



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, Sunday 3, 1 May, 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

Saturday 30 April	Sacred Heart	5.00pm Mass	Mass Intentions D, C, M & S Jones
Sunday 1 May	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass	Michael Murtagh Adrian Tyrrell
Monday 2 May		No Parish Mass today	
Tuesday 3 May		No Parish Mass today	
Wednesday 4 May		No Parish Mass today No Exposition / Reconciliation today	
Thursday 5 May		No Parish Mass today No Reconciliation today	
Friday 6 May		No Parish Mass today	
Saturday 7 May	Sacred Heart	5.00pm Mass	Kath Dixon
Sunday 8 May	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass	Michael Fahy Jim Noeleki



At our Saturday/Sunday Masses, on 21/22 May
Our married Parishioners will be invited to
*give prayerful thanks for their years of marriage and to
Renew their Dedication to Marriage*



Couples of an age, do invite your children and grand-children, to come to share in the celebration

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

At Easter time, we might think about some of the questions which usually come to us at funerals. What is everlasting life? How can we imagine it?



We have but a few images from Jesus, about heaven. He tells us it is like a wedding banquet. He says that he will prepare a place for us - a place in his Father's house, with its many rooms.

One of the nicest things in going to a wedding, or to visit and stay with friends or family, is to hear them say they have a room ready for us. And, part of the fun is to look forward to the visit and the hospitality prepared for us. Sometimes, they may even add a small extra, such as a flower in a simple vase, or some chocolates, in the room. When we see our room, we might thank our host and say, "You thought of everything. I feel so at home here."

Of course, at family and friends' weddings, there is anticipation at seeing loved ones and friends whom we haven't seen for some time. The bonds and connections that are renewed bring us such joy. We might even sense that, "We just picked up where we left off." We find the relationships are still there. And, at the best weddings, we can have great fun telling stories, and laughing, and dancing. At such moments, the difficulties, and anxieties, and the troubles of our everyday life seem very far away.

However we might imagine the Easter promise of eternal life, it seems that we can use images like these, of true human hospitality and joy, raised to the level of divine life. Because we can't know now what divine life is truly like, and we can't even get close to imagining a "place" or a "time" without space and time - in eternity - we need to use human images to comfort ourselves and to help us anticipate what is "more than we can ask or imagine." (Ephesians 3:20)

A purpose of the funeral rites is to help us enter into a new relationship with those who have died. Part of the purpose of the Easter season is to help us anticipate, even to long for, the promise of eternal life. We can reflect on all our efforts to get closer to our Lord in this life, but it will be infinitely more wondrous to be in total union with Jesus and Father God, through the Holy Spirit, and with all the saints, including many we have known here on earth. We might now remember the best of times that we had with friends and loved ones, but it is a powerful experience to let ourselves anticipate the joys of the renewal of the bonds and affection to be found in heaven - and without any barriers of divisions, worries, sin, illness, or death - in a place and state where all manner of things are well.

Courtesy of Creighton University
On-line Ministries (abbreviated)

Things happening in our Parish

Seniors Group Meets weekly on **Wednesdays**, in our Sacred Heart Parish Hall, 2-3.30pm. All aged 55+, both males and females, most welcome. Chat, refreshments, entertainments, all the order of the day.

They would be delighted if you come and join them.

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 knowing the needs and planning for how our Diocese should respond to those needs and, in general, live out its mission.

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.



Next Weekend Door Collection after our Masses, with the proceeds to be equally divided to assist the Holy Land Shrines and needs of the Vatican (Peter's Pence).

Please Note Fr Anthony is continuing a 'Jollies' break, to 6 May inclusive. 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.

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.

Open Heart Memory Cafe Especially for any within our neighbourhood with dementia and their family, friends and carers. Next gathering in our Sacred Heart Hall, **Fri 13 May**, 10.00-12.00am. Do come along for a cuppa, chat, laugh and to meet new friends. All welcome.

& In our Diocese



Blessed Sacrament Procession Join with our Diocesan Family, Sun 15 May, 3:00pm, Hinsley Hall, Headingley, Leeds. Followed by BBQ, ice creams, bouncy castle etc. All welcome. Please check diocesan website on the morning in case it has to be cancelled due to bad weather.

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 due to begin **Sat 9 July**. Application forms should be available from Fr Anthony, at weekend Masses, from 14 May. The Parents of Baptised Children now in school year 5, or older, are invited to apply.

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.

Note: this is only for Children who have already made a First Confession.

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

Parish Monies

Offertory Monies **Many Thanks**
24 April

Loose	£281.17
Envelopes	£214.20
Lent Project	£30.00 (17/4)

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)

There is a high suicide rate among the unemployed of Britain. The rich pride themselves on their wealth and the powerful take delight in their status, which is to devalue their own real worth. As individuals and as a nation we can become so enamoured of our riches and our prestige that we cling to them as to life itself, will go to any lengths to secure them, even to mass murder and the risk of annihilation. The spirit of evil is rightly called 'the father of lies' and 'the enemy of our human nature'.

'Mammon' and riches mean not only money and material possessions, but stand for any idol in our lives, any created thing which becomes the focus of our praise, reverence, and service. Mammon can be an ideology or any 'ism' which we allow to possess us. Mammon can be patriotism, my country right or wrong, or it can be the way in which we practice religion, when our dedication becomes dedication to particular structures or formulations of the Christian message, and their preservation in the form familiar to us becomes more important than the worship and service of God, the God of mystery and of love, before whom all human structures must be provisional. 'The Sabbath is made for man, not man for the /sabbath,' as Jesus said to the Pharisees.

