



# 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 8, 27 February, 2022

*Getting in touch* Father Anthony G Fenton  
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			<b>Mass Intentions</b>
<b>Saturday</b> 26 February	Sacred Heart	5.00pm Mass	<i>Intentions Jean Taylor</i>
<b>Sunday</b> 27 February	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass	<i>Mary Walsh Adrian Tyrrell</i>
Monday 28 February	St Joseph's St Joseph's	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass	<i>Decd Muldowney, Holmes Families</i>
Tuesday 1 March			
<b>Ash Wednesday</b> 2 March	St Joseph's Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	9.30am Mass 5.00pm Exposition / Reconciliation 7.00pm Mass	<i>Parish Family Kath Dixon</i>
Thursday 3 March	St Joseph's St Joseph's St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass 10.00am Reconciliation 7.00pm Stations of the Cross	<i>Mary Walsh</i>
Friday 4 March	Sacred Heart	8.30am Mass	<i>Delia Hannan</i>
<b>Saturday</b> 5 March	Sacred Heart	5.00pm Mass	<i>Armer Family</i>
<b>Sunday</b> 6 March	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass	<i>John O'Brien Adrian Tyrrell</i>

Ash Wednesday Masses, 2 March: with the Distribution of Ashes

**St Joseph's, 9.30am** - The Sacred Heart, 7.00pm

Wednesday is also a day of fasting (any aged 18-60) and abstinence from meat (any aged 14+)

Stations of the Cross: through Lent

Thursdays 7.00pm, alternating The Sacred Heart (3 Mar) and St Helen's CofE (10 Mar)

also Wednesdays, 12.00nn - St Joseph's (starting 9 Mar)

**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

We may feel like we never have enough; enough money, time, love, status or anything else that seems to be the focus of our lives. We live lives that are packed with activities, events and obligations - and maybe keeping our hearts distracted from our relationship with God, from our families and from others in our lives who need our love.

In these last days before Lent, we can prepare our hearts by asking ourselves how we want Lent to be different this year. What do we want to ask the Lord to give us - and, importantly, we can ask *what the Lord wants for us* this Lent. What gift of generosity, love or attention can we share with others in the weeks ahead? How can we focus on the Lenten season and ask that our hearts be opened to what is real and of lasting value? How will I be with my family and friends this Lent? What will I do that sets this season apart from my normal routines? How can I feel and experience the gifts the Lord showers on me with such love? And during Lent, we might begin each day sitting for a short time alone, but in the presence of God, asking God to help us receive these gifts with open hearts. We can carry that focus with us throughout the day, remembering, in occasional quiet moments, what we are seeking.



To prepare for the rest of Lent, it can be a great help to set aside some time, this week, to think about what Lent can mean and how we can let it soak into our hearts. A key is not to be sombre or severe, but to know that this is a time of great grace. The forty days of Lent are a gift. We are not trying to save ourselves by Lenten practices. God has already saved us. We are trying to let God get our attention and to give grace a chance to work in us. The next days are important for choosing some Lenten patterns. Depending upon our health, we will want to do some fasting and abstinence, in regard to food. But we can choose what else we can fast and abstain from. What practices get in the way of being open to hearing God's Word and responding freely? Giving up such as a need to always be in control, fasting from impatience, abstaining from day-dreaming will open our hearts to God's grace. None of this takes extra time - just desire. Adding new acts of kindness, gratitude and love each day for family and friends will open our hearts to still greater acts of charity and generosity for the poor. Then, we might plan to end each day simply thanking God for the love and gifts of the day.

*Courtesy of Creighton University Online Ministries: adapted*

## Our Lent Project Pontefract Hospice



*We are due for a local cause, this Lent, and this year it hardly needs any introduction, as most of us know of the reputation of the Hospice, and so many because it has served well members of our families.*

*After each Lent Weekend Mass, a collection will be taken at the Church door, for the Hospice (from 5 Mar).*

*If any wish to organise an event to raise money towards this, they are welcome to place an ad in our Parish Newsletter.*

## Things happening in our Parish

**Parish Pastoral Council** Will next meet **Thu 10 Mar**, in our St Joseph's Rooms, 7.00pm. Please ensure items for the Agenda are given to Elizabeth Smith, Janet Ward or Fr Anthony by **Sun 6 Mar**, at latest.

