



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, Christmas, Sunday 2, 1/2 January, 2022

Getting in touch Father Anthony G Fenton
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| | | | Mass Intentions |
|--|--|---|--|
| 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 Derek Denton</i> |
| Monday 3 January | St Joseph's St Joseph's | 9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass | <i>Faithful Departed (November List)</i> |
| Tuesday 4 January | Sacred Heart | <i>10.00am Funeral Mass</i> | Robert Byrom |
| Wednesday 5 January | Sacred Heart Sacred Heart Sacred Heart | 9.30am Mass <i>1.00pm Funeral Mass</i> 5-6.00pm Exposition / Reconciliation | Adrian Tyrrell <i>Teresa Foster</i> |
| Epiphany Thursday 6 January | St Joseph's St Joseph's Sacred Heart | 9.30am Mass 10.15am Reconciliation 7.00pm Mass | <i>Parish Family Kath Dixon</i> |
| Friday 7 January | Sacred Heart | 8.30am Mass | <i>Carol Weeks</i> |
| Saturday 8 January | Sacred Heart | 5.00pm Mass | <i>Intentions Betty O'Donnell</i> |
| Sunday 9 January | St Joseph's Sacred Heart | 9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass | <i>Patricia Maw Terry & Liz Donovan & Family</i> |

Please note the Mass times for this Thursday, 6 January, the Solemnity of the Epiphany

Fr Anthony wishes all of our Parish Family and all those who belong to them, a 2022 that is Christ-filled, and in which all manner of things are well.



Baptism Thanksgiving & Blessing of Children
at our 9.00am and 10.45am Masses, next Sunday 9 January
All with children, whether their children were baptised in our or another
Parish, are especially invited to join with us.



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 words following are from 'On the Refutation of All Heresies', by St Hippolytus, an early martyr in the name of Christ.

Our faith is not founded upon empty words. On the contrary, we put our faith in words spoken by the power of God, spoken by the Word himself at God's command. God wished to win men back from disobedience, not by using force to reduce him to slavery but by addressing to his free will a call to liberty.

We know that by taking a body from the Virgin he re-fashioned our fallen nature. We know that his manhood was of the same clay as our own; if this were not so, he would hardly have been a teacher who could expect to be imitated. If he were of a different substance from me, he would surely not have ordered me to do as he did, when by my very nature I am so weak. Such a demand could not be reconciled with his goodness and justice.



He wanted us to consider him as no different from ourselves, and so he worked, he was hungry and thirsty, he slept. Without protest he endured his passion, he submitted to death and revealed his resurrection. In all these ways he offered his own manhood as the first fruits of our race, to keep us from losing heart when suffering comes our way, and to make us look forward to receiving the same reward as he did, since we know that we possess the same humanity.

When we have come to know the true God, both our bodies and our souls will be immortal and incorruptible. We shall enter the kingdom of heaven, because while we lived on earth we acknowledged heaven's King. Friends of God and co-heirs with Christ, we shall be subject to no evil desires or inclinations, or to any affliction of body or soul, for we shall have become divine. Whatever evil you may have suffered, being man, it is God that allowed it, precisely because you are man; but equally, when you have been deified, God has promised you a share in every one of his own attributes. The saying *Know yourself* means that we should recognise and acknowledge in ourselves the God who made us in his own image, for if we do this, we in turn will be recognised and acknowledged by our Maker.

So let us not be at enmity with ourselves, but change our way of life without delay. Christ who is God, exalted above all creation, has taken away man's sin and re-fashioned fallen nature. In the beginning God made man in his image and so gave proof of his love for us. If we obey his commands and learn to imitate his goodness, we shall be like him and he will honour us. God is not beggarly, and for the sake of his own glory he has given us a share in his divinity.

This Weekend, prior to their up-coming Baptisms, we present and pray for, at our 9.00am Mass,
Annabelle Marie Hatherley,
with parents, **Vicki & Craig**,
and at our 10.45am Mass,
Rose Mae Caroline Eaton
with parents, **Andrew & Amy**

Things happening in our Parish

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 in the entrance halls 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.

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------|-------------------------------|
| Monies donated 19 Dec | £271.37 | Many thanks to all |
| Total raised for Project | £929.40 | |

Singing for the Brain Due to the present Covid infection rates, the Alzheimer's Association have cancelled the meeting that would be due this Thu 4 Dec.

