



# 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 C, Advent, Sunday 3, 11/12 December, 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 December	Sacred Heart	5.00pm Mass	<i>Eileen O'Reilly</i>
<b>Sunday</b> 12 December	St Joseph's Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass 1.00pm Baptism	<i>Vic France</i> <i>Debbie Lane</i>
Monday 13 December	St Joseph's St Joseph's	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass	<i>Faithful Departed (November List)</i>
Tuesday 14 December			
Wednesday 15 December	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	9.30am Mass 5-6.00pm Exposition/Reconciliation	<i>Joan Ballinger</i>
Thursday 16 December	St Joseph's St Joseph's St Joseph's	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass 10.00am Reconciliation	<i>Intentions Pennamma Abraham</i>
Friday 17 December	Sacred Heart	8.30am Mass	<i>Intentions Betty O'Donnell</i>
<b>Saturday</b> 18 December	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	10-11.00am Reconciliation/Exposition 5.00pm Mass	<i>Bridie McNally</i>
<b>Sunday</b> 19 December	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass	<i>Parish Family</i> <i>Terry O'Brien</i>

**Government has stated that face-coverings are now to be worn in most public places. This includes at all our Church Masses/Services, but not always in our Parish Hall/Rooms (such as when refreshments are served).**

This weekend, between our Masses, we pray with eleven of our Children, as we celebrate the Rite of Election to Candidature for Confirmation  
And at our 5.00pm Mass, we present Alexzander R.M Matysiak, prior to his up-coming Baptism  
This Sunday, on her being Baptised into our Parish and Church Family, we congratulate and pray for Payton Rosalie Hirst, with her mother, Naomi  
Next Sunday, during our 10.45am Mass, we are to celebrate the Baptism of Noel Anthony Redfearn

**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 was by St Charles Borromeo (1538-84), who was Archbishop of Milan 1564-84. He was well known for his stand against the Protestantism, but he realised, too, that the Catholic Church was in need of reform. He also gave much support to the English Mission, during the reign of Elizabeth I, and helped a number of those who returned to England to continue the work of our Catholic Church, during this time of persecution.



Beloved, now is the acceptable time spoken of by the Spirit, the day of salvation, peace and reconciliation: the great season of Advent. This is the time eagerly awaited by the patriarchs and prophets, the time that holy Simeon rejoiced at last to see. This is the season that the Church has always celebrated with special solemnity. We too should always observe it with faith and love, offering praise and thanksgiving to the Father for the mercy and love he has shown us in this mystery. In his infinite love for us, though we were sinners, he sent his only Son to free us from the tyranny of Satan, to summon us to heaven, to welcome us into its innermost recesses, to show us truth itself, to train us in right conduct, to plant within us the seeds of virtue, to enrich us with the treasures of his grace, and to make us children of God and heirs of eternal life.

Each year, as the Church recalls this mystery, she urges us to renew the memory of the great love God has shown us. This holy season teaches us that Christ's coming was not only for the benefit of his contemporaries; his power has still to be communicated to us all. We shall share his power, if, through holy faith and the sacraments, we willingly accept the grace Christ earned for us, and live by that grace and in obedience to Christ.

The Church asks us to understand that Christ, who came once in the flesh, is prepared to come again. When we remove all obstacles to his presence he will come, at any hour and moment, to dwell spiritually in our hearts, bringing with him the riches of his grace.

In her concern for our salvation, our loving mother the Church uses this holy season to teach us through hymns, canticles and other forms of expression, of voice or ritual, used by the Holy Spirit. She shows us how grateful we should be for so great a blessing, and how to gain its benefit: our hearts should be as much prepared for the coming of Christ as if he were still to come into this world. The same lesson is given us for our imitation by the words and example of the holy men of the Old Testament.

## Christmas Mass Times

**Friday 24 December**

**The Sacred Heart, 4.30pm -&- St Joseph's, 6.30pm**  
Any booking lifts/taxis, for our Eve Masses, are advised to expect Mass to be about 1hr 15mins

**Saturday 25 December**

**The Sacred Heart only, 10.00am**

**Sunday 26 December**

**St Joseph's, 9.00am -&- The Sacred Heart, 10.45am**

## Things happening in our Parish

**Mass Times Cards** These, printed on **small (A6) card**, give times of our Christmas Masses. Do please take one **or more** - not for yourself but to pass on, to invite some who have not much been coming to Mass, or any who might be thinking of becoming a Catholic.

