



# 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 24, 11/12 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

			<b>Mass Intentions</b>
<b>Saturday</b> 11 September	Sacred Heart	5.00pm Mass	<i>Deceased of E &amp; K Dixon</i>
<b>Sunday</b> 12 September	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass	<i>Jerry O'Mahony Daniel Kirwan</i>
Monday 13 September	St Joseph's St Joseph's	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass	<i>Parish Family</i>
Tuesday 14 September			<i>Yorkshire Brethren</i>
Wednesday 15 September	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	9.30am Mass 5-6.00pm Exposition/Reconciliation	<i>Gary Bashforth</i>
Thursday 16 September	St Joseph's St Joseph's St Joseph's	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass 10.00am Reconciliation	<i>Deceased Foster &amp; Covell Families</i>
Friday 17 September	Sacred Heart	8.30am Mass	<i>Decd Andruszko &amp; Peniazek Fams</i>
<b>Saturday</b> 18 September	Sacred Heart	5.00pm Mass	<i>Joseph Abrahams</i>
<b>Sunday</b> 19 September	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass	<i>Pearl, Christopher, Laurence Timmons Frank Gallagher</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 following is adapted from a Sermon of St Bernard of Clairvaux*

We recently heard, in the gospel, that when the Lord was teaching his disciples and urged them to share in his passion, by the mystery of eating his body, some said: *This is a hard saying*, and from that time they no longer followed him. When he asked his other disciples whether they also wished to go away, they replied: *Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.*

I assure you, my friends, that even to this day, it is clear to some that the words which Jesus speaks are *spirit and life*, and for this reason they follow him. To others, these words seem hard, so they look elsewhere for some poor consolation. Yet wisdom cries out in the streets, in the broad and spacious way that leads to death, to call back those who follow this path.

The psalmist says, on God's behalf: *For forty years I have been close to this generation, and I said: They have always been faint-hearted.* You might also read, in another psalm: *God has spoken once.* Once, indeed, because for ever. His is a single, uninterrupted utterance, because it is continuous and unending.

He calls upon sinners to return to their true spirit and rebukes them when their hearts have gone astray For it is in the true heart that he dwells and there he speaks, fulfilling what he taught through the prophet: *Speak to the heart of Jerusalem.* You see, my friends, how the prophet admonishes us for our advantage: *If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.* You can read almost the same words in the gospel and in the prophet. For in the gospel the Lord says: *My sheep hear my voice.* In the psalm blessed David says: *You are his people* (meaning, of course, the Lord's) *and the sheep of his pasture. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*

Hear also the words of the prophet Habakkuk. Far from hiding the Lord's reprimands, he dwells on them with attentive and anxious care. He says: *I will stand upon my watch-tower and take up my post on the ramparts, keeping watch to see what he will say to me and what answer I will make to those who try to confuse me.* I beg you, my friends, stand upon our watch-tower, for now is the time for battle. Let all our dealings be in the heart, where Christ dwells, in right judgement and wise counsel, but in such a way as to place no confidence in earthly dealings, nor rely upon our own fragile defences.

Rather, place your trust in our Father God, be sure to often give Jesus welcome in your life, through the mystery of eating his body, and take the Holy Spirit as your wise counsellor.



This Sunday, at 10.45am Mass, prior to his up-coming Baptism, we present and pray for Edmund William Whittaker, son of Daryl and Helen  
At Masses next weekend, 18/19 Sep, we will celebrate  
The Giving of the Scriptures  
to our Candidates preparing for their First Eucharist

## 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).

**Communion Preparation** Our Children who celebrated their First Reconciliation July last, begin their Programme of Preparation for First Eucharist, next Saturday (see pg 3). *Application Forms for the next Programmes for First Reconciliation (then Communion), should be available during October.*

**Many Thanks** to those who supported our recent raffle, which raised £110 for our Parish.

Winning tickets (those in **bold** not claimed at the draw):

White - 36, 43, 49, 113, 139

Yellow - 237, **38, 64, 72, 116, 130, 139, 154, 272, 359**

Unclaimed prizes should be available after Masses, this weekend, at the Church where tickets were bought.