Please, please, on leaving Church, be sure that where you have been sitting is left tidy - newsletters, readings sheets, etc, removed, and no abandoned tissues.

[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 \(eg if refreshments are being consumed\). \(Exemptions for age and some medical conditions apply.\) To assist Track & Trace, all are invited to use the QR code in our Church Entrances, or book with us on-line](#)

Fr Anthony says:

Many thanks to all who have given so much, through 2021. Stewarding was a big feature earlier in the year, but then we began to resume social and fund raising events; adults and children continued to be prepared for the Sacraments, throughout; there has been the care of the housebound and others with special needs; everyday and festive Masses and other Liturgies also resumed, with a new band of Welcomers for Weekend Masses; a lot more stuff, from cleaning and grounds-works to paper-work, and much else, has also been done. Very many have been involved and Parishioners owe each other a word of thanks - but here I wish to express my deep thanks to all who have given so freely and generously.

I note, too, the cleaning, decorating, liturgical ministries, and participation, at both of our Churches, that enabled our Christmas Liturgies to be prayerful and joyful celebrations.

I also much thank our Parish Family for your generous Christmas greetings, offerings and gifts. They are all appreciated and I, of course, keep you all in my prayers.

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?

St Matthew does not name the three Magi he tells of in his Gospel. Tradition, however, has given them the names Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar. Further traditions have suggested - respectively - their ages as 60, 40 and 20, and as being from Tarsus (in present day Turkey), Arabia, and Africa (Ethiopia most suggested).

St Luke is the only Gospel writer who indicates the ages of Jesus at certain key moments. At what age does he place Jesus when he is Baptised by John, in the river Jordan, and so began his public ministry?

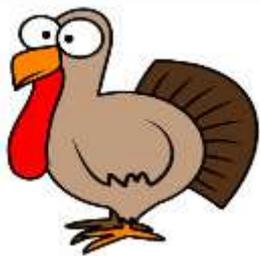
AND SERIOUSLY!

Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing?

They always drop their needles!

Why did the turkey cross the road?

Because it had the drumsticks!



Parish Monies

Offertory Monies **Many Thanks**
19 December

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Loose | £ 231.82 |
| Envelopes | £ 240.20 |
| Oct Bank Orders | £1682.00 |
| Nov Bank Orders | £1932.00 |

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)

Desolation feels painful, but if we can be still during it, that is, not go back on decisions made in time of consolation, then the effect of the desolation, in itself tending to be destructive, becomes life-giving. If we imagine ourselves to be in the hands of God as clay is in the hands of the potter (an image used by Jeremiah and Isaiah), then we can see desolation as a turning of the clay so that it becomes a vessel which can contain life-giving water which as unformed clay it could not hold. Desolation, as it were, gouges us out, so that we can receive more. At the time, the process simply feels painful: when it is over we become aware of new areas of feeling and perception within us. Having experienced the inner pain, we can better sense it in others and we are much more appreciative of the gifts we have been given. We also discover in the pain deep strengths within, of which we were unaware before. We begin to understand in a new way of the meaning of Christ, light of our darkness, and the meaning of his Passion, for he has come down into our pain, darkness and death, and is risen again. Therefore, there is no depth of experience I can reach where the rescuing power of God is not also present.

So far we have given guidelines for handling desolation.

This sixth guideline is on handling Consolation:

In consolation make the most of it! Acknowledge it as a gift, freely given, to reveal a deeper truth of your existence, namely that you live always enfolded within the goodness and faithfulness of God. In consolation you have had a felt experience, a glimmer of the truth. Let this truth become the anchor of your hope in time of desolation

In experiencing feelings of peace, tranquillity, joy and delight – whether in prayer or outside of prayer – accept them gratefully from God. They are gifts given freely and through no merits of our own, which we should enjoy and relish. They are glimpses in our consciousness of the truth which permeates every particle of our being, that we live and move and have our being enfolded within the goodness of God. In a later chapter we shall look again at consolation and make further distinctions, but for the present accept any consolations gratefully and trust that if these feelings were arising from a destructive element within us, then God will eventually make it clear to us.....

To be continued.....

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

Dear Lord, please help me in this time of upset.

