



# 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 2, 13 March, 2022

*Getting in touch* Father Anthony G Fenton  
The Sacred Heart Presbytery  
Market Street, Hemsworth,  
Pontefract, WF9 4LB

*Email* anthony.fenton@dioceseofleeds.org.uk  
pp.sacredheartstjoseph@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

*Tel* 01977-610733

*Parish Website* www.hemsthorpe.org.uk

			<b>Mass Intentions</b>
<b>Saturday</b> 12 March	Sacred Heart	5.00pm Mass	<i>Joan Wilson</i>
<b>Sunday</b> 13 March	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass	<i>Les Darren Parish Family</i>
Monday 14 March	St Joseph's St Joseph's	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass	<i>Fr Lawrence Lister</i>
Tuesday 15 March			
Wednesday 16 March	Sacred Heart St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.30am Mass 12.00nn Stations of the Cross 5.00pm Exposition / Reconciliation	<i>Adrian Tyrrell</i>
Thursday 17 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>Decd Duffy, Rowe, Straughan Fams</i>
Friday 18 March	Sacred Heart	8.30am Mass	<i>Kath Dixon</i>
<b>Saturday</b> 19 March	Sacred Heart	5.00pm Mass	<i>Robert Byrom</i>
<b>Sunday</b> 20 March	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass	<i>Parish Family Brian &amp; Mary McDonough</i>

Stations of the Cross: through Lent

**Thursdays 7.00pm, alternating The Sacred Heart (17 Mar) and St Helen's CoFE (24 Mar)**  
also each Wednesday, 12.00nn - at St Joseph's

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

The following is a message from Bishop Marcus (abbreviated):

Over the past days, we have heard distressing news of the war in Ukraine and seen harrowing pictures of the destruction and the humanitarian crisis that the conflict is causing. Very many have fled from danger. Families have been torn apart and for those remaining, their living conditions deteriorate by the hour.

Our first response must be to pray earnestly for the suffering people of Ukraine and for those who have had to leave their homes to seek a safe refuge for themselves and their family. We must also pray for peace with all our hearts.

In addition to our prayer, we also need to ask ourselves, 'What can I do?' What can we do?

Aid agencies have been overwhelmed by in kind donations and so are specifically asking for financial donations. We can help by donating through CAFOD and the Disasters Emergency Committee Appeal. The DEC have launched an appeal for humanitarian aid. The UK government will match any donations collected through the DEC and its members, such as our own Catholic Agency, CAFOD. Your donation could also be eligible for Gift Aid. To donate, please go to: <https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-Emergencies/Ukraine-Humanitarian-Appeal>.

Caritas Internationalis has been requested by Caritas Ukraine to hold its emergency appeal income for onward transfer at its request, due to the uncertain banking and access arrangements in Ukraine and also to allow monies to support their refugees in other countries. Those who wish can donate online to [Caritas Internationalis](#), to speed up the process and ensure funds are being given to legitimate organisations through the (Catholic) Caritas federation.

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) is providing emergency help to the suffering Church in Ukraine. To learn more about their charitable work, you can find all the latest information here: <https://acnuk.org/>

Any who wish may also put their donation in an envelope, clearly marked 'Ukraine', and return it via the Offertory Basket or Presbytery letter box, and it will be sent on to CAFOD.

### A PRAYER FOR PEACE

Loving God,  
we pray for the people of Ukraine,  
for all those suffering or afraid,  
that you will be close to them and protect them.  
We pray for world leaders,  
for compassion, strength and wisdom to  
guide their choices.  
We pray for the world,  
that in this moment of crisis, we may reach out in  
solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need.  
May we walk in your ways  
so that peace and justice become a reality  
for the people of Ukraine and for all the world.

## 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, are now on sale at **weekend Masses**. Draw after 10.45am Mass, **Sun 3 Apr**.



**This coming Saturday, 19 March,**  
fifteen of our Children are to celebrate their  
**First Reconciliation.**

Please keep them and their families in prayer, this week.