Any of our Parish Family are welcome at our Council Meetings.

**Catholic News** Free copies of what *may* become a monthly Catholic Newspaper are available, at both our Churches. Do take a copy, have a read, and if you find it of interest please let Fr Anthony know if you would like our Parish to access future copies (not free), if the publication proceeds.

**Matters Covid** As the national track and trace system has now finished, there is no longer any need for any to register or book on-line, when attending our Churches. The registration codes have therefore been removed and the on-line booking is suspended.

At our coming Parish Council Meeting, we will consider when to restore the *Sign of Peace*, at Masses (proposed date 12/13 Mar), and *when we might cease any advising about face-coverings* (proposed date 21 Mar).

If any have thoughts they wish to be raised about these, or other matters, at the meeting, please do speak with any member of our Parish Council.



**November Faithful Departed** Copies of the listing from November 2021 are at our Parish Prayer Trees. If errors are found, please inform Fr Anthony in the next week or two, for correction. Apologies for the late appearance.

**Singing for the Brain** The local Alzheimer's group invite people with dementia and carers/supporters to a sing along, in a friendly environment, to encourage a sense of wellbeing: 1.30-3.30pm **Thu 3 Mar**, in our Sacred Heart Hall. The event is free, but please first book places: email [wakefield@alzheimers.org.uk](mailto:wakefield@alzheimers.org.uk) or tel 01924-373264.

While Government has dropped legal requirements for the wearing of face-coverings, in England, a number of notable scientists and medical officials are advising their continued use where people are gathered in numbers.

Please be kindly aware that a fair number, at our Churches, may desire the wearing of face-coverings

*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 Mar, 10.00am-12.00nn**

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

## But seriously

### DO YOU KNOW?



The word 'Lent' is an abbreviation of the Old English word 'lencten', which means

'spring season'. In many Latin based languages, words for Lent are commonly variations on the Latin word for forty (days), quadraginta, whereas a number of other languages commonly use words related to Lent being a time for fasting, such as 'Wielki Post' (Great Fast), in Polish.

*Through Lent - in the Introductory Rite of the Mass, what might be said or sung only on solemnities or feast days - and what should not be said or sung during the Liturgy of the Word?*

### AND SERIOUSLY!

A little 5 year-old girl didn't want to go to school, but her father persuaded her that there was nothing to be afraid of, and if she didn't like it she could leave when she was sixteen.

On her first day, she tearfully said to her father,

"Don't forget to come for me when I'm sixteen."



## Parish Monies

### Offertory Monies

13 February

Loose £229.75

Envelopes £264.86

Many  
Thanks

## 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)

Continued from last week....

Imagining that I am a parish priest in Northern Ireland I send out the replying circular referring to the refusal to put forward a person for the priesthood:

... In his preaching, his fatal fluency and ability to turn a telling phrase does untold damage to the minds of the simple faithful, undermining their religious and moral life, as well as their respect for the authority of the clergy. Although Mr Manuel claims that he has never preached disobedience to the authority of the Church, he can hardly expect the simple faithful to obey with reverence those whom he has labelled 'a brood of vipers' and 'whited sepulchres'. He refers to Almighty God as 'Dad', a Dad who apparently spends his time pursuing the likes of Manuel's friends, the criminals and prostitutes. He also implies that the Sunday obligation is for the benefit of the people rather than to fulfil the prescriptions of law, and he has effected a notable drop in Sunday observance throughout the country.



Politically, in the violent, complicated and delicate situation in which we live, he is bewilderingly naïve. He seems to have no understanding of the needs for cohesion in the Catholic body if we are to preserve our corporate strength in this trouble-torn land. His so called teaching ignores the very real differences which separate the Christian denominations in this part of the country, diverts peoples' attention from the hard facts of moral theology and prescriptions of the magisterium, concentrating their attention instead on 'Dad', who seems to love everyone with the possible exception of those of us who are responsible for preaching, teaching and sanctifying the Church!

He claims to have no political affiliations and denounces all forms of violence, whether it be the British army, the I.R.A., or the U.D.A., yet his teaching on 'Dad', far from bringing peace, intensifies the divisions because he threatens every faction. Some suspect that he may, in spite of his protestations, harbour political ambitions, for he is known to meet secretly with some prominent members in every party, a fact which, when it becomes public, will certainly endanger his own and other people's lives. In our delicate political situation, where rash and imprudent words can be as damaging as bombs, Mr Manuel is like a walking arsenal.