In the 'Two Standards' meditation, in contrast to Satan on his smoky throne, Ignatius pictures Christ standing on a plain near Jerusalem with his friends around him, 'his appearance beautiful and attractive'. Unless we see Christ and his teaching as attractive, as the answer to our deepest desires, we shall never follow him whole-heartedly. It is only in the strength of our attachment to him that we shall become detached, indifferent to riches and honour.



As Satan is pictured sending the little demons all over the world, Ignatius pictures Christ sending his friends to all human beings, 'no matter what their state or condition'. A phrase reminiscent of the wedding feast parable in which the king sends the servants to the hedgerows and byways to invite everybody they can find, good and bad alike. They are to help all people by attracting them first to the highest spiritual poverty, and even to actual poverty, if that is what God is asking of them, and secondly to accept and even desire the insults and contempt of the world, because this will lead them to humility, the source of all other virtues.

At a first reading, Christ's programme of poverty, insults and contempt leading to humility, sounds most unattractive. Spiritual poverty means a mind and heart which so trusts in God at its rock, refuge and strength that nothing in creation can deflect from God....

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

DO YOU KNOW?

Within our Catholic tradition, people may be baptised by - submersion, when they enter completely into the water, including with their head going under the water - immersion, when a significant proportion of their body enters the water (eg up to their waist) - pouring, when water is three times poured (not sprinkled) over their head.

The three times pouring of water, at a baptism, can be taken as symbolic of two things. What are they?

AND SERIOUSLY!



A man's wife had to be away from home for two weeks. During the fortnight he learned just how well she knew him. When he reached the second last of the stack of clean plates, he found a note which read: 'Start Dishwasher!'

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, Sunday 3: Commentary on the Readings

Gospel: John 21:1-19

This epilogue to the Gospel of John shows an extraordinary link with Luke's version of the Call of the Disciples: the same unsuccessful fishing all night transformed into success at Jesus' command, and then the commission to proclaim the Gospel. As in so many encounters with the risen Christ, he is an awesome figure, the same person but mysteriously changed, so that the disciples have difficulty recognising him. In addition, here in John's Gospel, we have the touching scene of Peter's restoration: a triple declaration of love and loyalty is extorted from Peter to compensate for his triple denial, and a triple commission is given to him, concluding with the repeat of his call, 'Follow me' – as the prophecy of his martyrdom still echoes in his ears. While Matthew's Gospel concludes with a promise that the risen Christ will be always with his Church, this Gospel illustrates what this will look like in practice:

Jesus feeds his followers at the picnic breakfast. Why the 153 fish? For the Venerable Bede it is too obvious: put together the numbers from 1 to 16, to this add 10 for the commandments and 7 for the days of creation, and you get 153. There may be more to it than that!



First Reading: Acts 5:27-32,40-41

By the time this hearing before the Sanhedrin (the supreme Jewish Council in Jerusalem) occurs, the apostles have already been arrested twice for proclaiming the Good News of Jesus. The first time only Peter and John were arrested, interrogated and given a warning. Now it seems to be a whole group of the apostles. They were arrested, delivered from prison by an angel – another sign that God looks after his own people - and voluntarily went to face the Sanhedrin. The task of the apostle is first and foremost to proclaim the resurrection of Jesus and his new life, a positive message of encouragement. Is our message of Christianity to those whom we

meet always a message of encouragement? Does it always set out to inspire new life? All the way through the Acts of the Apostles we see the interplay of the harassment of Christ's messengers and God's protection of them. Peter is arrested and is about to be executed when he is delivered from prison by an angel. Later on, Paul is imprisoned and delivered from prison by an earthquake. It is no surprise that the same harassment, mockery and persecution continue throughout the history of the Church.

Second Reading: Apocalypse 5:11-14

This second reading (from Revelation) shows us a scene in the heavenly throne-room, the Lamb sacrificed enthroned. In fact this is the second half of the scene, the first half of which describes God enthroned in glory. Now we see the triumphant Lamb on the same throne, being accorded the same honours by the 24 elders and by all living creatures as were earlier accorded to the LORD God. Note the sevenfold acclamation! Then there is a fourfold acclamation from the four animals, four-square, who (as in Ezekiel's vision of the divine throne) represent the solidity of the universe. The surest indication, already in the early Church, that the risen Christ was seen as fully equal to the Father is the equality of worship accorded to them both by the whole of creation. It is precisely as the sacrificed Lamb of God that Jesus enters into the sanctuary, seated on the throne of God and presenting the very sacrifice which we present in the Eucharist. This sacrifice is 'once and for all'. The sacrifice on our altars is no new sacrifice but is the sacrifice of obedience which Christ presents in permanence to his Father.

Courtesy of 'The Wednesday Word Trust'

The Word: Year C, Eastertide, Sunday 4

1st Reading: Acts 13:14,43-52

2nd Reading: Apocalypse 7:9,14-17

Gospel: John 10:27-30

Prayer of the Church

Psalter: Week 3

Sun + Seasonal Proper

Mon + Seasonal Proper + Proper of Saints

Tue Proper of Saints

Wed Common of Martyrs

Thu + Seasonal Proper

Fri + Seasonal Proper

Sat + Common of Pastors

This Week's Feasts & Saints

Mon St Athanasius, Bishop, Doctor of Church

Tue Ss Philip & James, Apostles

Wed The English Martyrs

Thu Of Easter Weekday

Fri Of Easter Weekday

Sat St John of Beverley, Bishop