



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, Low Sunday, 24 April, 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 <i>Tel</i> 01977-610733 <i>Parish Website</i> www.hemsthorpe.org.uk
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Saturday 23 April	Sacred Heart	5.00pm Mass	<i>Amanda Armer</i>
Low Sunday 24 April	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass	<i>Parish Family Raymond Ward</i>
Monday 25 April		<i>No Parish Mass today</i>	
Tuesday 26 April		<i>No Parish Mass today</i>	
Wednesday 27 April		<i>No Parish Mass today</i>	
Thursday 28 April		<i>No Parish Mass today</i>	
Friday 29 April		<i>No Parish Mass today</i>	
Saturday 30 April	Sacred Heart	5.00pm Mass	<i>Derek, Christopher, Mark & Stephen Jones</i>
Sunday 1 May	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass	<i>Michael Murtagh Adrian Tyrrell</i>

Thomas.
'YOU
believe
because
you
Can
See
me.'



'HAPPY
are
those who
have not
seen
And
yet
BELIEVE.'

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

Easter is a wonderful time to reflect upon the new life we receive through our relationship with Jesus. But, celebrating Easter is not just thinking about new life; it is about experiencing new life. There are two questions: 1) in what ways am I not feeling not fully alive? and 2) what would it mean to let myself become fully alive, in Jesus?

As Jesus (John 3) talked with Nicodemus about being born again, Nicodemus misunderstood. Jesus clarified the phrase, explaining what he meant. We must be born *from above*. But that is this distinction Jesus is making between being born "again" and being born *from above*. He is talking about where life comes from. The *new life* is a gift and it is from God.

When we are feeling tired, discouraged, and full of self-defeating desires and actions, we know we aren't happy, even if it is difficult to admit it. But, the desire for healing, relief, refreshment - new life - is the first step to being open to receive the gift. This is not a *once and for all* realization. Various downs come into our lives all the time. We need to be attentive to what is happening in us, all the time. It's like when a blood clot blocks blood flow to our heart or our brain, something dies. When something blocks the flow of life to any part of our spiritual reality, something dies in us. Jesus is telling us that there is relief and new life - from above. We just need to be attentive to what is happening in us.

When we let his life flow through us, we come to life again. It is all about the connection, the communion, the way we make our home in him and allow Jesus to make his home in us. When we are branches connected to the Vine of life, then we can live again and can bear much fruit.

When Jesus restores life to parts of us that were not active, or were active in unhelpful directions, the new life often means change. We feel in some way different. When we then begin to act differently, we might feel not only *new* but *odd* or *awkward*. Old habits and patterns need to be let go of and new ones need to be practiced. This is how we are opened up to grace - open to his giving his life to us. Then we can be opened to a new way of acting and loving. This new way is characterized by greater freedom to be a good person. We can begin to really like who we are becoming. It starts to feel like we are reborn, renewed, coming to life in a new way.

So, let's let our longing for new life fill this Easter Season. Let's talk with the Lord about how we can stay better connected, better rooted in him. Let's let him heal what is wounded in us, to show us his love.. Let's ask for the graces of a fresh start - for today and every day - that will bring us each day to live in a new way, a Christ-filled way - for our own happiness - and to bring happiness for others.

Courtesy of Creighton University
On-line Ministries (abbreviated)

Very many thanks

to all who in any way helped our Holy Week Services to be so prayerful and meaningful: to all who helped organise them, to those who cleaned and decorated our Churches, to all who undertook liturgical and welcoming ministries, and to all who came along to contribute in prayer.

Also, Fr Anthony much thanks all of our Parish Family for their kind and generous offerings, gifts, and greetings, given during the Easter Festival.

Things happening in our Parish

From Parish to Mission Volunteer facilitators are again visiting every parish in the diocese, to lead another open meeting, similar to the one in November last, *but this time to consider questions that are more local to our own Diocese*. Our Parish meeting is due **Mon 9 May, 7.30pm**, in our Sacred Heart Hall. Please fix the date in your diary and do come along.

The overall purpose is to help towards the planning for how our Diocese should respond to the needs of our Church, in the next few years.

