



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 4, 29/30 January, 2022

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			Mass Intentions
Saturday 29 January	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	11.00am Mass 5.00pm Mass	<i>First Sacraments Families Intentions of 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 Adrian Tyrrell</i>
Monday 31 January	St Joseph's St Joseph's	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass	<i>Parish Family</i>
Tuesday 1 February			
Wednesday 2 February	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	9.30am Mass 5-6.00pm Exposition/Reconciliation	<i>Kath Dixon</i>
Thursday 3 February	St Joseph's St Joseph's	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass 10.00am Reconciliation	<i>Philomena Byrne</i>
Friday 4 February	Sacred Heart	8.30am Mass	<i>Julia Taylor</i>
Saturday 5 February	Sacred Heart	5.00pm Mass	<i>Dennis Fricker</i>
Sunday 6 February	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass	<i>Steve McNally Pennamma Abraham</i>

This Sunday, on her being Baptised into our Parish and Church Family, we congratulate and pray for **Annabelle Marie Hatherley**, with her parents, **Vicki and Craig**.



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

From Fr Anthony

St Athanasius, in his words below, sought to lay out the place of Jesus, the Word of God, in the process and continuation of creation.

By his own wisdom and Word, who is our Lord and Saviour Christ, the all-holy Father (whose excellence far exceeds that of any creature), like a skilful steersman guides to safety all creation, regulating and keeping it in being, as he judges right. It is right that creation should exist as he has made it and as we see it happening, as this is his will, which no one would deny. For if the movement of the universe were irrational, and the world rolled on in random fashion, one would be justified in disbelieving what we say. But if the world is based on reason, wisdom and science, and is filled with orderly beauty, then it must owe its origin and order to the Word of God.



He is God, the living and creative God of the universe, the Word of the good God, who is God in his own right. The Word is different from all created things: he is the unique Word belonging only to the

good Father. This is the Word that created this whole world and enlightens it by his loving wisdom. He who is the good Word of the good Father produced the order in all creation, joining opposites together, forming from them one harmonious sound. He is God, one and only-begotten, who proceeds in goodness from the Father as from the fountain of goodness, and gives order, direction and unity to creation.

By his eternal Word the Father created all things and implanted a nature in his creatures. He did not want to see them tossed about at the mercy of their own natures, and so be reduced to nothingness. But in his goodness he governs and sustains the whole of nature by his Word (who is himself also God), so that under the guidance, providence and ordering of that Word, the whole of nature might remain stable and coherent in his light. Nature was to share in the Father's Word, whose reality is true, and be helped by him to exist, for without him it would cease to be. For unless the Word, who is the very "image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation," kept it in existence it could not exist. For whatever exists, whether visible or invisible, remains in existence through him and in him, and he is also the head of the Church, as taught by the ministers of truth in their sacred writings.

The almighty and most holy Word of the Father pervades the whole of reality, everywhere unfolding his power and shining on all things visible and invisible. He sustains it and binds it all together in himself. He leaves nothing devoid of his power but gives life and keeps it in being throughout all of creation and in each individual creature.

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.

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.

Covid Regulations As covid regulations increasingly are being relaxed, as from this **Mon, 31 Jan**, we will return to standing, sitting, and kneeling at Mass, at the appropriate times. Holy Water (as blessed at Baptisms) is available already at our Sacred Heart Church, and will be available at St Joseph's from this Monday.

Retiring Collections In covid times, we have suspended most retiring collections, at our Churches, on account of extra financial burdens faced by so many. Demands on charities, of course, did not stop during this time. As the prospects are slowly improving, we will resume taking the Diocesan retiring collections. Our next one will be for

The Poor Mission Fund, at next weekend's Masses, to help parishes in our Diocese that are particularly poor.

Singing for the Brain The local Alzheimer's group invite people with dementia and carers/supporters, to sing a variety of songs they know and love, in a fun and friendly environment, to encourage a greater sense of wellbeing. They will meet 1.30-3.30pm **Thu 3 Feb**, in our Sacred Heart Hall. The event is free, but please first book places: email wakefield@alzheimers.org.uk or tel 01924-373264.

& In the Diocese

Youth 2000 Retreat 18-20 Mar, Leeds Trinity University. Join hundreds of young Catholics from across the UK, as they explore the big questions in life. Open to all young people aged 16-35. For more information, please visit www.youth2000.org/events.

Lourdes Pilgrimage In the planning for 1-7 July of this year. Details available soon.

Government has advised that face-coverings be worn in enclosed and crowded places, which would include at our weekend Masses and funerals.

(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?

St Luke is mentioned in several of the letters of St Paul. Then, when he refers to St Paul's missions, in the Acts of the Apostles, Luke repeatedly says

'we' rather than he or they. It is thus commonly assumed that St Luke was much influenced by St Paul in his becoming a Christian.

In today's Gospel, Jesus refers to both Elijah and Elisha. What was the relationship between these two Old Testament prophets?

AND SERIOUSLY!

The vicar thanked everyone for their help in raising money for the church funds.

He said that although they were having a font at the back and the front of the church, now babies could be baptised at both ends.



