



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, Ordinary Time, Sunday 3, 22/23 January, 2022

Getting in touch Father Anthony G Fenton
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			Mass Intentions
Saturday 22 January	Sacred Heart	5.00pm Mass	<i>Pennamma Abraham</i>
Sunday 23 January	St Joseph's Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass 1.00pm Baptism	<i>Parish Family</i> <i>Terry & Liz Donovan & Family</i>
Monday 24 January	St Joseph's St Joseph's	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass	<i>Ann Wild</i>
Tuesday 25 January			
Wednesday 26 January	Sacred Heart	9.30am Mass	<i>McNicholas Family</i>
Thursday 27 January	St Joseph's St Joseph's	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass	<i>Parish Family</i>
Friday 28 January	Sacred Heart	8.30am Mass	<i>Mick Moran</i>
Saturday 29 January	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	11.00am Mass 5.00pm Mass	<i>First Sacraments Families</i> <i>Louis Martin</i>
Sunday 30 January	St Joseph's Sacred Heart St Joseph's	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass 1.00pm Baptism	<i>William Joseph Mannion</i> <i>Adrian Tyrrell</i> Annabelle Marie Hatherley

This Weekend, between our Masses, we congratulate and pray with and for **Fifteen of our Parish Family**, on their being **Enrolled to Prepare for First Reconciliation** and also, on her being Baptised into our Parish and Church Family, this Sunday **Rosie Mae Caroline Eaton**, with her parents, **Andrew and Amy**

First Eucharist and Confirmation Thanksgiving

Those who recently received their First Communion, on the First Sunday of Advent, and those Confirmed last Sunday, along with their families, are to celebrate a **Thanksgiving Mass in our Sacred Heart Church, next 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 following, taken from the homilies of St John Chrysostom on the Acts of the Apostles, reminds that Jesus calls upon we, his Baptised, to bring his Good News to others.

Nothing is colder than a Christian who does not care for the salvation of others.

You cannot plead poverty here; for the poor widow who put in two copper coins will be your accuser. Moreover, Peter said, 'Silver and gold I have none', and Paul was so poor that he often went hungry and lacked necessary food.

You cannot plead lowliness of birth; for the apostles also were lowly men and of humble parents. You cannot allege want of education; for they too were unlearned men. You cannot plead infirmity, for Timothy was of delicate health and was frequently ill.

Everyone can be of profit to his neighbour, if he will fulfil his role.

Look at the trees of the forest: how strong they are, how beautiful, how large also, and smooth, and of great height, but they do not bear fruit. If we had a garden, we should much rather have pomegranates or fruitful olive trees. The others are for the delight of the eye, not for profit, which in their case is very small.

Men who are interested only in themselves are like the forest trees, or rather they are not even so good. In fact they are fit only for the fire, while the forest timber can be used for buildings. Such are the foolish virgins of the parable, chaste and modest, but, with nothing to give, are rejected. Such are they who do not nourish Christ.

Observe that none of these are charged with particular sins of their own, but with that of being without use to another. Such was the man who buried his talent, showing indeed a blameless life, but not being useful to others.

How can such a one be a Christian? If yeast when mixed with the flour did not raise the whole batch, would it be yeast at all?

Do not say, 'It is impossible for me to induce others to become Christians,' for if you were really a Christian, it would be impossible for you not to do so. As all nature acts in accordance with its own properties, so in this case too; this is part of the very nature of being a Christian.

Do not insult God. To say that the sun cannot shine would be to insult him; to say that being a Christian is useless is to insult God and call him a liar. It is easier for the sun not to give heat, not to shine, than for the Christian not to send forth light; it is easier for the light to be darkness than for this to be so.

Do not tell me that it is impossible; it is the contrary that is impossible. If we once get our own affairs right, the other will certainly follow as a natural and necessary consequence. It is not possible for the light of a Christian to be hid; it is not possible for a lamp so conspicuous as that to be concealed.

Things happening in our Parish

Altar Servers We would be delighted to have more Altar Servers, at both of our Churches. Any, of any age, who are able to receive Communion, may serve at the Altar. A rehearsal will be held **Sat 5 Feb**, 10.30am, at our Sacred Heart Church, for any who might serve at *either of our Churches*. If you expect to come, please try to let Fr Anthony or Paul Stuart know.