**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.

**Missio Red Boxes** are due for opening. Please bring any not brought in the past three weeks or so to either of our Churches, as soon as you next come to Mass.

### & In the Diocese

**40 Days for Life** Prayer and fasting, 22 Sep to 31 Oct - also peaceful vigil outside the Leeds MSI abortion facility, 7.00am-7.00pm. Over 19,000 lives have been saved by campaigns worldwide, since 2007. Please take a flyer from the Church Entrance, or for more information see [www.40daysforlife.com/leeds](http://www.40daysforlife.com/leeds).

*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 preparing for Confirmation, are to next meet, along with their Parents, in our Sacred Heart Hall,

**Sat 9 Oct, 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?

Peter Claver is a patron saint four times over: of slaves, of Columbia, of the Ministry to African Americans, and seafarers. The link is the time and energy he gave to helping African slaves, (and the sailors of the ships that brought them, and other sailors also), in the seaport of Cartagena, in the part of South America that is now Columbia. He was concerned both for their spiritual well-being and baptised great numbers, but also to promote their civil rights and freedom.

*Of this coming week's saints, all would have been required to give many homilies, sermons and speeches. But which one was credited with being especially eloquent?*

### AND SERIOUSLY!

A devoted preacher lost his Bible while at a spiritual retreat. He was devastated and began to lose his faith. Three weeks later, a dog walked up to him after Mass with the Bible in its mouth. He took the precious book from the dog and said 'It's a miracle'. 'Not really,' said the dog, 'your name was written in the cover.'



## Parish Monies

**Offertory Monies** **Many Thanks**  
29 August

Loose £157.15  
Envelopes £276.17

## 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

In an imaginative contemplation, use Christ's parable of the Two Sons, the prodigal and his elder brother in chapter 15 of St. Luke's



Gospel. This kind of exercise requires 30 to 60 minutes. Before beginning, decide how long you are going to spend on it. If you have decided on 40 minutes and after ten of them you think you are getting nowhere and want to abandon the prayer, do not give up but stay with it for

40 minutes. This is not an exercise in self-control: it is far more important than that. There are layers upon layers of consciousness within us. Very frequently the preliminary state before reaching a deeper layer is a feeling of inner emptiness, dryness and boredom. If we abandon the prayer every time we feel bored, we never reach the deeper layers. They can be valuable, however infrequently you may do them.

Before beginning the prayer, read over chapter 15 of St. Luke's Gospel, re-reading the parable of the Two Sons until you are familiar with the content.

Begin the prayer, by asking God that all that is within you may be directed purely to his service and praise during this period of prayer and ask, too, for a deepening knowledge and sorrow for sin.

Now let your imagination play on the passage and pray out of what you experience. That is the essence of the method and what follows is only an elaboration of that statement.

You may find you cannot get started and your mind keeps jumping from one thought to another. You may be afflicted with doubts of faith (Do I really believe in God, in the Scriptures?) or doubt about your own sincerity (Do I really want to have sorrow for sin?) or you may feel overwhelmed with guilt and feelings of hopelessness. Treat all these thoughts and feelings by acknowledging that they are present but bringing yourself gently back to the scene and refusing to tangle with them. If you are unable to focus your attention on the scene, pretend you are describing it to someone else and you may find yourself quickly engaged in it. If this does not help and your mind continues to jump about, then show Christ your scattered mind and distracted heart and ask that his Spirit should hover over your inner chaos as the Spirit hovered over the chaos at the beginning of creation, bringing life and order out of it. The Spirit is always hovering over our chaos. When we pray, we may become more aware of our inner chaos. This is a grace, a gift of insight, not a sign of failure. Acknowledging the chaos and submitting it to Christ can lead us to deep repentance, deeper than on more superficial feelings.

