



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, Baptism of our Lord, Jesus Christ, 8/9 January, 2022

Getting in touch Father Anthony G Fenton
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			Mass Intentions
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>
Monday 10 January	St Joseph's St Joseph's	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass	<i>Yorkshire Brethren</i>
Tuesday 11 January			
Wednesday 12 January	Sacred Heart	9.30am Mass	<i>Teresa Foster</i>
Thursday 13 January	St Joseph's St Joseph's	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass	<i>Intentions Betty O'Donnell</i>
Friday 14 January	Sacred Heart	8.30am Mass	<i>Kath Dixon</i>
Saturday 15 January	Sacred Heart	5.00pm Mass	<i>Robert Byrom</i>
Sunday 16 January	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass	<i>Parish Family Mary Byrne</i>

Next Sunday, 16 January, between our two Masses, we are to pray with and for **eleven of our Parish Family**, who are to be **Confirmed in the Holy Spirit**



First Eucharist and Confirmation Thanksgiving

Those who recently received their First Communion, on the First Sunday of Advent, and those being Confirmed on 16 January, along with their families, are to celebrate a **Thanksgiving Mass in our Sacred Heart Church, Saturday 29 January, 11.00am**
Any of our Parish Family and Friends will also be most welcome.

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.

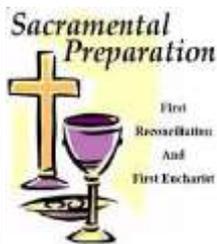
He wanted us to know him as no different from us, so he worked, was hungry and thirsty, he slept. Without protest he endured his passion, he submitted to death and revealed his resurrection. In all these ways he offered his own manhood as the first fruits of our race, to keep us from losing heart when 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.

Things happening in our Parish



First Sacraments Our 2022 Preparation Programme for First Reconciliation (that leads on to First Communion) will begin next **Saturday 15 Jan**. The Programme is tightly packed, so it is not possible to take late joiners, as they would not have sufficient catch-up time. If any parent has not yet applied but wishes to join this coming Programme, with their child, it is essential for them to contact Fr Anthony, **before next Saturday**.

Eligible are those Baptised Catholics who are now in school year 3 or above. Separate arrangements can also be made for any who are notably older (ie teens/adults).

Our Parish Seniors have suspended their meetings until further notice, on account of Covid precautions.

Our Parish SVP will meet this **Wed 12 Jan**, 6.30pm, in our Sacred Heart Hall. New members would be welcome. To find out more, ask any existing member. If you do not know who the members are, Fr Anthony can inform you.

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.

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.

Memory Cafe Due to the present Covid infection rates, the Memory Cafe organisers have cancelled the meeting due this Fri 14 Jan.

Universe Catholic Weekly aims to keep subscribers informed of Catholic interest news and is now available in a digital format (not in a paper format, as before). Copies can be ordered at www.universecatholicweekly.co.uk or call 07436-617650 and ask for Michelle. Special offer: £20 for 3 months.

Dates for your Diary

- | | |
|--------|--|
| 26 Feb | Saturday - 6.00pm - Pancake Party
<i>A fun evening for all ages, as Lent nears</i> |
| 2 Mar | Ash Wednesday - 9.30am/7.00pm - Masses
<i>Distribution of Ashes and beginning of Lent</i> |
| 15 Apr | Good Friday - 3.00pm
<i>Liturgy of the Passion of our Lord, Jesus Christ</i> |
| 16 Apr | Holy Saturday - 7.00pm
<i>Paschal Vigil and First Mass of Resurrection</i> |
| 17 Apr | Easter Sunday - 9.00am/10.45am - Masses
<i>Our Lord, Jesus Christ, is risen!</i> |

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

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 their Confirmation, are to be Confirmed in the Holy Spirit, at our Masses, next **Sun 16 Jan**.

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.

Parish Monies

Offertory Monies
26 December

Many Thanks

Loose £ 58.95
Envelopes £247.50

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

The worst mistake we can make is to live in a state of constant suspicion that anything good that happens to us must be bad, or an illusion. Such distress effectively chokes off the action of God as long as we persist in it. To live in him is to enjoy, as a normal state, love, joy, peace, patience, strength and trust.

One reason why most of us experience alternating consolation and desolation is because our minds have layers upon layers of consciousness. At one level of consciousness I may be full of faith that all power belongs to God and without him I can do nothing. Then my security is threatened in some way and I reach a deeper level of consciousness to which my faith has not penetrated and where I have been living in a state of unconscious atheism. This

moment of crisis is an invitation to grow in my faith. I may accept the invitation and for a few years I live in this deeper level. Then another crisis occurs and I



become aware of an even deeper level of atheism within me. In your journey towards God we proceed like those small birds whose flight is in loops. They always seem to be about to drop, but the drop in their flight seems to urge them forwards.