If any can't come to this meeting but would like to start serving, please do let Fr Anthony know

Covid Regulations The present situation appears to be that from this coming Thursday, wearing face-coverings will still be advised, in enclosed or crowded places, and especially when meeting with those we don't normally meet. For now, all (excepting any to date exempt) are advised to wear a face-covering at weekend Masses and at funerals. Presuming the expected Parliamentary notice happens this Wednesday, from Thursday the use of face-coverings, at Monday-Friday Masses and Services, will simply be a matter of personal choice.

Please also note that in the near future, likely from the first weekend of February, we will return to standing, sitting, and kneeling at Mass, as in pre-covid times.

Eucharist Ministers As evidence points to covid being mostly passed on via droplets in the air, from breath, it is now considered acceptable for Ministers to cleanse the Communion vessels. *If they feel comfortable* doing this, Ministers are asked, as in pre-covid days, to cleanse the vessels after Masses at which they have ministered.

& Church Welcomers From the same evidence as for the Eucharist Ministers, Welcomers might now give out such as Newsletters and Mass sheets, hand to hand.

& In the Diocese

Caritas Leeds on-line workshop, on 'Exploitation': how young people and vulnerable adults can be manipulated and coerced into committing crimes, drawn into criminal activity, and modern slavery. Thu 20 Jan, 6-8.00pm. To book, please use: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/criminal-justice-workshop-exploitation-tickets-195078153007>

& Nationally

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.

This weekend, Government regulations require face-coverings to be worn in most in-door public places, including at our Churches; 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 next Programme of Preparation for Confirmation should begin in the summer. Application forms should be available soon after Easter.

First Reconciliation Our Children now preparing for their First Reconciliation will next meet, along with their Parents, in our Sacred Heart Hall,

Sat 12 Feb, 10.00am-12.00nn

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

But seriously

DO YOU KNOW?

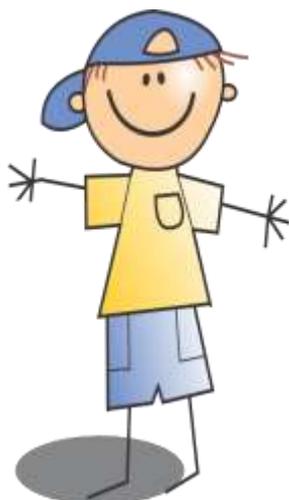
Both his Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles are believed to have been written by St Luke. This means that he wrote more than a quarter of the New Testament text and more of it than St Paul or any other.



In this, Year C of the cycle for Sunday readings, we mostly follow the Gospel of St Luke. Luke notes that he was not an eyewitness to the events in Jesus' time on earth. So do we know who was a major influence in his becoming a Christian?

AND SERIOUSLY!

A four-year old son overheard his pregnant mother talking with his dad. When asked if he was excited he said: 'Yes, if it's a girl we are calling her Grace and if a boy we're calling it quits!'



Parish Monies

Offertory Monies **Many Thanks**
2 January

Loose	£ 185.49
Envelopes	£ 345.00
Jan Bank Orders	£1562.00

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

Christ welcomed sinners and dined with them. He welcomes us and makes his home in us. Our home can never be the same again. He can prove to be an awkward guest who tends to take over everything, invading our privacy, disrupting our plans. He can upset our relationships, he introduces unwanted people and disturbing ideas, puts our jobs, property, and even our lives



at risk. We do not dare ask him to leave, but we can relegate him to a small corner of the house which can be securely locked, soothe our consciences by decorating this corner tastefully, sparing no expense, bowing or genuflecting reverently when we pass by, and then get on with normal living, happy to claim him as a guest while ensuring that he does not interfere, reducing him to a nice, domesticated, comforting, harmless Jesus.

Can you, by reviewing your own experience, identify any moods or inner feelings which you would call consolation or desolation? Try writing your own Rules for Discernment based on your own experience.

A Most Surprising God

Such evil deeds can religion prompt

In France and Germany there are vast cemeteries, the mortal remains of those hundreds of thousands of men who died in battle in the two World Wars. Both German and Allied graveyards declare that their dead gave their lives 'Pro Deo et Patria', 'For God and Country'. All who gave their lives deserve our respect but it cannot be God's will that we should kill one another. Nuclear submarines, built for national security and therefore 'Pro Patria', with enough power to obliterate cities and maim millions, have received solemn blessings to assure those who sail in them and operate their missiles that they act 'Pro Deo' as well as 'Pro Patria'. Sin is the refusal to let God be God. This refusal is so deep in us that we even use God's name to justify our selfishness, oppression and destruction and believe that we are acting righteously.