*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 Kathleen Varney, Wojciech 'Albert' Baran,  
and their families



*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 household

**The Word: Year B, Ordinary Time, Sunday 24: Commentary on the Readings**

**Gospel: Mark 8:27-35**

This is the turning-point of Mark's gospel. Till now the stories we have heard have all spoken about ever-increasing wonder and amazement at Jesus' personality, his goodness and his authority. But even his closest disciples do not seem to have seen what this means. Then suddenly Peter comes to the realisation that Jesus is the Messiah, the Anointed of God, for whom everyone was waiting. However, Peter still does not understand what this implies. Jesus is not a conquering political hero, who will simply wipe out all opposition by overwhelming force, and make every path smooth and gentle. Jesus begins to show his disciples that the road to fulfilment is through suffering. Jesus repeats this prophecy of his suffering, death and resurrection another two times, and on each occasion the disciples fail to grasp the lesson; first it's Peter, then the disciples who are arguing about precedence, and finally the two sons of Zebedee who want the best places for themselves. So three times Jesus repeats that if you want to follow him you must follow him to the Cross. Nor are we, later followers of Jesus, any quicker than the first disciples to learn this lesson if we greet any suffering that comes our way with indignation and evasion.



**First Reading: Isaiah 50:5-9**

As we have noted, this week's Gospel reading is a turning-point and concentrates on two matters, on Jesus as Messiah and on how the Messiah must suffer and die. This reading from Isaiah relates to the second aspect of the Gospel (the suffering Messiah). This part of the prophecies of Isaiah contains four interrelated "songs" sung by a Servant of the Lord, who willingly undergoes suffering and humiliation for his ministry to the Lord. Jesus' own sayings on service and suffering show that he was aware of

these songs, and that he saw himself as this Servant of the Lord: 'The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve'. We find a correspondence between many details from the songs and the story of the Passion: the flogging, the mockery and the insult, and also Jesus' voluntary failure to resist or to defend himself – at each trial he amazes the 'judge' by his silence. At the same time these songs are marked by a confidence in the Lord: whatever happens, the Lord will not desert his faithful Servant. In the fourth song (Isaiah 52:13-53:12) the suffering and humiliation of the Servant lead to his eventual vindication and the triumph of God.

**Second Reading: James 2:14-18**

The interconnection between faith and good works has been a puzzle from the beginning of Christianity – and before. At times people seem to have believed that it was possible to earn salvation. However, you cannot bargain or negotiate with God. As the psalms say, 'No one can buy their own ransom.' What we must do is trust in God's promises and in his limitless forgiveness. Faith is not a matter of believing first one doctrine and then another. Primarily, it is a matter of where my trust and confidence is lodged. What, then, is the point of good works? Our faith in God's generosity and forgiveness should lead us to act with similar generosity and forgiveness. We are made in the image of God, to carry on God's work of divine generosity and forgiveness. When James says that otherwise our faith is dead, he really means it is a withered faith, which is not faith at all.

*Courtesy of 'The Wednesday Word Trust'*

**The Word: Year B, Ordinary Time, Sunday 25**

1st Reading: Wisdom 2:12,17-20

2nd Reading: James 3:16-4:3

Gospel: Mark 9:30-37

**Prayer of the Church**

**Psalter: Week 4**  
**Sun** Proper of Sunday  
**Mon** Of Weekday + Proper of Saints  
**Tue** Proper of Saints  
**Wed** Proper of Saints + Proper of Saints  
**Thu** Of Weekday + Proper of Saints  
**Fri** Of Weekday (or + Proper of Saints)  
**Sat** Of Weekday

**This Week's Feasts & Saints**

**Mon** St John Chrysostom  
**Tue** Exaltation of the Holy Cross  
**Wed** Our Lady of Sorrows  
**Thu** St Cornelius, Pope & St Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs  
**Fri** St Robert Bellarmine, Bishop, Doctor of Church  
**Sat** Of Weekday