A constant theme running through this book is 'the answer is in the pain'. We fear whatever causes us pain and try to escape, but in escaping we are running away from the answer, and so another useful guideline in learning to read our moods is:

7. Face the fears that haunt you.

In Jungian language, 'Face your shadow.' Fear, like guilt, is a healthy human reaction to danger but if we refuse to face the fear, we cannot discover the danger which is threatening. If we refuse to face the fear, the fear may become a ruthless tyrant pervading and poisoning every aspect of our lives. Once faced, the fears often turn out to be illusory, a truth vividly illustrated in a dream which someone shared with me while I was giving him the Spiritual Exercises. I shall call the dreamer, 'Tom'.

It began as a nightmare. Tom was in a dark jungle. Alone and unarmed, but there were threatening figures lurking in the shadows. He knew that the locality was called 'Recife', although at the time of the dream he had no idea where 'Recife' was. As he could not defend himself, he decided to try and befriend the threatening figures, some of whom vanished while others proved friendly and protected him for the rest of his journey. Later reflecting on the dream, he saw the pun on the word 'Recife', which was saying to him, "Receive" those things in your life of which you are afraid and befriend them'.....

To be continued.....

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

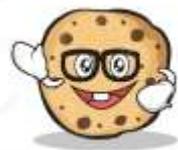
But seriously

DO YOU KNOW?

St Luke tells us that when Jesus went to be Baptised by John, in the river Jordan, and so began his public ministry of teaching and healing, he was about thirty years of age.

In next Sunday's Gospel, John tells of Jesus changing the water into wine, at a wedding, in Cana. He refers to this as Jesus' first sign (miracle). How many 'signs' does John include in his Gospel, and which other relates closely to the first sign and to Jesus's teaching on the Eucharist?

AND SERIOUSLY!



The way to enjoy inner peace is to finish the things you've started, and it definitely works. I have finished today;

Two bags of crisps,
1 strawberry cheesecake,
A packet of biscuits,
a small box of chocolates.



**Please Keep
In Prayer**

All whose **Anniversaries** occur about this time
All who have **died recently**
especially Kath Dixon, 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, Feast of the Baptism of our Lord, Jesus Christ: Commentary on the Readings

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

Luke does not tell us who baptised Jesus. In Luke the story of John the Baptist ends with his promise of one who will baptise with the Holy Spirit - then John is arrested. At the baptism itself all Luke's concentration is on the coming of the Spirit. Indeed, it is hardly an account of the baptism at all, for the baptism is only a time marker for the coming of the Spirit when "Jesus, after his own baptism, was at prayer". Jesus' mission begins with the coming of the Spirit. In the same way, Luke's second volume (the Acts of the Apostles) begins with the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost. It is as though Luke wants to show the importance of the Spirit from beginning to end of the Christian life. And this is the case: in both books the part played by the Spirit directs all the action. The same is still true in the Christian community today, though sometimes human stubbornness and blindness does its best to impede the leadership and guidance of the Spirit. Most of us are artists at blocking the Spirit when the Spirit's promptings are inconvenient!

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

The reading from Isaiah for today is the joyful song which opens the second part of Isaiah. After the 70 years of the Exile the people of Israel are looking forward to the return to Jerusalem, aware that they are soon to be released from their captivity. They have 'served their sentence' in Babylon and their sin has been forgiven. The Lord will lead them in joy across the great desert as he led them across the desert at Exodus, and will manifest his glory again. For Christians the excitement is that John the Baptist picks up this message as he prepares for the coming of Christ. We can see the fulfilment of this passage from Isaiah in the coming of Christ in history and in his future return



in glory. Christ brings about his Kingship of God, but it is for us Christians, as we await his coming again, to show by our lives the glory and the love and the generosity of God to a world which refuses to see the splendour of his coming. This is the daunting responsibility of those who bear the name of 'Christian', who see in Jesus the manifestation of God's reign.

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

The phrase in this reading which seizes the attention is "he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit". Is this referring to Jesus' baptism or to yours and mine? My guess is that in the original letter it referred to our baptism, but that, by putting it forward on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the church is referring it to Jesus' baptism as the model of your and my baptism. We received in our baptism the same re-birth as children of God and the same renewal in the Holy Spirit as Jesus did in the Jordan. The image of birth from the waters is a fascinating one, and can be taken on many levels: the ocean as the great, turbulent place from which all life derives, the source of life and fertility for plants, animals and humans, the 'waters' of each mammal's birth. By the waters of baptism we are given a wholly new life as adopted sons of God. We have seen how, in Luke's account of the Baptism of Jesus, the coming of the Spirit is the main focus. On us too the Spirit comes at baptism to empower us to do all kinds of good works beyond any human ability.

Courtesy of 'The Wednesday Word Trust'

The Word: Year C, Ordinary Time, Sunday 2

1st Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Gospel: John 2:1-11

Prayer of the Church

Psalter: Week 1

Sun Of the Feast

Mon Of Weekday

Tue Of Weekday

Wed Of Weekday (or + Common Holy Men/Women)

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 St Aelred, Abbot

Thu St Hilary, Bishop, Doctor of Church

Fri Of Weekday

Sat Of Weekday