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.

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

Please Note Fr Anthony is taking a 'Jollies' break 25 Apr to 6 May inclusive (excepting weekend Masses). If there is need to arrange a funeral, families should have their Funeral Director contact/leave a message at the Sacred Heart Presbytery. The Director should gain a response no later than the end of their next working day.

Many Thanks to all who returned monies from the Missio Red Boxes, which totalled £190.

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 well-being: 1.30-3.30pm **Thu 5 May**, in our Sacred Heart Hall. The event is free, but please first book places: email wakefield@alzheimers.org.uk or tel 01924-373264.

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.

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**
10 April

Loose	£264.68
Envelopes	£208.00
Lent Project	£229.70
Ukraine	£ 20.00

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)

A few years ago, on a beautiful day in May, I walked by the Holy Loch in Scotland, where the Polaris submarines are based. The waters were still, reflecting the hills and sky, their surface ruffled only slightly by the periscope of a nuclear submarine passing smoothly beneath the surface. This scene reflected the reality in which we all live, the reality both outside and within us. On the surface everything seemed beautiful and orderly: beneath the surface were powers of destruction which can consume all populations in a ball of fire, scorch, torture and maim those who survive, and continue to do so in generations yet unborn.

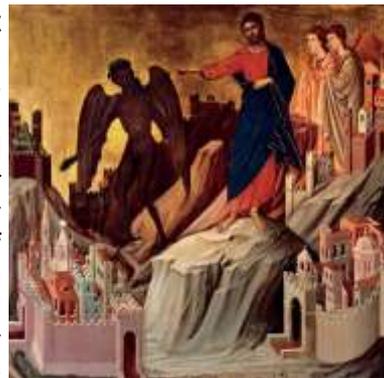
In his 'Two Standards' meditation, Ignatius gives an image of evil, picturing Lucifer sitting on a smoky throne in the plain of Babylon and surrounded by little demons whom he sends throughout the world 'so that no Province, no place, no state of life, no individual is overlooked'.

The little demons are instructed to ensnare all human beings in three stages: to teach them to covet riches, so leading them on to love the honours of this world until they are trapped in the prison of their pride.

Riches, in themselves, are not evil, nor are honours, position in society and status. In themselves these things are good and can be used for the praise, reverence and service of God, but riches are for sharing, not for hoarding, and honour and power is for greater service of others, not to enhance a false sense of self-importance. Riches and honour can become our idols, our Mammon, so that our lives revolve around our bank balance, whether its abundance or deficit, or around the esteem, or lack of it, in which we imagine we are held.

As individuals, as a Church, and as a nation we need to ponder the truth in this representation of Satan's Standard and why he is called 'the enemy of our human nature'. The riches of the earth are a blessing. Destructiveness enters when they become an idol, so that we value ourselves and other people not for their intrinsic worth, but for their market value. We are all worthy of honour, far more worthy than we think. It is not riches and honour which are wrong, but the way we use them. We fail to honour one another because we do not value and cherish one another for what we are in ourselves, images of God, but we value people for the wealth they possess, the power they can exercise. Consequently, those who have neither riches nor honour are devalued, considered worthless and, unless they have great inner strength, come to look on themselves as worthless.

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



DO YOU KNOW?

Ancient baptistries commonly had either eight sides, reminding of the 'Eighth Day' (Sunday) or the day of the Lord's resurrection, or five sides, reminding of the 'Fifth Day' (Friday) or the day on which Our Lord died. For Our Lord died and rose again to enable the Baptised to die to sin, so as to be free to rise up and live their lives imitating his goodness and love, so as to one day die to this life and be raised up to heaven.

In our Catholic tradition, there are three recognised and legitimate ways of administering or bringing the water of Baptism to someone being baptised. What are they?

AND SERIOUSLY!



An exasperated mother said to her son, who was always in trouble: 'How do you expect to get to heaven?' The boy thought for a minute and said: 'Well I'll just run in and out, until St. Peter says: 'Jimmy, either come in or stay out.'