**Parish Christmas Cards** printed on **larger (A5) card**, are for all of our Parish Family, to put one among their Christmas cards at home. Within, many are named as wishing to exchange Christmas greetings with all of our Parish Family. Please do take one today and, if you visit a housebound Parishioner, please take one for them with our Parish Newsletter

We also thank all our artists who designed card fronts. The three winning designs were submitted by Lornah Kiwinda, Dominic Kirwan, and Olivia Burn.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation** An extra time has been set for any who wish to make an individual Confession, before Christmas, **Sat 18 Dec**, 10-11.00am - at the same time, some might enjoy a little quiet time out of the rush, before the Blessed Sacrament exposed.

**First Reconciliation** Parents who have returned forms, for their Children to prepare for First Reconciliation, by now should have copy of the Programme. If any have not received a copy, please inform Fr Anthony.

**A Whole Lot of Thanks** are due to those who helped organise and run our Autumn Raffle, to all who donated the splendid array of items towards the prizes, and to all who bought tickets. A grand total of **£751.00** was raised.

**Winners** B-Blue, G-Green, P-Pink, W-White, Y-Yellow  
1 G461 - 2 P46 - 3 W601 - 4 B971 - 5 W611  
6 Y546 - 7 Y566 - 8 B446 - 9 Y781 - 10 B651  
11 P361 - 12 W341 - 13 B611 - 14 P526 - 15 P666  
16 W371 - 17 Y701 - 18 Y971 - 19 B736 - 20 B421  
21 B436 - 22 G216 - 23 Y891 - 24 B11 - 25 W646  
26 B936 - 27 P561 - 28 P476 - 29. B161

Please first claim prizes from the Church where winning tickets were bought, but some prizes may need to be transferred (or collected) from The Sacred Heart.

**Advent Project** This year we are raising money towards our Leeds Diocese Peru Fund, which has long assisted Parishes and Catholic projects, in Lima especially.

**Please add to the retiring collection being taken at our weekend Masses, throughout Advent.**



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 9 & 16 Mar**. 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 8 Jan, 9.30-11.30am**

**First Reconciliation** Our Children who are to prepare for First Reconciliation will first meet, along with their Parents, in our Sacred Heart Hall,

**Sat 15 Jan, 10.00am-12.00pm**

Please note that once the Programme begins, it will not be possible for late comers to join this next Programme for Reconciliation, nor the First Eucharist Preparation Programme to follow later during 2022.

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

## But seriously

### DO YOU KNOW?

Gracie Fields, The Beverley Sisters, Nina & Frederick, Vera Lynn, and Aled Jones - and many others - all recorded the Christmas Carol 'Little Donkey', written by the British song-writer Eric Boswell, in 1959. Some did quite well with it in the pop charts.

*Each year, Classic FM runs a vote for the top 30 Carols. Commonly, O Holy Night and Silent Night take the top two places, but often, an English Carol then comes in twice, within the first five or six, with tunes by Gustav Holst and Harold Edward Darke. What is the Carol and who composed the poem on which it is based?*

### AND SERIOUSLY!

A man is looking for a parking space but everywhere is full. The man prays 'God if you give me a space, I promise to go to Church'.

Suddenly one appears and the man says, 'Never mind, I've found one'.



## Parish Monies

**Offertory Monies** **Many Thanks**  
28 November

Loose	£446.05
Envelopes	£276.00
Advent Project	£111.45
+ Christmas Card	£356.61

## 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

### Recognising the Treasure when you find It

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? (Psalm 22:1)

On some occasions we may experience anger, sadness, anxiety. Which enclose us more within ourselves, leading us into dark depths of self-sympathy, bitterness, resentment and alienation from ourselves, from everyone else and from God. In the technical language of spirituality, such feelings are called 'desolation' and they feel like it! So the third guideline is:

*Moods and inner feelings, whether painful or pleasant, which are drawing us towards God, are called 'consolation', Painful moods and inner feelings which are drawing us away from God are called 'desolation'.*

Note that consolation can include both pleasant and painful inner states, while desolation includes only painful. Note, too, that desolation will only be experienced by those whose lives are essentially directed to the



praise, reverence and service of God. If a person is turned away from God in the core of their being, they may experience an occasional sting of remorse, but in general the felt absence of God will not cause them any pain, just as a person who is ill

and has lost all appetite is not pained at missing dinner. The fact that we experience desolation, although it feels like loss, is, in fact, a good sign, and so desolation as well as consolation is a sign of progress, not of regression, and it is an invitation to grow.

