



# 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, Eastertide, Easter Sunday, 17 April, 2022

*Getting in touch* Father Anthony G Fenton  
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<b>Holy Saturday</b> 16 April	Sacred Heart	<b>7.00pm Easter Vigil &amp; First Mass of Resurrection</b>	<b>Mass Intentions</b> <i>Kath Dixon</i>
<b>Easter Sunday</b> 17 April	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass	<i>Donor's Intention (AG)</i> <i>Parish Family</i>
Monday 18 April	St Joseph's St Joseph's	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass	<i>Pauline Chapman &amp; Jack Johnson</i>
Tuesday 19 April			
Wednesday 20 April	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	9.30am Mass 5.00pm Exposition / Reconciliation	<i>James McNally</i>
Thursday 21 April	St Joseph's St Joseph's St Joseph's	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass 10.00am Reconciliation	<i>Decd Eades, Mannion, Stuart Fams</i>
Friday 22 April	Sacred Heart St Joseph's	8.30am Mass <i>10.30am Funeral Service</i>	<i>Decd Withers Family</i> Peter Connor
<b>Saturday</b> 23 April	Sacred Heart	5.00pm Mass	<i>Amanda Armer</i>
<b>Low Sunday</b> 24 April	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass	<i>Parish Family</i> <i>Raymond Ward</i>

This weekend, we congratulate and pray for those Baptised at our Easter Vigil - Kelly *Elizabeth* Picton; and at our 10.45am Mass - Lily Jana Au, with parents Clement & Jana & Felix Flogger Raphael Mongan, with parents, Jerry and Kathleen

*Fr Anthony wishes each and every one of our Parish Family, and their families, a happily enjoyable and Christ-filled Easter.*

**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

More than just a day! Our Church provides us with a seven week Eastertide to celebrate. Yet sometimes our everyday lives can feel so heavy that celebration is not part of them. Critical illness in the family, loss of a job, disappointment in a relationship, the burdens of everyday life can make it a challenge to feel particularly joyful - even in the Easter season.

But the joy we are being invited into during this season is beyond what we see in our everyday lives. It's true that Jesus says: "Come to me and bring me your burdens." But it can be hard to believe it. Maybe we don't want to believe it. If I really allow Jesus to come into my heart the way he wants to, will he ask me to change my life in ways that are too hard? How do I share the chaos of my life with Jesus? If I keep him at arm's length, my life might be difficult, but at least my problems are familiar. What would it cost me to let go and change my life?

We know our own faults and failings so well. Too well. We can begin to believe that Jesus loves the way we love - with our human limits. How could Jesus love us and accept us the way we are right now? Maybe when we fix a few things about our lives, love our family a little better, stop being so critical of certain others, stop drinking, stop nagging, love a little more ... when we are perfect, then Jesus will love us.

If we can overcome our reservations, the power of Jesus in our hearts sets our hearts free. Suddenly, we are not afraid, not burdened and are simply ready to serve with Jesus.

Jesus loves us - right now. At this moment, he holds each of us in his warm and loving gaze, and loves us so freely at a depth that our human minds can't fully take in. Whether we appreciate this or not, Jesus loves us endlessly and waits for us with his arms open, wanting to hold and support us.

As we receive his embrace and feel the peace and joy of Easter wash over us, we can also look over his shoulder, and see beyond to those in need, who now wait for us. Then we realize that the real joy in our lives is putting aside our own faults, challenges and difficulties for a while, and entering into the lives of others.

Pope Francis has said that we leave ourselves behind and encounter others by: "being close to those crushed by life's troubles, sharing with the needy, standing at the side of the sick, elderly and the outcast."

We are being missioned as Easter People - to find peace in Jesus' love for us and so share it with others. Then we find ourselves side by side with Jesus, looking with him at those we are being sent to love. This is where the real joy of Easter waits for us.

Courtesy of Creighton University  
On-line Ministries (abbreviated).

## Things happening in our Parish

**Gift Aid** Please remember that if you pay anything more than a minimum amount of income tax, we can reclaim the tax you have already paid on the money you give to our Parish. If you do not already Gift Aid, all you need do is sign a Gift Aid Form and allow us to record what you give (eg by numbered envelopes or a bank standing order): and it won't cost you a penny more than what you are already giving. For more information, please consult Jackie Ventom, Margaret Whitehouse or Fr Anthony.

Please note: one off donations, favouring our Parish, can also be gift aided by income tax payers.