## Things happening in our Parish

**Covid Guidelines** A summary of recent discussion, with our Parish Council, should be in our Parish Newsletter, next weekend.

**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.

**Management** is pleased to announce that the recent pancake party was a great success, despite rumours that there was much cheating during the tossing competition. Many thanks to all who helped and all who came along.

### & 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](mailto: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.

**Vocations Holy Hour** Adoration Wed 30 Mar, and then the last Wednesday of each month, Hinsley Hall, Leeds, 7-8.00pm. Whether exploring your own relationship with Jesus, or you come just to pray for vocations, you are welcome. Bar open afterwards, for informal chat with the Diocesan Vocations Service.

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 now running Preparation Programme, for Parents of Children to be baptised, will continue 7.00-8.30pm, in our Sacred Heart Hall, **Wed 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 celebrate their First Confession at Sacred Heart Church:

**Sat 19 Mar** (at pre-arranged times) They are to resume, with their parents, preparation for First Eucharist:

**Sat 2 July**, 10.00-12.00am

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

## But seriously



### DO YOU KNOW?

While, over three years, the Gospel teller varies between Matthew, Mark and Luke, the event recounted in the Gospel of the Second Sunday of Lent is always that of Jesus being transfigured on the mountain.

*The Third Sunday of Advent is also known as 'Gaudete' Sunday, and (if a Parish has a set) the priest may wear a colour of vestments worn only twice in any year. The same colour may be worn on the Fourth Sunday of Lent.*

*What is this colour and, also, what is the Latin tag by which the Fourth Lent Sunday is also known?*

### AND SERIOUSLY!

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem.

A small child replied:  
"Because they couldn't get a baby-sitter."



## Parish Monies

### Offertory Monies

27 February

Loose £181.73  
Envelopes £317.00

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

### Knowing Christ

For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. (Phil. 3:8-9)

When people begin to use their imagination on Gospel scenes, they are often surprised at the Christ they meet. To some he seems much more ordinary than they would have expected, others are surprised, or even shocked by the Christ they find, like the man who saw a Christ playing the clown and doing cartwheels. Surprise can be a sign that we are encountering the living Christ, image of the God of surprises. St John writes, 'He came to his own, but his own did not accept him' (John 1:11), because he did not match their expectations of a glorious and powerful Messiah. The problem continues in Christian teaching we have so emphasised the divinity of Christ that his humanity is obscured and so we fail to recognise him in our own or other peoples'. The Church has always taught that Christ is perfectly human as well as divine and that his divinity in no way lessens but, on the contrary, perfects his humanity.

So the first guideline for reading/contemplating the Gospel is to see *Christ as a human being*, limited, constricted, who had to learn who God is, had to grow in faith all through his life, experienced human emotions of love and joy, fear and dread, had likes and dislikes, suffered hunger, thirst, weariness, and was tempted. It is only in and through his humanity, and the experience of our own and other peoples', that we can begin to know the meaning of his divinity. He meets us where we are, in our humanity, and not outside it and reveals himself most intimately as a presence in our emptiness, a companion living within the core of our loneliness. Our humanity is precious: it is what God could become. This leads us to a second guideline:

*Whenever and whatever we read of Christ in the Gospel, we are also reading our own self-portrait, for Christ is what we are called to become.*

'God became man' as one of the early Fathers of the Church put it, 'so that man might become God.' Christ is not simply, nor primarily, a model of good behaviour whom we must imitate. He is the source of our life and the sense of it, for to be another Christ is the meaning of our existence. 'The Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you' (Rom. 8:11). By looking at him in the Gospel scenes we begin to catch glimpses of what God has called us to become before the world was, namely, other Christs.

The third guideline forms the rest of this chapter and is an attempt to find the key to Christ's personality. Resuming the analogy with which the book began, the field within the treasure is hidden is our own life and our treasure is our inner self, our Christ self.....

