persons, with love. Because they would not take their place in our kingdom of values, praising, reverencing and serving us and our ideas, we rejected them. The important thing is not to analyse our experience, but to contemplate it in Christ's presence and let him show us where we have let him be in us and where we have refused to let him be. Thank him for the times we have 'let his glory through' and beg his forgiveness for the times we have refused his entry. He never refuses forgiveness. He knows our weakness far better than we do. All that we have to do is show it to him and he can transform our weakness into strength.

Finally look briefly at the day ahead and beg him to be with us in every detail of it. The whole exercise should not take more than fifteen minutes, but it is a most valuable fifteen minutes and, if practiced daily, we become more sensitive to his action in our lives not only at the time of the exercise, but also in the middle of our activities. Do not expect miracles in the first week, or even in the first month, but the effects will become apparent. We shall find that he is making more able to love, to experience a joy welling up within us, often unexpectedly. We shall become less agitated and more peaceful, less hurried and more content to wait, less suspicious and more ready to trust, able to find interest and delight in people who used to make us bristle, less fearful of what others may think of us and more free to be ourselves, kinder to others and to ourselves and less likely to fly off the handle.

To be continued . . .

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

But seriously

DO YOU KNOW?

English saints have featured much in the past week. However, while Saint Aidan spent his last years at Lindisfarne (Holy Island, off the coast of Northumberland), he came there via the Monastery of the Isle of Iona (off the Scottish Isle of Mull), from his place of birth and childhood, in Ireland (possibly Connacht).

St Peter Claver (1580-1654: feast day 9 Sep), as a Jesuit priest, having volunteered for the Spanish Colonies, was sent to the Kingdom of Granada (now Columbia). His work there later resulted in his being declared the patron saint of ???

AND SERIOUSLY!

A pastor decided to feign ill and skip church on Sunday, to play golf. The first hole he teed off and the wind carried it for a hole in one. An angel looked at the Lord and asked why he did that. God smiled and said: 'Whose he going to tell?'



Look upon us, Lord, creator and ruler of the whole world: give us grace to serve you with all our heart, that we may come to know the power of your forgiveness and love.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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, Jerry O'Mahony and all our housebound

The Word: Year B, Ordinary Time, Sunday 23: Commentary on the Readings

Gospel: Mark 7:31-37

This Sunday's first reading prepares us to understand the true meaning of this incident, for in his wonderful cures Jesus is fulfilling that prophecy of Isaiah. Jesus' activity, as he goes around 'doing all things well', manifests the coming of God into the world, that Day of the Lord when the tongues of the dumb will sing for joy. Jesus is the sacrament of God. In him God is active in the world, bringing peace, healing and joy. In him people met and experienced God. His gestures (of putting his fingers into the man's ears and touching his tongue with spittle) are affectionate ways of showing that God is physically at work in him. In our hygiene conscious world such actions might be frowned upon. But if we are truly acting as the members of Christ's body in the world, we cannot hold back, and from time to time we will be involved physically and totally in helping others. One such famous, courageous gesture was Princess Diana's handshake with an AIDS-sufferer when it was still thought that the condition was physically contagious. We too can bring Christ's healing in countless simple (but often costly and courageous) ways.

First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7

Before the people of Israel were taken into captivity by the Babylonians in the sixth century BC, prophets had spoken of the Day of the Lord as a threat, a day of expected punishment. But when that disaster fell upon the whole of Israel and Judah, the people came to understand the Day of the Lord as a promise of salvation, of deliverance from exile. Hence today's first reading: a lovely, joyful poem which looks forward to the coming of the Lord to heal Israel and take vengeance on her tormentors. It speaks of the coming of the Lord himself, not simply of his representative. In the expectation of the deliverance of Israel, even up to the time of Jesus, it was not clear whether God would visit the earth personally to



effect the total reversal of all things and the healing of all misery, or whether his messenger and herald would come first. The biblical texts seem to suggest both. In the prophecies of Malachi, it was written that the prophet Elijah would come as the Lord's herald to prepare the way. The gospels suggest that John the Baptist was this Elijah-figure, preparing for the coming of the Lord in Jesus, and that the coming of Jesus is the coming of the Lord himself.

Second Reading: James 2:1-5

The Letter of James has been described as 'a manifesto for social justice', and among all its pieces of advice a concern for social justice is certainly a major theme. Concern for the poor and the less fortunate runs right through the Bible. Human beings were created in the image of God, and one of the ways we express this image is by the attention we give to those on the margins. So Israel is constantly told by God, 'You must treat the stranger among you as I treated you when you were strangers in Egypt.' Similarly, widows and orphans are the special object of God's care. In the beatitudes of Luke's gospel, the poor, the hungry and those who weep are assured of God's blessing. In more modern times the great papal encyclicals on social issues gave the first official teaching anywhere on the rights of the exploited classes after the industrial revolution: the right to a just wage, to healthcare, to form trade unions, and so on. However, it is always instinctive and natural – as this witty and poignant reading shows – to give more honour to the Lord Mayor at the front than to the tramp who shuffles in at the back of the Church – forgetting that in God's eyes they have just the same value.

Courtesy of 'The Wednesday Word Trust'

The Word: Year B, Ordinary Time, Sunday 24

1st Reading: Isaiah 50:5-9
2nd Reading: James 2:14-18
Gospel: Mark 8:27-35

Prayer of the Church

Psalter: Week 3

Sun Proper of Sunday

Mon Of Weekday

Tue Of Weekday

Wed Proper of Saints

Thu Of Weekday (or + Proper of Saints)

Fri Of Weekday

Sat Of Weekday

This Week's Feasts & Saints

Mon Of Weekday

Tue Of Weekday

Wed Nativity of Mary, Mother of God

Thu St Peter Claver, Priest

Fri Of Weekday

Sat Of Weekday