



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, Feast of the Holy Family, 26 December, 2021

Getting in touch Father Anthony G Fenton
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			Mass Intentions
Christmas Day 25 December	Sacred Heart	10.00am Mass of Day <i>No evening Mass today</i>	<i>Jovito Gabriola</i>
Sunday 26 December	St Joseph's Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass <i>1.00pm Baptisms</i>	<i>Steve McNally</i> <i>Derek, Stephn, Mark, Christophr Jones</i>
Monday 27 December	St Joseph's St Joseph's	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass	<i>Faithful Departed (November List)</i>
Tuesday 28 December			
Wednesday 29 December	Sacred Heart	9.30am Mass	<i>Bernard Conway</i>
Thursday 30 December	St Joseph's St Joseph's	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass	<i>Parish Family</i>
Friday 31 December	Sacred Heart	8.30am Mass	<i>Mick Moran</i>
Saturday 1 January	Sacred Heart	5.00pm Mass	<i>Dennis Fricker</i>
Sunday 2 January	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass	<i>Michael Murtagh</i> <i>Dereck Denton</i>

This Sunday, on the event of their Baptisms, we congratulate and pray for
Jakub Szwaja, son of, Piotr and Angelika -&-
Alexzander Roman Mari Matysiak, son of, Toyah ad Alexander

*Fr Anthony wishes all of our Parish Family and all those who belong to them,
a truly Christ-filled, happy and contented 2022*

Government regulations require face-coverings to be worn in most in-door public places, including at all our Church Masses/Services, but not always in our Parish Hall/Rooms (eg if refreshments are being consumed).
(The usual exemptions for age and some medical conditions apply.)

To assist Track & Trace, all are invited to use the QR code in our Church Entrances, or book with us on-line.

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



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From Fr Anthony

The following reflection (abbreviated), on the *Magnificat* of Mary, Mother of God, was written by St Bede the Venerable.

And Mary said: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour. The Lord has exalted me by a gift so great, so unheard of, that language is useless to describe it. The depths of love in my heart can scarcely grasp it. I offer then all the powers of my soul in praise and thanksgiving. As I contemplate his greatness, which knows no limits, I joyfully give my whole life, my senses, my judgement, for my spirit rejoices in the eternal Godhead of that Jesus, that Saviour, whom I have conceived in this world of time.

The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. Mary looks back to the beginning of her song, where she said: *My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.* Only that soul, for whom the Lord in his love does great things, can proclaim his greatness with fitting praise and so encourage those who share her desire and purpose, saying: *Join with me in proclaiming the greatness of the Lord; let us extol his name together.*

Those who know the Lord, yet refuse to tell of his greatness and sanctify his name to the limit of their power, *will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven.* His name is called holy because in his unique power he surpasses every creature and is above all that he has made.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy. In a beautiful phrase Mary calls Israel the servant of the Lord. The Lord came to his aid to save him. Israel is an obedient and humble servant, in the words of Hosea: *Israel was a servant, and I loved him.*

Those who refuse to be humble cannot be saved. They cannot say with the prophet: *See, God comes to my aid; the Lord is the helper of my soul.* But *anyone who makes himself humble as a little child is great in the kingdom of heaven.*

The promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever. This does not refer to the physical descendants of Abraham, but his spiritual children; the descendants not from the flesh only, but those who have followed him in faith. Abraham believed, and this was credited to him as an act of righteousness.

The coming of the Saviour was promised to Abraham and to his descendants for ever. These are the children of promise, to whom it is said: *If you belong to Christ, then you are descendants of Abraham, heirs in accord with the promise.*

But it is right that before the birth of the Lord or of John the Baptist, their mothers should utter prophecies; for just as sin began with a woman (in the Book of Genesis), so does redemption. With the deceit of one woman, grace perished; the prophecies of two women announced its return to life.

Baptism Thanksgiving & Blessing of Children
at our 9.00am and 10.45am Masses
Sunday 9 January



All with children, whether their children were baptised in our or another Parish, are especially invited to join with us.

