



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, Lent, Sunday 1, 6 March, 2022

<i>Getting in touch</i>	Father Anthony G Fenton The Sacred Heart Presbytery Market Street, Hemsworth, Pontefract, WF9 4LB	<i>Email</i>	anthony.fenton@dioceseofleeds.org.uk pp.sacredheartstjoseph@dioceseofleeds.org.uk
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			Mass Intentions
Saturday 5 March	Sacred Heart	5.00pm Mass	<i>Armer Family</i>
Sunday 6 March	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass	<i>John O'Brien Adrian Tyrrell</i>
Monday 7 March	St Joseph's St Joseph's	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass	<i>Yorkshire Brethren</i>
Tuesday 8 March			
Wednesday 9 March	Sacred Heart St Joseph's	9.30am Mass 12.00nn Stations of the Cross	<i>Robert Byrom</i>
Thursday 10 March	St Joseph's St Joseph's <i>St Helen's</i>	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass 7.00pm Stations of the Cross	<i>Faithful Departed (November List)</i>
Friday 11 March	Sacred Heart	8.30am Mass	<i>Amanda Armer</i>
Saturday 12 March	Sacred Heart	5.00pm Mass	<i>Joan Wilson</i>
Sunday 13 March	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass	<i>Les Darren Parish Family</i>

Stations of the Cross: through Lent

Thursdays 7.00pm, alternating St Helen's CoE (10 Mar) and The Sacred Heart (17 Mar)

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

Take a short while out, in the presence of Our Lord Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, in our Sacred Heart Church, Sat 26 Mar - **St Joseph's Church, Sat 2 Apr** - anytime 10.00am-2.00pm
Come along, even if but for 10/15 minutes, to help make this Lent truly prayerful; and pray too
that many may welcome Our Lord, this Lent - and for peace, for Russia and Ukraine especially
Come anyway, but if you can, please sign up for a time as listed in our Church Entrance Halls.

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

Through Lent, repentance, of course, is a major theme. On this subject, Pope St Clement wrote the following to the Corinthians:

Let us fix our attention on the blood of Christ and recognise how precious it is to God his Father, since it was shed for our salvation and brought the grace of repentance to all the world.

If we review the various ages of history, we will see that in every generation the Lord has offered the opportunity of repentance to any who were willing to turn to him. For instance, Jonah told the Ninevites they were to be destroyed, but when they repented, their prayers gained God's forgiveness for their sins, and they were saved, even though they were not of God's people.

Indeed, the Master of the universe himself spoke of repentance with an oath: *As I live*, says the Lord, *I do not wish the death of the sinner but his repentance.* He added this evidence of his goodness: *House of Israel, repent of your wickedness. Tell the sons of my people: If their sins should reach from earth to heaven, if they are brighter than scarlet and blacker than sackcloth, you need only turn to me with your whole heart and say, "Father," and I will listen to you as a holy people.*

In other words, God wanted his beloved ones to have the opportunity to repent and confirmed this desire by his own almighty will. That is why we should obey his sovereign and glorious will and prayerfully entreat his mercy and kindness. We should be suppliant before him and turn to his compassion, rejecting quarrelling and empty works and jealousy which only lead to death.

We should be humble in mind, putting aside all arrogance, pride and foolish anger. Rather, we should act in accordance with the Scriptures, as the Holy Spirit says: *The wise man must not glory in his wisdom nor the strong man in his strength nor the rich man in his riches. Rather, let him who glories glory in the Lord by seeking him and doing what is right and just.* Recall especially what the Lord Jesus said when he taught gentleness and forbearance. *Be merciful, he said, so that you may have mercy shown to you. Forgive, so that you may be forgiven. As you treat others, so you will be treated. As you give, so you will receive. As you judge, so you will be judged. As you are kind to others, so you will be treated kindly. The measure of your giving will be the measure of your receiving.*

Let these precepts strengthen us to live in humble obedience. As Scripture asks: *Whom shall I look upon with favour except the humble, peaceful man who trembles at my words?*

Sharing then in the heritage of so many vast and great achievements, let us hasten towards the goal of peace. Let us keep our eyes firmly fixed on the Father and Creator of the universe, and hold fast to his splendid and transcendent gifts of peace and all his blessings.