Like so many people who claim to work for peace, E. Manuel is himself of violent temperament. Recently he created a scene outside the Cathedral, overthrowing the repository and bookstall tables. It was reported to the police and a warrant is out for his arrest. He's disappeared for the time being . . .

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**, 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, Nicola Glew, Jerry O'Mahony, Raymond Ward, John Lovely  
Tim Byrne, and all our housebound

## The Word: Year C, Ordinary Time, Sunday 8: Commentary on the Readings

### Gospel: Luke 6:39-45

Matthew gathered together the teaching of Jesus on the basic requirements of Christian morality into the Sermon on the Mount; that formed a sort of manifesto for the Kingdom of Heaven, starting with the eight Beatitudes. Luke gathers many of the same teachings into his 'Sermon on the Plain', starting with four Beatitudes. This has provided the gospel readings for the last three Sundays. Matthew, writing for Christians of Jewish origin, stressed Jesus' teaching on law, and how Jesus made it more interior and often more demanding. Luke, always aware of the needs of the poor, stresses more our social obligations. As he draws to a conclusion, he gives us two of Jesus' warnings, expressed in the vivid language and with the fierce exaggeration and wit that is so characteristic of Jesus' teachings. The first, the splinter and the log, warns us to use the same standards in judging ourselves as we use in judging others. The second, the sound and rotten fruit, is perhaps a double warning. You can judge people only by their actions. More profoundly, it is also a challenge: don't flatter yourself on your achievements until you are good through and through, until the store of goodness in your heart is really overflowing.



### First Reading: Ecclesiasticus 27:4-7

The wise sage of Jerusalem collected many proverbs and pithy sayings. Most of them are severely practical, as in this short reading. Here he presents us with four images of testing someone by their speech. He does not deny that there are other ways of proving a person's worth and generosity, but these four aspects of testing by speech are as clear as any. This reading is chosen to introduce the sayings of the gospel reading on discerning people by their fruits. There is no way of telling what people are, except by

how they act. In fact, the Book of Sirach is rather a favourite with Luke. He takes at least two of his sayings and transforms them into parables to illustrate two of his special emphases in Jesus' teaching. Luke is the evangelist of prayer, and a saying on a widow's earnest prayers (Sirach 35.14) illustrates the need to persevere in prayer in Luke 18.1-8 (the Parable of the Unjust Judge), and the Rich Fool (Sirach 11.19) is used to illustrate the acute dangers of hoarding wealth in Luke 12.16-21.

### Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:54-58

For most people, death is terror: the one thing certain about life is that it will end in death. For Paul, death is a triumph which he awaits eagerly, longing to be fully united with Christ and to share fully in Christ's victory. This Christian attitude, totally at variance with the views of those who do not know Christ, and with our natural human instincts, is the reason why the Church has given the last four Sundays to meditation on the transformation that will take place at Christian death. Paul is so convinced of the overwhelming power of Christ and his victory over sin that there is no hesitation: this mortal body will put on immortality. Quite how this will be is still not entirely clear: Paul says it is foolish even to ask what sort of body the dead will have. But he insists that there is continuity: the seed that dies is transformed, but 'each kind of seed has its own kind of body'; the risen person is in continuity with the person in this life. There are no conditions attached, no threat or fear of hell, 'where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth', as in so many of Matthew's parables.

*Courtesy of 'The Wednesday Word Trust'*

### The Word: Year C, Lent, Sunday 1

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 26:4-10

2nd Reading: Romans 10:8-13

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

### Prayer of the Church

**Psalter: Week 4**

**Sun** Of the Season

**Mon** Of Weekday

**Tue** Common of Men Saints

**Wed** Of Weekday + Lent Proper

**Thu** Of Weekday + Lent Proper

**Fri** Of Weekday + Lent Proper

**Sat** Of Weekday + Lent Proper

### This Week's Feasts & Saints

**Mon** St Peter Damian, Bishop, Doctor of Church

**Tue** St David, Bishop, Patron of Wales

**Wed** Ash Wednesday

**Thu** Thursday after Ash Wednesday

**Fri** Friday after Ash Wednesday

**Sat** Saturday after Ash Wednesday