How are we to react when afflicted with desolation? The answer is in the fourth guideline:

*In desolation we should never go back on a decision made in time of consolation, because the thoughts and judgements which spring from desolation are the opposite of those which spring from consolation. It is, however, useful to act against the desolation, so that if it is leading us to pray less, we should pray more, and if it is leading us to be more enclosed on ourselves, we should go out more to others. We should also examine the cause of our desolation.*

Desolation often follows close on the heels of consolation. We may glimpse something of the goodness, mercy, faithfulness of God and experience great peace and joy. The euphoria dies away and the mind begins to question, 'Was I under some kind of illusion?', 'I shall never be able to keep up a life of faith'. 'What will my friends think of me?' The most common and pernicious form of desolation is lingering guilt, which we have already discussed. A quick way of spotting desolation is to ask yourself the question, 'Where is the focus of my attention? Is it on me or is it on God?' Our subjective feelings are not bad or good in themselves.

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 Eileen Snell, Carol Ann Weeks, Patricia Maw,  
Adrian Tyrrell, and their families.



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

Margaret Hinchliffe, Isabelle Blake, Elizabeth Olbison, Catherine Brown, Karen Dearing, Betty O'Donnell  
Liz Allen, Elizabeth Taylor, Monica Lowe, John O'Brien, Nicola Glew, Jerry O'Mahony, Raymond Ward  
Tim Byrne, John Lovely, Amanda Armer, Pennamma Abraham, and all our housebound

The Word: Year C, Advent, Sunday 3: Commentary on the Readings

**Gospel: Luke 3:10-18**

In this second of the two Advent Sunday gospels about John the Baptist we first hear details about how to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. Luke is always aware of the dangers of wealth and money, so he concentrates on avoiding its misuse. First he teaches equal sharing with the needy, no hoarding but generosity. Then he turns to financial exploitation. Tax-collectors had to pay for the right to collect taxes, and would be tempted to extort a nice margin to cover their own needs. In the same way soldiers could be tempted to abuse their power by bullying those they were meant to protect. The second half of John's task is to point away from himself towards Jesus, who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Luke's gospel and the Acts of the Apostles are full of the Holy Spirit. Luke must have been vividly aware of the working of the Spirit in the Church, in its ministers of all kinds and in the life of the Christian communities. He warns also of the fierce fire which will purge away impurities; for John the Baptist the Messiah is a stern figure who will burn away the rubbish in human hearts to make room for the Spirit.



**First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18**

Zephaniah tells that Jerusalem, the Holy City, sacked by the Babylonians, will be restored. That day will be a day of overwhelming joy, when the Lord will truly be king in Jerusalem. After the exile in Babylon the Jews returned to Jerusalem, but they were continually dominated by one set of foreign rulers after another, tossed from one to the next as the plaything of their powerful neighbours. They longed more and more to be free, to have God as their only ruler. When Jesus came, the kingship of God dominated his whole horizon, but the people failed to recognize the kingship of God in his proclamation and his way of life. He was not the conquering hero they expected, and the citizens he

gathered into his kingdom were the hungry, the poor, the persecuted, the disadvantaged, the alienated, the lost, the despised, the crippled and the sick. It was to these that he brought joy and rejoicing 'as on a day of festival'. If people failed to see God at work in Jesus' life, it was because they were looking for the wrong sort of God. If we want to share Christ's joy at Christmas, we must focus on the right kind of kingship of God.

**Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7**

This third Sunday of Advent, halfway through the preparation for Christmas, is traditionally known as Gaudete ('Rejoice') Sunday. The encouragement which begins our reading from Philippians ('Be joyful!') underlines this message. However, it is all very well for Paul to tell us not to worry, to be happy and to place all our desires before God. Easier said than done! Moreover, how can we be sure that all our prayers and petitions made to God will be answered? How can they be, if you pray for rain while I pray for sunshine? The true prayer of petition is Jesus' own prayer, an embrace of the Father in loving confidence that God is just that, our loving Father. We can think we know what will make us happy, but the only true recipe for happiness is to leave it to God, in the knowledge that our human perception is limited and incomplete. Any further prayer must be provisional. It is almost a game: I think I know what will make me happy, but on another level I know that I don't know – but I trust that the Lord knows what will bring me true happiness. So, in prayer, I place my worries before the Lord and leave the rest to him.

*Courtesy of 'The Wednesday Word Trust'*

**The Word: Year C, Advent, Sunday 4**

1st Reading: Micah 5:1-4  
2nd Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10  
Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

**Prayer of the Church**

**Psalter: Week 3**

**Sun** Of Advent Sunday  
**Mon** Of Advent Weekday + Proper of Saints  
**Tue** Of Advent Weekday + Proper of Saints  
**Wed** Of Advent Weekday  
**Thu** Of Advent Weekday  
**Fri** Of Advent 17 Dec  
**Sat** Of Advent 18 Dec

**This Week's Feasts & Saints**

**Mon** St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr  
**Tue** St John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of Church  
**Wed** Advent Weekday  
**Thu** Advent Weekday  
**Fri** Advent 17 Dec  
**Sat** Advent 18 Dec