Our Lent Project Pontefract Hospice



Our cause, this Lent, hardly needs any introduction, as most of us know of the reputation of the Hospice, and as it has served well members of many of our families.

After each Lent Weekend Mass, a collection will be taken at the Church door, for the Hospice.

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

To help, we are also to have a **Chocolate raffle**. If any have anything chocolatey they would like to donate, bring it, please, to a weekend Mass. Tickets, at £1 a strip, will be on sale from **Mar 12/13**. Draw after 10.45am Mass, **Sun 3 Apr**.



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 this **Sun 6 Mar**, at latest. Any of our Parish Family are welcome at our Council Meetings.

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.

The Growing Season is about to take off. Help with our grounds, especially at The Sacred Heart, would be much welcome: contact Pat Matchan or Fr Anthony, please.

& In our Diocese

BBC Songs of Praise! Recording of hymns at Leeds Cathedral. All welcome, especially enthusiastic singers, to join in and lead viewers in the singing. Recording: Wed 23 Mar, 6:30-9:30pm. To apply for free tickets, please email SOPcongregations@avantimedia.tv, including your name, address, contact phone number, number of tickets requested, and also *Songs of Praise Leeds* in the subject header -or- call 07734-030888 to book. Please only apply if you know you are able to come.

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, and please note extended time:

Sat 12 Mar, 10.00am-1.00pm

Our Children are to celebrate their First Confession at Sacred Heart Church:

am Sat 19 Mar (times to be arranged)

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

But seriously

DO YOU KNOW?

Through Lent - in the Introductory Rite of the Mass, the *Glory to God in the highest* might be said or sung only on solemnities or feast days, but not Sundays - and *Alleluia* is not said or sung in the Gospel Acclamation at any Mass, including solemnities.

Over three years, the teller of the Gospel for the First Sunday of Lent varies between Matthew, Mark and Luke, but it is invariably their account of the same event, of Jesus being tempted, in the desert. Similarly, the Second Sunday Gospel invariably recounts another event every year.

What event is this?

AND SERIOUSLY!

Emma, aged 6, painted a lovely picture of Noah, the Ark and all the animals in pairs, including a white figure with wings.

When her teacher asked who it was, she answered:

'Noah's friend, the Ark Angel Gabriell!'



Parish Monies

Offertory Monies

20 February

Many
Thanks

Loose £149.60

Envelopes £250.00

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

A Most Surprising God

Such evil deeds can religion prompt. (Lucretius)

Continued from last week....

Most disturbing of all is the belief that he may, in fact, be possessed. Some of his own relatives do not hesitate to assert this. He has certainly had association with possessed people, both men and women, some of whom are now his permanent followers. He also seems to have some kind of preternatural powers not uncommon among the possessed.



It may well be that he may be caught and arrested shortly and there are enough charges against him to keep him out of harm's way for a long time to come, but he has a serpent-like cunning and may well escape the country to continue his troublemaking elsewhere.

I apologise again to Your Reverences for the length of this letter but, had I not written, some of you, in the present widespread shortage of vocations to the priesthood, might have wasted time and money in encouraging this man, who can seem so plausible at first, but who would have a devastating effect on any seminary or religious house imprudent enough to accept him.

Begging a remembrance in Your Reverences' prayers and assuring you of my own for an increase in worthy vocations to your diocese, order, congregation.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

(P.Simon, dd, Parish Priest of Portinstorm)

While writing this letter and entering into some of the blind spots of P. Simon, I began to recognise a few more of my own.

Because we are all liable to self-deception and tend to use God and Christ to justify and support our own narrow ways of thinking and acting, we need the institutional and the critical elements of the Church as a check to our self-deception, but ultimately it is Christ himself who is our teacher. Christ is mystery. We can never possess the truth of Christ: all we can do is beg to be possessed by him, his truth and his love 'which is beyond all knowledge'. Imaginative contemplation on scenes from the Gospel is an invaluable way of coming to recognise Christ today living in our hearts. When he makes his home in us, it is not that we let Jesus into our lives, but rather we surrender our home to him, for he is Lord of all, who loves all that he has created.

