



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 6, 22 May, 2022

Getting in touch Father Anthony G Fenton
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			Mass Intentions
Saturday 21 May	Sacred Heart	5.00pm Mass	<i>Kath Dixon</i>
Sunday 22 May	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass	<i>Parish Family Intentions of Lea Gabriola-Watson</i>
Monday 23 May	St Joseph's St Joseph's	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass	<i>Decd Spencer ... Knowles Fams</i>
Tuesday 24 May			
Wednesday 25 May	Sacred Heart	9.30am Mass	<i>Esther Tighe</i>
Thursday Ascension Day	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.30am Mass 7.00pm Mass	<i>Deceased Gee Family Attwood, Wilson, Patricia, Eric</i>
Friday 27 May	Sacred Heart	8.30am Mass	<i>Stephen, Mark Christopher, & Derek Jones</i>
Saturday 28 May	Sacred Heart	5.00pm Mass	<i>Parish Family</i>
Sunday 29 May	St Joseph's Sacred Heart	9.00am Mass 10.45am Mass	<i>John Mannion Andrew & Adrian Tyrrell</i>

This Thursday, 26 May, is the Feast of the Ascension, and a Holyday of Obligation
Please see Mass times given above.

*Any wishing to keep the old Ascension Day tradition of greeting this day as it begins,
4.46am is the predicted time of sunrise at St Joseph's and 4.47am at The Sacred Heart.*

*'Peace
I bequeath to
you,
my own peace
I give
to you.'*



*'A peace
the world cannot
give,
this is my gift
to you.'
said Jesus.*

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"

Returning to Mass at Pentecost

The following was approved by the Plenary Assembly of the Bishops of England and Wales, 6 May 2022.

A beautiful hallmark of the Catholic faith is the profound desire to participate in the Holy Mass and share in the Eucharist. We do so with deep gratitude and joy. The Eucharist gives the Church her identity - "The Eucharist makes the Church, and the Church makes the Eucharist." It enables us to worship Almighty God, to support each other on our journey of faith, and to be a visible sign of faith in the world. This hallmark is supported and strengthened by the precept that our fundamental Christian duty is to worship God by participating in the celebration of Mass. Attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is the greatest of all privileges, sometimes referred to as "the Sunday Obligation."

Since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, until the present time, we have shared with you our judgment that the situation of the last two years has meant that the Sunday Obligation has been impeded and has needed to be fulfilled in other ways. We thank God that this situation has now changed. The pressing challenges of the pandemic have lessened significantly. Most people have resumed the wide range of normal activities, no longer restricted by the previous Covid measures. We therefore believe that the reasons which have prevented Catholics from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation no longer apply.

We understand there will still be some members of our congregations who, for reasons of health, do not feel safe enough to return to Mass. It has always been the understanding of the Church that when the freedom of any Catholic to attend Mass in person is impeded for a serious reason, because of situations such as ill health, care for the sick or legitimate fear, this is not a breach of the Sunday Obligation.

Our Catholic people and parishes have benefitted during these difficult times from the online streaming of Mass and other services. "Virtual viewing" of Mass online does not fulfil the Sunday Obligation. It may, however, be a source of continual spiritual comfort to those who cannot attend Mass in person, for example those who are elderly and sick, for whom the obligation does not apply. In this context, we recognise gratefully the ministry of those who administer Holy Communion to the elderly, sick and housebound.

We are grateful to our clergy, religious and lay faithful who have served our parishes, schools and communities with dedication and distinction throughout this pandemic. Now we look forward with renewed faith and confidence.

In the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Lord's Supper, the Lord Jesus entrusted to us the precious gift of Himself. With humility, we glory in being a Eucharistic people for whom attendance at Mass is essential. Looking forward to the forthcoming feast of Pentecost, we now invite all Catholics who have not yet done so to return to attending Mass in person.

As the Church needs the witness of the presence of each person, so too each believer needs to journey in faith and worship with their fellow disciples. Nourished by our encounter with the Risen Lord Jesus, fed with His Word and His Body and Blood in Holy Communion, and supported by the presence of each other, we receive strength week by week, to serve the Lord and glorify Him with our lives.

Things happening in our Parish

Confirmations Our next Programme of Preparation for Confirmation is to begin **Sat 9 July**. Application forms are now available from Fr Anthony, **at weekend Masses**. Parents of Baptised Children who are now in school year 5, or older, are encouraged to apply. We await notice from our Bishop of a date, but it is likely he will administer Confirmations, for our local Parishes, early in 2023.