Parish Monies

Offertory Monies

16 January

Many
Thanks

Loose £221.93
Envelopes £297.85

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

A Most Surprising God

Such evil deeds can religion prompt. (Lucretius)

'The Spirit of God', St. Paul says, 'Who lived in Jesus and raised him from the dead, now lives in us,' and so he prays for the Ephesians,

Out of his infinite glory, may he give you the power through his Spirit for your hidden self to grow strong, so that Christ may live in your hearts through faith, and then, planted in love and built on love, you will with all the saints have strength to grasp the breadth and the length, the height and the depth; until, knowing the love of Christ, which is beyond all knowledge, you are filled with the utter fullness of God. (Eph. 3:16-19)



Each one of us 'This one work has to do, Let all God's glory through.' But we are all tempted to take God over, 'to be as gods', and to use Christ to justify our own greed, timidity and self-righteousness.

If Christ were to appear in the flesh today, how would we receive him? The rest of this chapter is an imaginative exercise in answer to this question. Although it is written as a bit of light relief after the last heavy chapter, it has a serious purpose, mainly to help us see some of the subtle ways in which our 'common sense', respectability and religious conditioning may blind us to the truth of Christ, so that we fail to recognise him living and loving in the men and women of our day. Particular embellishments of the Gospel story included in this exercise are not to be taken seriously. I do not, for example, believe that all bookstalls should be banned from the back of churches! Having read the chapter, I hope you can then take the idea and do some writing of your own on Jesus of the Gospel and his likely reception in your church today.

I imagine that I am a parish priest in Northern Ireland, the place chosen because it reflects something of the fierce religious and political conflicts which divided Palestine in the time of Christ. The parish priest is exasperated by the behaviour of a man in his parish, who has applied to seminaries and religious houses in the U.K. for admission as a candidate for the priesthood. Bishops, and religious superiors from England, Scotland and Wales are now writing to the parish priest asking for a reference for the candidate. The overworked parish priest has been sending a brief reply, declaring the man to be totally unsuited for acceptance. Many have written again asking for a fuller reference. In reply the parish priest sends the following circular.....

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, Brian Twiby, 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 household

The Word: Year C, Ordinary Time, Sunday 4: Commentary on the Readings

Gospel: Luke 4:21-30

The reaction of the villagers of Nazareth to Jesus' proclamation of good news for the poor, the handicapped and disadvantaged is predictable. We have all suffered from failure of our own people to recognise our talents! In this case it is also fuelled by a paradoxical jealousy: in the moment of rejecting Jesus' message the villagers also want to reap the advantage of his miraculous healings. The rejection of Jesus by his own people provokes Luke to develop Jesus' teaching beyond that given by Mark or Matthew in their gospels: in Luke Jesus quotes instances which show God's care for those outside his traditional 'chosen people'. God's love is universal, not limited by ethnic or any other boundaries. The Chosen People were chosen not so that they would selfishly emphasise how special they were to God, but so that salvation might be brought to the whole world. In the same way, in Christ's New Dispensation, his people (the Church) are chosen not just to enjoy God's benefits and love for themselves, but to be the instruments of his love for all. This is the same message as that of Paul in today's second reading: true love has no limits. Luke is especially aware that Jesus sends his message beyond the limits of the Chosen People. Each of us has been chosen not for our own advantage but as an instrument to bring Christ to others.

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

Jeremiah was given a tough assignment. His task was to proclaim doom to his fellow-citizens under the threat of invasion by the overwhelming might of Babylon. Unless they returned to God and put their trust in the Lord rather than in their own feeble manoeuvrings they were doomed to slaughter and exile. To stop the people hearing this message their leaders arrested him and dumped him in the squelchy mud of an almost-empty well, and fed him on one loaf a day. It is only too human to block out the message one does not want to hear. So, while

Jeremiah steadfastly held his ground, Babylon advanced, destroyed the city and Temple of Jerusalem, and led the people into exile. Bruised in exile, they learnt the hard way. As Jeremiah put it, God took from them the heart of stone and gave them a heart of flesh, to respond not just as a nation, but individually in tenderness and love. Jeremiah's steadfast preaching in the face of opposition is presented to us as a preparation for that of Jesus, which we hear in today's gospel reading.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13

The Christians of Corinth saw that they had a variety of gifts and talents. Paul gladly admits this. He only complains that this led them to squabbling and rivalry, for they were blind to the reasons for which these gifts had been given. Like all our talents, and especially those of interpersonal relationships, they were given by the Spirit which gives life to the Christian community. Their ultimate purpose is not to puff up the holder of the gift but to build up the community. The gift must be applied and exercised in love, for love is the highest gift of all gifts. Love alone builds the community. Paul goes on to paint a picture of what real love is. Few of us can read or listen to this text without realising our own failures and selfishness, as Paul puts his finger on one after another of our own weaknesses. This passage acts as a testing-ground of whether our love is genuine or whether we are merely deceiving ourselves. The final part of Paul's argument is also encouraging, not merely because of the durability and long-lasting nature of love, but also from the picture of heaven it conveys: in the perfect maturity, to which we look forward, there will be nothing left but love.

Courtesy of 'The Wednesday Word Trust'

The Word: Year C, Ordinary Time, Sunday 5

1st Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

Prayer of the Church

Psalter: Week 4

Sun Of the Season

Mon Of Weekday + Proper of Saints

Tue Of Weekday

Wed Of the Feast

Thu Of Weekday (or + Proper of Saints)

Fri Of Weekday

Sat Of Weekday + Proper of Saints

This Week's Feasts & Saints

Mon St John Bisco, priest

Tue Of Weekday

Wed Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas)

Thu St Blaise, bishop, martyr / St Ansgar, bishop

Fri Of Weekday

Sat St Agatha, virgin, martyr