



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 3, 20 March, 2022

Getting in touch Father Anthony G Fenton
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			Mass Intentions
Saturday 19 March	Sacred Heart	5.00pm Mass	<i>Robert Byrom</i>
Sunday 20 March	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass	<i>Parish Family Brian & Mary McDonough</i>
Monday 21 March	St Joseph's St Joseph's	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass	<i>Decd Crossland/Whitehouse Fams</i>
Tuesday 22 March			
Wednesday 23 March	Sacred Heart St Joseph's	9.30am Mass 12.00nn Stations of the Cross	<i>Amanda Armer</i>
Thursday 24 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>Mary Walsh</i>
Friday 25 March	Sacred Heart	8.30am Mass	<i>Deceased Frudd Family</i>
Saturday 26 March	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	10am-2.00pm Exposition 10-11.00am Reconciliation 5.00pm Mass	<i>Stanley & Catherine Wilson</i>
Sunday 27 March	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass	<i>Pat Holmes Philip Bense</i>

This weekend, prior to their up-coming Baptisms, we present
at 5.00pm Mass, Lillie Lee-Anne Rose, of Hayley & Thomas ; and at 10.45am Mass
Reid Asher Edward Jordan, of Jack & Bethany - Lucas Caleb Palmer, of Lauren & Michael

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.
Sacrament of Reconciliation available, 10-11.00am, at both events.

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 from a sermon written by an unknown author.

The highest good is prayer and conversation with God, because it means that we are in God's company and in union with him. When light enters our eyes our eyesight is sharpened; when a soul is intent on God, God's inextinguishable light shines into it and makes it bright and clear. I am talking, of course, of prayer that comes from the heart and not from routine: not the prayer that is assigned to particular days or particular moments in time, but the prayer that happens continuously by day and by night.

Indeed the soul should not only turn to God at times of set prayer. Whatever we are engaged in, whether it is care for the poor, or some other duty, or an act of generosity, we should recall God and long for God. The love of God will be as salt is to food, making our actions into a perfect dish to set before the Lord of all things. Then it is right that we should receive the fruits of our labours, overflowing onto us through all eternity, if we have been offering them to him throughout our lives.

Prayer is the light of the soul, true knowledge of God, a mediator between God and men. Prayer lifts the soul into the heavens where it hugs God in an indescribable embrace. The soul seeks the milk of God like a baby crying for the breast. It fulfils its own vows and receives in exchange gifts better than anything that can be seen or imagined.

Prayer is a go-between linking us to God. It gives joy to the soul and calms its emotions. I warn you, though: do not imagine that prayer is simply words. Prayer is an indescribable devotion, the desire for God, not given by man but brought about by God's grace. As St Paul says: *For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself intercedes on our behalf in a way that could never be put into words.*

If God gives to someone the gift of such prayer, it is a gift of imperishable riches, a heavenly food that satisfies the spirit. Whoever tastes that food catches fire and his soul burns for ever with desire for the Lord.

To begin on this path, start by adorning your house with modesty and humility. Make it shine brightly with the light of justice. Decorate it with the gold leaf of good works, with the jewels of faithfulness and greatness of heart. Finally, to make the house perfect, raise a gable above it all, a gable of prayer. So you will have prepared a pure and sparkling house for the Lord. Receive the Lord into this royal and splendid dwelling - in other words: receive, by his grace, his image into the temple of your soul.

Notices for our Parish Newsletter need to be received by Wednesday 12.00noon, at the latest.

Stations of the Cross: through Lent
Each Wednesday, 12.00nn - at **St Joseph's**
& Thursdays 7.00pm, alternating
St Helen's CofE (24 Mar) -&- Sacred Heart (31 Mar)

Congratulations

to our Children who, this weekend, have celebrated their **First Reconciliation.**

Between our Masses, next weekend, 26/27 Mar, they will **Receive the Scriptures**

All please keep them and the families in prayer.

Things happening in our Parish

Covid Guidelines There is much evidence that we need to learn how to live with covid, as it is likely to be with us for a long time, and as we already live with the rises and falls of such as flu. Thus:

Unless there is a notable change giving a reason to do so, our Newsletters will no longer give guidance about face coverings. Please bear in mind, though, that while a covering gives some protection to a wearer (as noted in later research and according to type), greater protection comes when many have a covering in more crowded situations: and note, infections have been rising, recently.