I don't always understand why you allow heartache in my life: but I now turn to you for comfort.

I seek your loving and reassuring presence.

Please, dear Lord, my shelter in this storm.

I lift my eyes to you because I know my help comes from you.

Give me the strength to recognise your ever present care and to trust in your unfailing love and faithfulness.

**Please Keep
In Prayer**

All whose **Anniversaries** occur about this time
All who have **died recently**
especially Adrian Tyrrell, Kath Dixon, Robert Byrom,
Amanda Armer, Ann Wild, 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, and all our housebound

The Word: Year C, Christmas, Sunday 2: Commentary on the Readings

Gospel: John 1:1-18

The Gospel reading for this Second Sunday after Christmas is the same as that for Christmas Day itself. Perhaps, after all the celebrations of Christmas, there is room for a more sober thought. The climax is not at the end of the reading, but is in the centre: 'to those who believe he gave power to become sons of God'. On either side of this verse are rejection by his own people, and acceptance by those who see his Glory. This theme of acceptance and rejection runs right through the gospel of John, some accepting (the disciples, Nicodemus, the Man Born Blind), some rejecting (the Pharisees, the leaders of the Jews). The disciples accept at the Marriage Feast at Cana; the leaders of the Jews immediately afterwards reject at the Cleansing of the Temple. You cannot remain neutral; you must either accept or reject. It is a great trial-scene, and we judge ourselves by our reaction to Jesus. The Father has given all judgment to the Son, but the Son judges no one. The last dread scene is when the Jewish leaders pass sentence on themselves before Pilate and before Jesus crowned as king and seated as judge; they reject God's kingship by saying, 'We have no king but Caesar'. There is no need for sentence to be passed, for we pass our own sentence on ourselves.

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

This wonderful poem, of which we read all too short an extract, celebrates the splendour of Jerusalem, where the Wisdom of God, the Law, took root. The author loves the Law, the Temple and Jerusalem with all his heart, as the gift and manifestation of God. God creates by his Wisdom, the master-plan and agent of creation. Wisdom, expressed in the Law, is also the master-plan which guides God's image and representative, which teaches us how to live as the image of God. So our author sees Jerusalem as the visible symbol of all the beauties of God's creation. We Christians, however, see Christ as this Wisdom of God, who took root in his Chosen People, and in

Jerusalem – or at least in Bethlehem, 7km away. For us, then, this hymn is a celebration of God's Wisdom in Christ, taking root in the human race. In Colossians Paul hymns Christ as Wisdom, the first-born in creation and the first-born from the dead. In the great hymn at the beginning of Ephesians Christ is described as the climax in whom all creation is summed up, in whom God 'brings everything together under Christ as head'. The completion of creation is, then, the fullness of the Incarnation which we celebrate at Christmas.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-6,15-18

The sevenfold blessing, with which Ephesians begins, sums up God's plan of salvation for humanity. The climax is in the centre, 'to bring everything under Christ as head'. Christ is the Wisdom of God, the plan according to which and through which all things were created. Christ is also the completion of the creation, and the unity of all things in Christ is a special emphasis of the whole letter. All things are under Christ as head creation, all nourishment for creation and all guidance of creation. In ancient medical science the head was held to be the source of all these: all nourishment comes through the mouth, the brain thinks things out and makes the decisions on which the whole body acts. Christ performs for creation these functions which the head performs for the body. In earlier letters Paul had written that the Body of Christ which is the Church is made up from many limbs and members, which all have different contributions to make to its wellbeing. Now he develops this image and differentiates Christ as the head of the whole Body as its guide, leader, nourishment and focus.

Courtesy of 'The Wednesday Word Trust'

The Word: Year C, The Baptism of our Lord

1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11

2nd Reading: Titus 2:11-14,3:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Prayer of the Church

Psalter: Week 2

Sun Of Christmas Season

Mon Of Christmas Season

Tue Of Christmas Season

Wed Of Christmas Season

Thu Of The Epiphany

Fri After Epiphany

Sat After Epiphany (or + Proper of Saints)

This Week's Feasts & Saints

Mon Holy Name of Jesus

Tue Of Christmas Season

Wed Of Christmas Season

Thu Feast of The Epiphany

Fri St Raymond Penyafort, Priest

Sat After Epiphany