**Your Easter Offerings** taken at this weekend's Masses, are traditionally your gift to your Priest.

*Perhaps you recall this story? of four people named,  
Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.*

*There was an important job to be done and  
Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it.  
Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.  
Somebody got angry about that, because it was  
Everybody's job.*

*Everybody thought Anybody could do it,  
but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it.*

*It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody  
when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.  
How can you help our Parish Family?*

**Ukrainian Refugees** If you speak Russian or Ukrainian, or would like to be part of our Diocesan Catholic Care newcomers, to support refugees arriving in our parishes, please contact: [sue.parsons@catholic-care.org.uk](mailto:sue.parsons@catholic-care.org.uk). Also, please see updates at: <https://www.catholic-care.org.uk/>

### Please, please

remember to help tidy-up after Mass:  
take Newsletters and Mass Readings sheets home;  
ensure that at our Sacred Heart Church,  
the Parish (green) Booklets are left neatly, with but not in  
the Hymn Books, on the bench book shelves;  
that at our St Joseph's Church,  
the Parish (white) Booklets and Hymn Books  
are returned to the Entrance Hall and left neatly.  
Any with Children, please encourage them to help tidy  
and all please ensure no other items are left behind.  
10 seconds of your time  
saves up to 30 minutes of another's time.

## Our Lent Project Pontefract Hospice Very Many Thanks



To all who have contributed, during Lent, to raising such a splendid amount; especially during these times of ever rising fuel, food and other costs.

Many thanks also to those who bought tickets for the Chocolate Raffle, to those who donated the great array of things chocolatey, and those who helped run it.

The weekend collections raised £1234.60 (inc 10/4)  
and the raffle brought a further £ 429.43  
giving a grand total of £1694.03

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 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 to begin this coming summer. Application forms should be available soon.

**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**  
3 April

Loose	£192.87
Envelopes	£233.86
Lent Project	£180.81
Ukraine	£ 40.00

## 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

### 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)

St Paul has harsh words for those who look to religious observance for their salvation:

If you have really died with Christ to the principles of this world, why do you still let rules dictate to you, as though you were still living in the world? It is forbidden to pick up this, it is forbidden to taste that, it is forbidden to touch something else; all these prohibitions are only concerned with things that perish by their very use—an example of human doctrines and regulations! It may be argued that true wisdom is to be found in these, with their self-imposed devotions, their self-abasement, and their severe treatment of the body; but once the flesh starts to protest, they are no use at all. (Col. 2:20-3).

'The flesh', in St Paul's writings, means all those areas of our being which resist God. Paul, before his conversion, living a life of strict observance of the law and so of great asceticism, would have later described himself as having lived a 'life of the flesh'.

Jesus of the Gospel is the most gentle of men, full of understanding and compassion, but he is also the most intransigent. 'You cannot serve God and Mammon' (Luke 16:13). 'He who is not with me is against me' (Matt. 12:30). In Christian tradition life is seen as a warfare between the forces of good and evil, between God and Mammon, a warfare in which we are all involved, whether we like it or not, and in which there is no neutrality. The life of God is a life of giving, a life for others: the life of Mammon is the opposite, a life of self-preservation at the expense of others. In Christian tradition the spirit of Mammon, a false God, is personified in the Devil or Satan, also called Lucifer, meaning the light bearer, because he presents himself under the appearance of light, is specious and plausible, but the 'Father of lies' as St. John calls him.

In his Spiritual Exercises, before beginning to contemplate Christ in his public life, Ignatius gives a 'Meditation on the Two Standards' which he considers so important that he asks the person doing the Exercises to spend a whole day on this one meditation, doing it once for an hour and then going over the same meditation for another three separate hours. The Standards are the Standard of Satan and the Standard of Christ, proposed not as a choice, for he presumes the retreatant has chosen the Standard of Christ, but in order to make us more aware of the subtle ways in which, under the appearance of good, Lucifer, whom Ignatius also calls 'the enemy of our human nature', works his destruction on the world.

The reader may dislike the Devil/Satan/Lucifer terminology. If so, ignore it. We cannot ignore the horrifying destructiveness which can infect and possess the human spirit. It can enter politely, plausibly, respectably, even religiously, germinate quietly and peacefully for a while, then erupt in savagery and destruction.