On the first weekend of April, we will re-introduce the sign of peace, at Mass, but with a difference. All will be asked *not to shake hands*. While evidence suggests that covid is passed on much more by droplets in the air than touch, we want as many as can to feel comfortable, at Mass. For the sign of peace, all will therefore be asked to *give a kindly bow of the head* to those by them and, it is suggested, to emphasise the gesture, *at the same time to join their own hands together*, as in Eastern custom.

Red Missio Boxes Are due for emptying. Please bring to either of our Churches, as soon as you can.

Ukraine Invasion Any wishing to make donations for the humanitarian needs of those still within, and those who have fled Ukraine, might do so via Cafod - please go to: <https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-Emergencies/Ukraine-Humanitarian-Appeal>.

Or any may 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.

Or, Aid to the Church in Need is providing emergency help to the suffering Church in Ukraine: see details at: <https://acnuk.org/>

Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage 1-7 Jul. Booking still open. Go to www.tagneytours.com/pilgrimages/lourdes/leeds-lourdes or tel: 01732 886666.

Our Lent Project

Pontefract Hospice



After each Lent Weekend Mass, a collection will be taken at the Church door, for the Hospice. Wish to organise an event to raise money towards this? - You are welcome to place an ad in our Parish Newsletter.

To help, we are also to have a **Chocolate raffle**. Tickets, at £1 a strip, are now on sale at **weekend Masses**. Draw after 10.45am Mass, **Sun 3 Apr**. Many thanks to all who have contributed things chocolatey.

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 8 & 15 Jun.** 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 is due this coming summer. Application forms should be available soon after Easter.

First Communion Our Children who had their First Confession, during Lent, will begin the Preparation Programme for First Eucharist, in our Sacred Heart Hall, **Sat 2 July**, 10.00-12.00am.

This is only for Children who have had their First Confession. Application Forms for the 2023 First Reconciliation and Eucharist Programmes should be available during the coming Autumn.

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

Parish Monies

Offertory Monies **Many Thanks**
6 March

Loose	£228.94
Envelopes	£264.91
Lent Project	£264.04

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)

The Church, through the Scripture first of all, and through its own understanding of the Scripture, points us to Christ, but her role is like that of the person who tells us where to dig in the field, then shows us the safe containing the treasure. As the treasure is within our inner self, to which we alone have access, neither the Church nor anyone within the Church can open the treasure for us. It is as though we each have our own bank card number, which only Christ can teach us. That is why prayer is not an optional extra for the more devout Christian, but is of the essence of Christian life. Without prayer in the Church, without emphasis on the mystical element, we become like misers, fiercely jealous of our treasure box, content to possess it but without ever enjoying it. The contents could be full of old bones or crawling with worms. We guard it, treasure it, defend it by fair means or foul, not because we have any personal appreciation of its contents, but because we have been conditioned to believe that our lives depend on our guarding this treasure box, but we have never been told, or have never felt the need, to examine its contents. This attitude is the root cause of division within the Church and between the Churches. Christ becomes a label which we stick on the nonsense of our own lives, on our greed and power lust, on the cult of our comfort and self-importance. When challenged or criticised, we wave our Christ label in front of our opponents, declare them unorthodox, heretical and a threat to our eternal destiny, threatening and, if we consider it necessary for our own and God's defence, murdering them. The real divisions in the Church today are not divisions between Christian denominations but between those Christians who have opened the treasure and live with the life it provides, and those Christians who are still sitting on closed boxes, alarmed and afraid, and condemning those who show signs of a new life in Christ.

This third guideline cannot open the treasure for us but it can preserve us from the danger of worshipping idols of our own manufacture to which we affix the label 'Christ'. The guideline is Christ's relationship to his Father, for it is this relationship which gives unity and coherence to his life and teaching and therefore gives unity and coherence to our lives, too.

The only words recorded in the Gospels as spoken by Christ in the first thirty years of his life are in Luke's account of Jesus' meeting with his parents after they had lost him, 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' (Luke 2:49). Among his last phrases are 'Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, let your will be done, not mine' (Luke 26:42) and when dying on the cross, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit. With these words he breathed his last' (Luke 23:46) The first words of Christ by Mark, are: 'The kingdom of God is close at hand' - and 'the kingdom' means the reign of his Father.

Abridged from: The God of Surprises – Gerard W. Hughes

DO YOU KNOW?