We much require Catechists from within our Parish Family, who regularly attend Mass and would like to help pass on our Faith to our Children. Catechists need to enjoy working with children and their families, alongside other Catechists, and to be able to give time when a programme is running.

The Confirmation Programme is mostly with children who are aged 10/11. The First Sacraments Programme is with children mostly aged 7-9.

Any who might be able to help, please ask Fr Anthony for details. *Many Catechists are **not** trained teachers.*

Book in Your Diary our International Mass, **Sat 2 July, 5.00pm**, marking our gift of being of many backgrounds but all Children of our one Father God. Also, enjoy an international kitchen after (we much hope).

Next Weekend Door Collection, after each Mass, to help towards the cost of training priests for our own Diocese.

Ukrainian Update Following the full agreement of our Parish Council, near on Easter, we offered St Joseph's Presbytery for possible use for Ukrainian Refugees. This past week, those who have so far heard nothing (quite a lot, it seems), have been asked if they are still willing to take Refugees. Fr Anthony has confirmed that we are still willing. It has also been indicated, however, that there are many more offers of help than there are Ukrainian Refugees, in our nation.

Holiday Days are Acoming God never stops thinking of and caring for us; and being away from home, on holiday or otherwise, is no reason to stop thinking of him. The location of many Churches, at home and abroad, and Mass times, can now so easily be found via the internet, especially if the name of the local Diocese is known. If you are to travel and need help to find such information, or you do not have access to the internet, Fr Anthony can try to help, if you ask him a week or two before you go. Local tourist information offices, and hotel and holiday complex receptions, usually have information of this sort.

& In our Diocese

The Twelve The Diocesan Youth Leadership Team, are looking to recruit Catholic young people in Years 8-12, to continue their work of collaborating with Bishop Marcus on Diocesan decision making, giving voice to young people on Diocesan matters and priorities. Deadline for Applications 10 June. For more information email Ryan Wilkinson at youth@dioceseofleeds.org.uk. See poster on our Church notice boards.

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.

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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**
15 May

Loose	£235.03
Envelopes	£232.30
Apr Bank Orders	£1752.00

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)

If I have poverty of spirit, I can afford to listen carefully and with interest to personal criticism from others. Perhaps I have to acknowledge that I am incompetent in my job, that I have a prickly temperament, that I am not very intelligent, sensitive, strong, beautiful in comparison with the people around me. I am judging and assessing myself through comparisons with other people. If God is my rock, my refuge and my strength then I have no need to be defensive, for I know he accepts me as I am and that I am precious in his eyes, that his power is greatest in my weakness that I come to a knowledge of my true identity and worth, called before the world was, to be at one with him in whom all things exist. St. Catherine of Genoa once said, 'We can truly know by continual experience that the love of God is our repose, our joy, our life, and that false self-love is but a constant weariness, sadness and a living death of our true selves,' which re-echoes the cry of delight of Mary: 'My soul declares the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exalts in God my saviour; because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid' (Luke 1:47).

Spiritual poverty leads to humility, an interesting word derived from the Latin, 'humus', meaning 'the earth'. Humility means recognising our creaturehood, having a true sense of perspective, knowing our worth as dwelling places of God. Humility is freedom from every form of inner enslavement, is the ability to laugh and delight in God's creation as well as to feel its pain. It is the opposite of crawling servility, self-diffidence, self-hate and infantile docility.

This then is the third guideline for all our reading and contemplating the Christ of the Gospels—*that prayer for Christ's poverty of spirit should always be included*, for as he grants us poverty of spirit, so we open the treasure that is in us.

'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field' (Matt 13:31). The growth of the kingdom within our hearts is slow. What is important is not the size of the mustard seed within us, but that we allow it to germinate. In other words, keep praying for poverty of spirit and do not be deterred by what you consider your poor progress. Preoccupation with our spiritual progress is unhealthy, a sign of our false self. We must accept our failures, whether they be real or imagined, as opportunities for growth in knowledge of the truth that God, and God alone, is our rock, our refuge and our strength. St Paul writes of the joy of this truth: 'For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, not any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord' (Rom. 8:38-9).



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

DO YOU KNOW?

The oils of Baptism (Catechumens), Chrism and of the Sick are commonly blessed during Holy Week, by Diocesan Bishops, at a Mass known as the Chrism Mass. These are then distributed around the Parishes. Unlike with Baptisms, Confirmations and Ordinations, which can mostly be pre-planned, the circumstances of calls for the anointing of the sick can require the priest attending to there and then bless the oil, for which there is a rather nice prayer in the ritual for the sick.