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

### DO YOU KNOW?

The Jews celebrated the Sabbath (and still do) on the 'Seventh Day', which is Saturday. The Christian Sabbath is celebrated on the day after, on account of this being the day on which Jesus rose from the dead. From early Christian times, the day of the Lord's Resurrection, and the Christian Sabbath (Sunday), has commonly been referred to as the 'First Day of the Week,' but also as 'The Eighth Day'.

*Many western baptistries or baptismal fonts are now six sided. Ancient baptistries and fonts were much more commonly, and significantly, eight or five sided, symbolising what?*

### AND SERIOUSLY!

The teacher was exploring the children's notion of God and asked the children:  
'Who is God?'

After a moments thought, one six-year-old replied,  
'I think God is the man who saved the Queen.'



Please Keep  
In Prayer

All whose **Anniversaries** occur about this time  
All who have **died recently**, and their families  
especially Peter Connor, 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, Eastertide, Easter Sunday: Commentary on the Readings

### Gospel: John 20:1-9

There are several accounts in the various gospels of the discovery of the empty tomb. The slight variations between them show all the marks of oral tradition, for in genuine oral tradition each 'performance' is different. Different people tell the story slightly differently, stressing different aspects. This story in John's Gospel places emphasis on proving that the tomb really was empty, for the apostles examine the evidence carefully. Other accounts concentrate less on the evidence and more on the message, that the disciples will meet the Risen Lord in Galilee. It was important to establish that the tomb was empty, to prevent the charge that the meetings with the Risen Christ were simply ghost-appearance accounts. Apart from the proof that the risen Jesus was a real, living and bodily person, these encounters stress two other things - the power of the risen Christ and the commission given to the disciples. The disciples are to go out into the whole world and spread the message, always accompanied and strengthened by Christ himself. In this account of John's, Simon Peter is clearly the senior, authority figure, to whom the Beloved Disciple defers. But it is the love of the Beloved Disciple which immediately brings Peter to faith.

### First Reading: Acts 10: 34-43

Peter was speaking to Cornelius. Cornelius was the Roman centurion who already revered God and had had a vision that he should invite Peter to come and instruct him. Peter emphasises that Jesus was a real human being; he went about bringing God's peace to everyone he could meet; nevertheless, he was executed as a criminal; so God responded by raising him from death to a life that was totally new. This was the fulfilment of all the promises made to Israel, bringing to completion God's plan in creation. Life moved into a new gear. Peter goes on to state



that God has appointed the risen Jesus to judge the living and the dead. The Jews expected that at the end of time, at the completion of all things, God would come to set everything to rights, to judge things according to their true worth. Now Peter says that Jesus is the one who will be this judge. Jesus is the Lord who completes all things and brings them to judgment. By his rising from the dead Jesus is given supreme authority over the whole world. Paul put it this way, that he was 'constituted Son of God in power' by the resurrection.

### Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

This reading is like the visible tip of an iceberg, because much more lies below the surface! Paul here tells us that all our interest must be in heavenly things, the things of Christ, because we share Christ's life. What is more, that life is no ordinary life. What does all this mean? We share Christ's life because faith in Christ means that we put all our trust and hope in Christ. We have been baptised into Christ, that is, by baptism we have been dipped into Christ as into a river, and come up soaked with, dripping with Christ. I am growing into Christ, to share his inheritance, his status as Son of God. The well-spring of my life is no longer the ordinary, natural life which enables me to live, breathe, digest, feel, see, sing and play, love and hate. It is the Spirit of Christ which spurs me to generosity, service, kindness, self-control, peace and openness. This life, says Paul, is still hidden, and will be fully manifested only at the coming of Christ. But if I am to be true to my profession of faith in baptism, the principles on which I base my life must be those of this risen life of Christ, here and now.

*Courtesy of 'The Wednesday Word Trust'*

### The Word: Year C, Low Sunday

1st Reading: Acts 5:12-16

2nd Reading: Apocalypse 1:9-13,17-19

Gospel: John 20:19-31

## Prayer of the Church

### Psalter: Of Easter Octave

**Sun** Of Easter Octave  
**Mon** Of Easter Octave  
**Tue** Of Easter Octave  
**Wed** Of Easter Octave  
**Thu** Of Easter Octave  
**Fri** Of Easter Octave  
**Sat** Of Easter Octave



## This Week's Feasts & Saints

**Mon** Of Easter Octave  
**Tue** Of Easter Octave  
**Wed** Of Easter Octave  
**Thu** Of Easter Octave  
**Fri** Of Easter Octave  
**Sat** Of Easter Octave