On the Fourth Sunday of Lent, if a Parish has a set, the priest may wear Rose (as a shade of pink) coloured vestments. This Sunday is also known by the Latin tag *Laetare* Sunday. The entrance antiphon at Mass (if used) begins with the words *Laetare Jerusalem*, meaning 'Rejoice, Jerusalem'.

Gaudete (3rd) Sunday, in Advent, marks a change of mood, as our Church looks increasingly to the celebration of Christmas, and the birth of our Saviour, Jesus, among us. Similarly, Laetare (4th) Sunday, in Lent, marks a change of mood. Attention begins to move from our need for repentance to what?

AND SERIOUSLY!

Q. What did Jonah do the three days in the belly of the big fish?

A. Sing, of course. Everybody sings in Wales boyo.



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 3: Commentary on the Readings

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

We have seen how St Luke, in his gospel, places great emphasis on Jesus' message of repentance and forgiveness. At the beginning of Jesus' ministry Peter must admit his sinfulness before he is called to be an apostle; at the end, the good thief acknowledges his guilt and is welcomed into Jesus' kingdom. This gospel reading, with its historical examples and its parable, reinforces the Old Testament lesson of repentance. Notice also how, in Luke's account of the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax-Collector, the latter wins through: his prayer is only 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner'. Every proclamation of the gospel in Luke's Acts of the Apostles ends with an appeal for repentance. Repentance means not simply bewailing our sins but doing something about it, changing our way of life, our scale of values. However, we are made in the image of God, and cannot expect God's forgiveness unless we too follow God's example and show the same forgiveness to others. The sinful woman who loved much was forgiven much (Luke 7:36-50). Nor is Luke the only evangelist to stress this point. Matthew adds at the end of the Lord's Prayer the saying of Jesus which underlines the importance of the single petition, 'Forgive us our sins as we forgive others'.

First Reading: Exodus 3:1-8,13-15

In our Lenten readings we have progressed through the story of God's people and now we come to the crucial point when God reveals his name to Moses. This is a decisive moment, because to give your name is a sign of trust and friendship. Someone who has your name has power over you in all kinds of ways, so you give your name only to those you trust. The Hebrew people, descendants of Abraham, are at a low point, a mere oppressed rabble of immigrants in Egypt, lacking land or security, marked out for extermination by a powerful bureaucratic state. It is as though God had waited for this moment to raise them up, to form them as a coherent group with a leader who could stand up for them in God's name.

God does not yet give the meaning of the name; perhaps 'I Am who I Am' even means 'You mind your own business!' God's name does have something to do with Being, and the Greek translation of the Hebrew text understands it as 'Pure Being', 'the One who Is'. In the Hebrew Bible the meaning of the name is given later on at Sinai, after Israel's worship of the Golden Bull, when God passes before Moses crying out the name, 'The Lord, the Lord, a God of mercy and forgiveness'. This is the true significance of God's name which will echo in passage after passage later on in the Bible.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12

As with the readings of the previous two Sundays, the second reading moves the first reading into a higher gear. God revealed his name to Moses in the desert, led the Israelites across the sea and cared for them in the desert with manna for food and water from the rock to drink. Paul uses the current rabbinic explanation of the two accounts (in the books of Exodus and Numbers) of Moses striking the rock for water: it is not two accounts of the same incident, but they are separate incidents. It is the same rock who accompanied the Israelites on their journey through the desert. How does a rock follow the people in their wanderings? Paul explains to us that the real meaning of the rock is Christ who nourishes us. However, Paul is writing to chide the Corinthians on their undisciplined ways, especially when gathered at the Eucharist. Despite the wonders that accompanied the Israelites, the desert wanderings were a time of infidelity and rebellion which even the God of mercy and forgiveness was compelled to correct. Let the Corinthians learn their lesson! Even though their Christian life was marked by plentiful gifts of the Spirit, they must repent of their wild behaviour.

Courtesy of 'The Wednesday Word Trust'

The Word: Year C, Lent, Sunday 4

1st Reading: Joshua 5:9-12

2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3,11-32

Prayer of the Church

Psalter: Week 3

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 Proper of Saints

Sat Of Weekday + Lent Proper

This Week's Feasts & Saints

Mon Of Weekday of Lent

Tue Of Weekday of Lent

Wed Of Weekday of Lent

Thu St Turibius of Mongrovego, Bishop

Fri Annunciation of The Lord

Sat Of Weekday of Lent