Things happening in our Parish

Infection Worries Any who are particularly vulnerable to infections, and therefore avoiding gatherings in numbers, do consider whether you might comfortably join with us at a weekday Mass, when we usually have no more than a dozen and almost invariably less than twenty, at Mass. Our weekday Masses, this week, are at the usual times - times that are changed only infrequently.

Please note that our First Reconciliation Programme is to begin mid-January. As it is a tightly timed Programme, once it begins we are not able to take new starters. If any parents have not returned an application form, but wish their child to join the Programme, they need to obtain an application form from Fr Anthony and return it to him, completed, by 2 January at latest. *Do note that the First Communion Programme, later in the year, will be only for Children who already have prepared for and celebrated their First Confession.*



Our Parish Seniors' Group Would be delighted to have new members, male and female, aged 55+, when they resume weekly meetings from **Wed 12 Jan**, 2-3.30pm.

Board Books Several books, for small children, are now available at both of our Churches, for them to use *during Mass*. Parents are invited to use them for their children, but *please do not take them away from Church*.

Advent Project This year, we have raised money for our Diocesan Peru Mission Fund, and have achieved a very creditable amount. We have experienced difficult times in the past two years, and many have become the poorer - but not so extensively or in such numbers as in Peru.

Thank you to all.

Total for Project to 12 Dec £658.03



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-12.00nn

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?

The Christmas Carol 'Silent Night, Holy Night' was composed in 1818. The lyrics were written by the Catholic priest Fr Joseph Mohr: the melody was composed by Franz Xaver Gruber. It was first sung in German, in a Church in Oberndorf, Austria, on Christmas Eve.

On the coming Feast of the Epiphany, we commonly sing the carol, 'We three Kings'. St Matthew actually refers to them as Magi (Wise Men), not kings; neither does he name them. But tradition has given them names. What are those names?

AND SERIOUSLY!

What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck?
A Christmas Quacker.



What happens if you eat Christmas decorations?
You get Tinsel-it is.

Parish Monies

Offertory Monies **Many Thanks**
12 December

Loose	£186.44
Envelopes	£244.71
Advent Project	£ 76.40

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

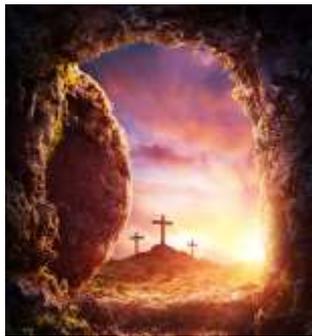
Recognising the Treasure when you find It

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

Has desolation any connection with depression? This is an important and difficult question which is well beyond my competence to answer, but I offer a few observations and very tentative conclusions based on limited experience of working with some people suffering from severe depression.

A depressed person who is also a Christian believer can suffer more severely than a non-believer if the depression so infects their minds and hearts that they become convinced that they are not only isolated from themselves and from others, but also from God, source of all hope. But if they can examine this awful pain, the pain itself can lead them to release from it. As a temporary measure, drugs may be necessary, but constant drug-taking can so muffle the inner feelings that the victim is cut off from their escape route.

Imaginative contemplation of Gospel healing miracles can reveal a root cause of depression in some believers. The revelation can be very painful, for the believer begins to see their own depth



of unbelief and the false assumptions which have kept them enclosed in their depression, namely that their personal problems are not only greater than anyone else's, but that they are also beyond the power of God. Once a depressed person has acknowledged that God's power is always greater, and that there is no darkness or sense of guilt which he cannot overcome, the depression can begin to lift and cease to have such a complete hold.

Just as earlier we distinguished consolation and desolation, showing that consolation can be operative in painful as well as in pleasant feelings, so, too, I believe that consolation and desolation can be operative within a state of depression. My evidence for this statement is in personal experience, for I have known depression which moves towards God as well as depression which moves away from him. The distinction between the two states, both of them unpleasant, is in answer to the question, 'Where is this move leading? Is it leading me to know God in the depth of my being as my only rock, refuge, strength, or is it leading me into a self-imprisoning preoccupation with my own darkness, a terrifying isolation which separates and encloses me within its faith-proof walls?'