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, John Lovely, Tim Byrne
and all our household

The Word: Year C, Eastertide, Low Sunday: Commentary on the Readings

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Two aspects of this meeting with the risen Jesus are especially striking. This is the last scene of the Gospel of John, for chapter 21 is an appendix. At the end, before the concluding reflection, Thomas gives the only direct acclamation in the New Testament of Jesus as God: nowhere else is Jesus hailed as 'God', though there are other ways in which his divinity has been indicated. So in a way Thomas' greeting of the risen Christ is the climax of the New Testament. Secondly, it is striking that Jesus' final blessing is one of peace and forgiveness. The mission of all Christians is to bring these gifts to a troubled world. Throughout the Bible God is a God of forgiveness. The Old Testament consists of a series of covenants, each in turn broken by God's chosen people, but then re-created by a forgiving God. There was the covenant with Noah after the Flood, the covenant with Abraham, the covenant with Moses after the worship of the Golden Calf, and finally the new covenant is promised by Jeremiah after unfaithful Israel had been exiled to Babylon. Christianity is not for the perfect but for the sinner, who is surrounded by other sinners. As forgiven sinners we are exhorted to bring forgiveness to all those around us.

First Reading: Acts 5:12-16

Before he tells us of the spread of the gospel to the ends of the earth, St Luke (the author of the Acts of the Apostles), describes the ideal community in Jerusalem. He stresses the unity of this community, their prayer together, their common ownership of all their possessions, their generosity to those in need, and their steadfastness under persecution by the authorities who refused to accept their message. It is the model for any Christian community, which all our Christian communities need to strive to imitate and become real centres of the love and confidence of Christ. In today's reading St Luke tells how in the early community the same signs and wonders of healing which Jesus himself had worked are now worked by the apostles too, and especially by Peter.

It is a theme throughout the Acts that the followers of Jesus, filled with his Spirit, continue his work and are alive with his life, expressing the power of the risen Christ, who remains with them always. St Luke also wants to underline that Jerusalem is being given a second chance: the people there had rejected Jesus, but now they have another opportunity to welcome him, this time at the hands of his apostles, the witnesses to his resurrection. This is why St Luke underlines that the numbers of believers increased steadily. But the martyrdom of Stephen will mark the end and the failure of this second chance.

Second Reading: Apocalypse 1:9-13,17-19

The first reading during the season of Eastertide is about the beginnings of the Church; in Year C the second reading (taken from the Book of Revelation), is about the end and completion of the Church. This book, the last book of the Bible, was written to assure Christians, struggling under persecution from the Roman Empire, that the risen Christ would eventually bring his Church to triumph and release her people from all sorrow and sadness. It uses extravagant, cosmic imagery to emphasize God's total control of the universe, heaven and earth, and all that is in them. It is very imaginative, drawing heavily upon the imagery of the Old Testament and upon the symbolism of numbers. The narrator is the Apostle John, exiled to the Greek island of Patmos, and it begins with a vision of the risen Christ in all his glory. The phrase 'Son of Man' (used in this reading), was Jesus' favourite way of referring to himself. Here the 'Son of Man' is also reminiscent of the Son of Man in the prophet Daniel's vision; to him God gives all power over the universe. The seven lamp-stands represent the seven local Churches of Asia to whom the Book was primarily addressed.

Courtesy of 'The Wednesday Word Trust'

The Word: Year C, Eastertide, Sunday 3

1st Reading: Acts 5:27-32,40-41
2nd Reading: Apocalypse 5:11-14
Gospel: John 1:1-19

Prayer of the Church

Psalter: Week 2

Sun Of Easter Octave
Mon Proper of Saints
Tue Proper of Saints + Common of Martyrs
Wed + Seasonal Proper
Thu + Seasonal Proper (or + Proper of Saints)
Fri Proper of Saints
Sat + Seasonal Proper (or + Proper of Saints)

This Week's Feasts & Saints

Mon St Mark, Evangelist
Tue St George, Martyr, Patron of England
Wed Of Easter Weekday
Thu St Peter Channel, Priest, Martyr
St Louis Marie Grignon, Priest
Fri St Catherine of Sienna, Doctor of Church,
Patron of Europe
Sat St Pius V, Pope