The next two chapters offer a few reflections on the life, death and resurrection of Christ, intended to encourage the reader to contemplate Christ of the Gospels imaginatively so that you can meet him in your own way, which is the best and only way for you!

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 household

The Word: Year C, Lent, Sunday 1: Commentary on the Readings

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

To remind us that Lent is a time of testing, the gospel reading of the First Sunday of Lent is always about the testing of Jesus. Through our fasting (or whatever that extra offering we make to the Lord during Lent may be) we enter into solidarity with the hardship undergone by Jesus in his Passion. Of course Lent is not a matter of testing out how far we can push ourselves (a sort of macho self-torture). Rather it is a period of preparation for the Passion and Resurrection - just like the forty years of Israel in the desert preparing for the Promised Land, or like the prophet Elijah's forty-day preparation before he encounters God on Mount Horeb, or like the forty days during which Christ prepared the apostles between Easter and the Ascension. The point of Jesus' forty-day fast is to give some force in response to the devil's first temptation. To each of the devil's taunts Jesus replies with a word of scripture: if you rely on God's word you are unshakably safe, for God has created and arranged everything. Matthew and Luke have a different order for the second and third temptations: Matthew climaxes with Jesus as the Second Moses, like Moses seeing all the territories from a high mountain. Luke ends the scene as he begins and ends his gospel, at Jerusalem, the turning-point of the gospel - the place where Jesus rises from the dead and ascends to the Father.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 26:4-10

The first readings during Lent each year are wonderfully arranged, leading us from the beginnings of the history of God's People to a time of immediate preparation for the coming of Christ; each Sunday takes us further forward in the history of God's promises to his People. This year's readings commence with the profession of faith about God's care of his People; Israelite priests had to make this when presenting their offering. Surprisingly this profession starts not with the promises to Abraham but with the wanderings of the nomadic tribes down

to Egypt. It was first in Egypt that God made them his people, rescuing them from slavery. In this version of the history of Israel the decisive moment was not the call of Abraham but the exodus from Egypt. But in the readings over the next few Sundays we will work forward through the call of Abraham, the call of Moses, the first Passover in Canaan and the promise of a New Covenant after the People return from the Babylonian Exile. These readings provide a record of God's constant presence as he prepares the People for the coming of his Son at the Incarnation, and the revelation of God in the Cross and through the Resurrection at Easter.

Second Reading: Romans 10:8-13

In these chapters of the Letter to the Romans Paul is struggling with the problem of the salvation of the Jews: how is it that the People so carefully nurtured for so long should refuse to acknowledge that Jesus is the fulfilment of God's plan of salvation? To Paul, himself a fervent Jew, it was agonizing that so many of his people should refuse to acknowledge Jesus. But he saw that their refusal opened the door to the gentiles. The Christian community at Rome consisted of both Jews and gentiles. It was important for Paul to show that even scripture proclaims that the door is open to all who profess their faith in Christ, not one party to the exclusion of the other: so, no distinction between Jew and Greek. This is, however, a very different profession of faith from the profession in the first reading: that was a belief in a Lord God who rescued from Egypt. This is a belief that the Lord God raised Jesus from the dead, and raised him to the status of Lord. Paul never uses the word 'God' of Jesus, but he does call him 'Lord', the word which the Jewish people have used for God (then and now) instead of pronouncing His personal name.

Courtesy of 'The Wednesday Word Trust'

The Word: Year C, Lent, Sunday 2

1st Reading: Genesis 15:5-12,17-18

2nd Reading: Philippians 3:20-4:1

Gospel: Luke 9:28-36

Prayer of the Church

Psalter: Week 1

Sun Of the Season

Mon Of Weekday + Lent Proper

Tue Of Weekday + Lent Proper

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 Ss Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs

Tue St John of God, Religious

Wed St Francis of Rome, Religious

Thu Of Weekday of Lent

Fri Of Weekday of Lent

Sat Of Weekday of Lent