The 'Laying on of Hands', in Confirmation and some other sacraments, symbolises the coming of the Holy Spirit on the recipients. In Confirmation, how is the 'Laying on of Hands' performed?

AND SERIOUSLY!

A grandmother bought her small grandson a box of animal biscuits. At home he spread them out on the kitchen unit.

"What are you doing?" asked his grandmother. 'You can't eat them if the seal is broken', the boy replied, 'so I'm looking for the seal.'



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 housebound

The Word: Year C, Eastertide, Sunday 6: Commentary on the Readings

Gospel: John 14:23-29

In these final discourses of Jesus at the Last Supper (as he sketches the outlines of his future Church) there are four passages which promise the coming of a Paraclete or Advocate, the Holy Spirit. 'Paraclete' and 'Advocate' mean the same: someone who is called to your side as a supporter, often in a legal situation. The Father will send this Paraclete, in the name and power of Jesus, so that the Paraclete will make Christ present in the Church in a new way. The Paraclete will strengthen Jesus' disciples with Christ's own strength. The Paraclete will lead the disciples into all truth, so that they gradually come to a fuller understanding of all the implications of the teaching of Jesus. Like any legal advocate, the Paraclete will provide the followers of Jesus with the power in teaching and argument to withstand opposition. This is the power which will guide the Church in ages to come, not only the official teachers of the Church, the successors of the apostles, but all the faithful who preserve and enrich the tradition of the Church by their prophetic office. The decree of Vatican II on the Church leaves no doubt that not only the call to sanctity but also participation in the prophetic office of Christ extends to all the members of the Church; this is an inspiring and awesome responsibility for us all.

First Reading: Acts 15:1-2, 22-29

This was the crucial meeting of the whole Church at Jerusalem where the decision was made that Christianity was not only for Jews but was open to the gentiles too. Paul's activity in receiving gentiles into the Church had created a crisis: was not God's promise to Abraham limited only to Jews? Was it not limited only to those who observed the prescriptions of the Law? Could the Spirit of the risen Christ really dwell in and activate the uncircumcised? The staggering breakthrough achieved here at Jerusalem totally altered the course of history. Today's reading jumps to the concluding instructions and omits the

details of the debate which, in fact, provides a model for a community discussion: in the awareness of the presence of the Spirit the apostles and elders heard the facts of the case, listened to the opinions on both sides of the question put forward by experienced leaders, and then made their decision in the Spirit. The letter of instructions which follows is also a model of its kind, firm in its decisions, but firm also in its appreciation of individual consciences. The restrictions imposed on gentile Christians were designed to make fellowship with Jewish Christians possible without outraging their sensibilities.

Second Reading: Apocalypse 21:10-14, 22-23

The description of the New Jerusalem, the bride of Christ, begun in last week's reading, continues to be highly symbolic. The twelve gates of the city (drawn from a prophecy in Ezekiel) face the four quarters of the compass, to show that the city embraces the whole universe and is four-square solid. They symbolise the twelve tribes of Israel and so also the twelve apostles. The richness of the city is hinted at in the sparkle of precious stones, not only of diamonds but of many others too. The dimensions of the city are vast: a cube of 1,500 miles in each direction. No need for the light and warmth of the sun, for the Lord God and the Lamb provide a single source for the city's nourishment and illumination. No need for a sacred area, for the presence of the Lord God and the Lamb make the whole city a sacred area. This vision is the ultimate goal of creation, when we share in the very life of God, the ultimate fulfilment of 'thy Kingdom come'. The Letter to the Ephesians expresses it in this way: the whole universe is 'headed up' into Christ, thus making sense of creation and bringing it to its completion.

Courtesy of 'The Wednesday Word Trust'

The Word: Year C, Eastertide, Sunday 7

1st Reading: Acts 7:55-60

2nd Reading: Apocalypse 22: 12-14, 16-17, 20

Gospel: John 17:2-26

Prayer of the Church

Psalter: Week 2

Sun + Seasonal Proper

Mon + Seasonal Proper

Tue + Seasonal Proper

Wed + Seasonal Proper + Common of Pastors

Thu Of the Feast

Fri + Proper of Saints

Sat + Seasonal Proper

This Week's Feasts & Saints

Mon Of Easter Weekday

Tue Of Easter Weekday

Wed St Bede the Venerable, Monk

Thu Ascension Day

Fri St Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop

Sat Of Easter Weekday