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  
especially Raymond Ward, and his family



*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, John Lovely, Tim Byrne  
and all our household

**The Word: Year C, Lent, Sunday 2: Commentary on the Readings**

**Gospel: Luke 9:28-36**

The gospel reading for the Second Sunday of Lent is always the account of the Transfiguration, preparing the chosen three disciples and ourselves for the coming Passion of Christ. It is a scene of Christ's heavenly glory, his clothes bright as lightning, his glory extending even to the appearance of Moses and Elijah: these two Old Testament personalities are here privileged to speak to Jesus because they each had a vision of God on the holy mountain, called both Sinai and Horeb (in the Old Testament these are two names for the same mountain). The Voice from heaven at the baptism had been addressed to Jesus himself (in Mark and Luke); this time the Voice is a public declaration of Jesus' Sonship, and presents him now as the Chosen Teacher for all people. Luke foreshadows the Passion when he mentions Jerusalem – the place where Jesus is to suffer and die on the cross. The fact that the disciples are praying, and are the same three disciples as are present at the Agony in the Garden, makes a strong link with the Passion of Jesus. This gospel also highlights the importance of prayer in Luke's gospel, for Luke mentions Jesus' prayer and the significance of prayer on several occasions and in several parables (e.g. in the Unjust Judge, the Friend at Midnight, and the Pharisee & the Tax-Collector).

**First Reading: Genesis 15:5-12,17-18**

There are different stories of exactly how God's pact with Abraham (or Abram) was made. There is no doubt that it was a promise of lasting protection for Abraham and his descendants. This version takes the form of an ancient sacral covenant, of a kind known from other ancient Near Eastern sources. The offerings are cut in half, and the parties making the pact pass between the halves, as a symbol that they will observe the pact faithfully until the two halves come together again. Such covenants were frequent between equals, or between overlord and vassal, but no such covenant is known between a deity and a human being. It perhaps marks the inequality

between God and Abraham that only the wondrous symbols of God (the furnace and firebrand) here pass between the halves of the offering: Abraham cannot impose conditions on God! Nor can Abraham do anything to earn or justify the promise God makes: he can only trust in God, for he himself remains a nomad without a settled territory to call his own. Only his descendants will inherit the land and become as the stars of heaven. The awesome mystery of the scene is increased by the deep sleep (the same sleep as fell on Adam for the creation of Eve) and by Abram's terror.

**Second Reading: Philippians 3:20-4:1**

Last Sunday's second reading (from Paul's letter to the Romans) built on the first reading (from Deuteronomy); the Israelite profession of faith in God becomes the Christian's profession of faith in Christ as Risen Lord. So this Sunday Abram's promised ownership of the land is transfigured into the promise of citizenship in heaven to the followers of Christ. In this world we are aliens rather than citizens: neither our fundamental values nor our final aim are those of this world. We cannot rest in contentment except in the expectation of the Risen Lord coming in triumph to assume lordship of all things. This, rather than food or any material goods, must be the basis of our whole system of values. To modern conventions Paul's repeated encouragement to follow his rule of life or to imitate him may seem boastful and complacent. But Paul asks us to imitate him not for his own glory, but because he sees himself as the servant of Christ, suffering for Christ, just as Jesus suffered as the Servant of the Lord. Paul's sufferings are the badge of apostleship. In other passages, Paul shows that he is as aware as any of us of his own failings and of his inability to live up to his ideals.

*Courtesy of 'The Wednesday Word Trust'*

**The Word: Year C, Lent, Sunday 3**

1st Reading: Exodus 3:1-8,13-15  
2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12  
Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

**Prayer of the Church**

**Psalter: Week 2**

**Sun** Of the Season  
**Mon** Of Weekday + Lent Proper  
**Tue** Of Weekday + Lent Proper  
**Wed** Of Weekday + Lent Proper  
**Thu** Proper of Saints & Common of Pastors  
**Fri** Of Weekday + Lent Proper  
**Sat** Proper of Saints

**This Week's Feasts & Saints**

**Mon** Of Weekday of Lent  
**Tue** Of Weekday of Lent  
**Wed** Of Weekday of Lent  
**Thu** St Patrick, Bishop & Patron of Ireland  
**Fri** St Cyril of Jerusalem  
**Sat** St Joseph, Husband of Mary & Patron of our Parish Family