In the last chapter we looked at some basic guidelines to help us distinguish the creative action of God in our lives from the destructive action of evil within us. We will now look more closely at this question.

Christ died, rose from the dead and is now Lord of all creation. Our real identity is in him. 'The Spirit of God', St. Paul says, 'Who lived in Jesus and raised him from the dead, now lives in us'.

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 Margaret Hazel O'Connor, Bernard Tulley,
Mary Walsh, 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, Ordinary Time, Sunday 3: Commentary on the Readings

Gospel: Luke 1:1-4,4:14-21

Today's gospel passage starts the series of readings from Luke which will continue throughout the ordinary Sundays of the Year. It is composed of two separate passages: first it gives Luke's introduction to his gospel, in which he explains how and why he wrote it. Then, jumping over the preparatory stories of Jesus' infancy, baptism and testing in the desert, it comes directly to his programmatic manifesto in the synagogue at Nazareth. The gospel is offered to Theophilus – a Greek name – and is written for gentle communities. So Luke stresses that Jesus' message is not just for Jews but for the peoples of the whole world. Twice in the second passage (Jesus' manifesto in Nazareth) Luke stresses that Jesus is moved by the Spirit of the Lord. As we see in the second reading, the Spirit was obviously at work in the early Christian communities.

This was no more than a continuation of the Spirit's activity from the very beginning of the Christian movement. In Luke's stories of the annunciation, birth and infancy of Jesus the presence of the Spirit is constantly noted. In the earliest stories of the Church in the Acts of the Apostles the same guidance by the Spirit directs every move.

First Reading: Nehemiah 8:2-6,8-10

The Book of Nehemiah, from which today's reading is taken, is the latest historical book of the Hebrew Bible. It describes the re-establishment of the People of Israel, now the Jews, in and around Jerusalem, on their release from exile in Babylon. In the seventy years of exile they had developed a way of life based on the Law and marked by Sabbath, circumcision and ritual food; this distinguished them not only from the Babylonians, but also from those inhabitants of Judaea who had not been dragged into captivity. It was only those who were passionate for the Lord and this way of life who returned to the ruins of



Jerusalem. Others stayed in more comfortable exile! Ezra, the expert in the Law, and Nehemiah, commissioned by the King of Persia (in whose empire Judaea lay), were at different times leaders of the community. In this scene Ezra reads out and so promulgates the Law in Jerusalem, to the acclaim of the people. What a contrast to the scene in the synagogue at Nazareth where Jesus reads out the passage from Isaiah (the clue to his way of life and that of his followers) - only to be rejected by his own people!

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-30

Following directly on from last Sunday's reading, Paul (in today's passage) shows just why the different gifts of the Spirit must be used for the common purpose of building up the community. He

compares the community which lives with the life of the Spirit to a human body. For the effective functioning of the human body each highly diverse organ must play its part, contribute its own particular speciality. To prevent the individual Corinthians becoming proud and possessive of their own particular gifts, Paul stresses that, like parts of the body, none is more important than any other. Is it less serious if your liver fails or your kidneys? This comparison of a community to a human body is common in ancient literature, but nowhere else is the community as a body described as the body of a particular person in the way that Paul designates the Corinthian Christian community as the Body of Christ. The Body which lives by the life-principle of Christ's Spirit is Christ's own Body.

Courtesy of 'The Wednesday Word Trust'

The Word: Year C, Ordinary Time, Sunday 4

1st Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-5,17-19

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13

Gospel: Luke 4:21-30

Prayer of the Church

Psalter: Week 3

Sun Of the Season

Mon Of Weekday + Proper of Saints

Tue Proper of Saints

Wed Of Weekday + Proper of Saints

Thu Of Weekday (or + Proper of Saints)

Fri Of Weekday + Proper of Saints

Sat Of Weekday

This Week's Feasts & Saints

Mon St Francis de Sales, Bishop, Doctor of Church

Tue The Conversion of St Paul, Apostle

Wed Ss Timothy & Titus, Bishops

Thu St Angela Merici, Virgin

Fri St Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Doctor of Church

Sat Of Weekday