A further guideline for times of desolation:

In desolation remember two things:

Know that the desolation will pass

If you can keep the focus of your attention on God, even if you have no felt experience of his presence, he will teach you through the desolation. He is, as it were, gouging out your false securities, revealing himself to your own inner emptiness so that he may fill and possess it.

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 Adrian Tyrrell, Kath Dixon, Pennamma Abraham,
Robert Byrom, 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, and all our housebound

The Word: Year C, Christmas, Feast of the Holy Family: Commentary on the Readings

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52 - Used in (this) Year C

This little incident, the only one told of Jesus' youth, has two attractive lessons for us. Firstly, it is a joy to see Jesus behaving just like any other twelve-year-old. He was a real child, and a child of that age goes off exploring, adventuring, unhesitatingly sure that the all-powerful, all-knowing parents will know where he or she has gone; parents, meanwhile, worry themselves sick at the unexplained disappearance of their child. Mary, the young mother, knows her son and the ways of the twelve-year old. She does not scold or expostulate, but just accepts what he says with love and relief. Secondly, Jesus' reply gives us a glimpse of his relationship to the Father. The phrase 'with my Father's affairs' may equally well be translated 'in my Father's house', but either translation indicates Jesus' total absorption with his Father.



The following are reflections on readings for Year A that might be used in years B & C.

First Reading: Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6,12-14

The Book of Ecclesiasticus is a collection of wise instructions on how to behave in accordance with the Law. The author must have been an expert in the Law, living in Jerusalem. He sees the Law not as a tiresome set of rules to be obeyed but as God's loving gift to his People, to show them how they should act to keep close to God. The Law is therefore to be treasured, a guide of inestimable value. The reading for today is a meditation and expansion on the commandment, 'Honour your father and your mother', explaining just how this should be put into practice. And what was Jesus' relationship like with his parents? What was he like as a baby? Did he cry? He must have done, to make his baby feelings known. Did he bawl and howl? Did he cry when he scraped the skin off his knees? Did he fall out of

trees and break his arm? Did he make mistakes? Did he play pranks? He must have made jokes. He must have been a wonderful joy to his parents – loving, delightful company, full of the devastatingly simple wisdom of children. And they must have been loving, wonderful company for him too, an anchor of affection and security.

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-2,21-14

In an incredibly short space the Letter to the Colossians gives a whole series of instructions on living in community: compassion, forgiveness, love and peace – not to mention gratitude. Love is a sort of overcoat, holding all the other qualities together. If we reflect on these qualities and put them into practice there can be no rivalry or hostility in the Christian community – even within a family, where the strains of Christmas may at times make love grow thin! However, a loving family is the model for the different relationships of a loving Christian community. God's loving parenting is the model for human parentage, and Christ's devotion to his body, the Church, is the model for the devotion of spouses to one another. Today's reading begins with an inspiring reminder that we form the chosen people of God; God's choice of us leaves us little alternative other than to behave as God's people. The Letter also counsels us to do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus; Christians are those over whom the name of the Lord Jesus has been called, making us members of his company and putting us under his power. This is the challenge: that we really act as God's people.

Courtesy of 'The Wednesday Word Trust'

The Word: Year C, Christmas, Sunday 2

1st Reading: Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2,8-12

2nd Reading: Ephesians 1:3-6,15-18

Gospel: John 1:1-18

Prayer of the Church

Psalter: Week 1

Sun Of the Feast

Mon Of the Feast but EP Psalms of Christmas Day

Tue Of the Feast but EP Psalms of Christmas Day

Wed Of the Feast but EP Psalms of Christmas Day

Thu Of Octave of Christmas

Fri Of Octave of Christmas

Sat Of the Feast inc Evening Prayer II

This Week's Feasts & Saints

Mon St John, Apostle

Tue Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Wed St Thomas Beckett, Bishop, Martyr

Thu Octave of Christmas

Fri Octave of Christmas

Sat Mary, Mother of God