

## 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**First Reading** Ezekiel 18:25-28  
When sinners renounce their sin, then they will live.

**Responsorial Psalm** 24:4-9  
Remember your mercy, Lord.

**Second Reading** Philippians 2:1-11  
The incarnate Son empties himself of his majesty to become human.

**Gospel Acclamation:**  
**Alleluia, alleluia!**

If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel** Matthew 21:28-32  
The tax collectors and sinners respond, but not the chief priests and elders.

## Parish of Corpus Christi

Sacred Heart (Goldthorpe), Sacred Heart & St Helen (Hoyland) and St Michael & All Angels (Wombwell)



**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr Declan Brett.

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Roman Catholic Diocese of Hallam Trust • Registered Charity Number 512021

Sunday 27th September 2020

Sunday Year A

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekday Cycle II

### Service Times & Intentions

|                               |               |                |   |
|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------|---|
| <b>Saturday</b> (St Michaels) | <b>26 Sep</b> | <b>5.30pm</b>  | Blanche Neale RIP   |
| <b>Sunday</b> (St Michaels)   | <b>27 Sep</b> | <b>9.00am</b>  | People of the Parish  |
| <b>Sunday</b> (St Helen`s)    | <b>27 Sep</b> | <b>11.00am</b> | Deceased Members of the Foody Family.                       |
| Tuesday                       | 29 Sep        | 12.00pm        | Sr Ann Coyle RIP  |
| Wednesday                     | 30 Sep        | 12.00pm        | Celia Gillott RIP   |
| Thursday                      | 1 Oct         | 12.00pm        | Brian & Bridget Liptrott RIP                                |
| Friday                        | 2 Oct         | 12.00pm        | Margaret Cartwright Intention                               |
| Saturday                      | 3 Oct         | 12.00pm        | Armstead Hutchinson RIP                                     |
| <b>Saturday</b> (St Michaels) | <b>3 Oct</b>  | <b>5.30pm</b>  | Dec`d Barber & Biggin Family Members, and Hugh Cochrane RIP |
| <b>Sunday</b> (St Michaels)   | <b>4 Oct</b>  | <b>9.00am</b>  | People of the Parish  |
| <b>Sunday</b> (St Helen`s)    | <b>4 Oct</b>  | <b>11.00am</b> | Catherine & Thomas Freaney RIP                              |

Please go to the link below so you can join in with Masses and Services, streamed live by Fr Declan, or catch up later at the following link:

<https://m.facebook.com/CorpusChristiValley/videos/>

*"In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus."*

Tom Holland is a popular English historian. In his adolescence, he was a lukewarm Christian who preferred the stories about Romans and Greeks to those of Israel and the early Christians. He wrote bestselling books about Julius Caesar and Alexander. In a 2019 book called *Dominion* he recalls that after twenty years of study of the ancient world he found their values alien. He found them callous and cruel; they showed a complete lack of any sense that those who were poor and weak might have the slightest intrinsic value. He came to realise that his deepest values and those of Western society had been inherited from Christianity; and that at the heart of those values was the cross. The Greeks could accept that a mighty emperor might become divine but they were outraged by the claim that a criminal tortured to death on a cross might reveal the glory of the creator of the universe. And that this Jewish outcast might be raised to life in the resurrection only added to their horror and challenged their basic values. It made God seem closer to those who were weak than those who were mighty. It was a scandal.

St Paul was also scandalised by this audacious claim of a crucified saviour and was determined to persecute this blaspheming sect, the follower of Jesus Christ. And yet years later St Paul was to write, "to shame what is strong... [God] chose what is weak". How did he change his views?

On his way to Damascus, Paul, the zealous Pharisee, encountered the risen and crucified Christ. He had to choose: either the Jewish law or the risen Lord. Paul was overwhelmed by God's grace and turned to Christ. He had to rethink all his views. He understood now that the God who had freed Moses from slavery in Egypt and brought the Jews out of their prison of exile had gone even further and been willing in Jesus, God's Son, to suffer the degrading death of the cross. It blew Paul's mind that God could reveal such amazing love.

And instead of being ashamed of the cross, he puts it in the centre of his Gospel. When he writes to his congregation at Philippi in today's second reading he wants to touch their hearts to make them more loving to each other. How can he change them? He recites a beautiful hymn, which tells the story of Jesus' divine love: how Jesus did not cling to his status as divine Son but in the incarnation humbly took on

our human condition and was willing to face death. And not just any death but the terrible punishment meted out to slaves – crucifixion. Jesus plumbed the depths of human suffering, and his Father answered his prayer by raising him up to eternal life so that the whole of creation recognised him as Lord. Paul tells his congregation to steep themselves in this story so that their hearts are touched by this divine love, and they imitate Jesus and think like him.

Tom Holland came to realise that our Western society was based on Christian values, although most people do not recognise it. Such prized beliefs as the equal intrinsic worth of all human beings and the inherent dignity of the individual person depend on a crucified and risen Christ, and St Paul drew out the implications of such divine love for his congregations. Many people today do not realise what an outrageous claim was being made in a Roman Empire where power and status were supreme. Now God showed compassion for outcasts; poor people were closer to God than those who were rich: “the last will be first, and the first, last”. It is not surprising, then, in today’s Gospel, that the tax collectors and the prostitutes are drawn by Christ’s strange love before the religious leaders.

Historians can help us to see the past in fresh ways. If Christianity and its values are to survive in the West then it will need communities like those of St Paul to respond to the demanding but amazing love revealed in Jesus’ crucifixion. We are called to overcome our profound divisions and hatreds by letting our hearts and minds be filled with the power of his divine humility; and to ask that God may give us the mind of Christ.

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### **Prayers for the Sick**

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners. We remember especially Anne Whittingham, Terence Dyson, Gordon English, Sue Bird, David Hardy, Tess Lynch, Carol Beard, Edna Yates, Justin Phillip Collins, Hannah Prentiss, Pat and Colin Hermitage, Thomas Collins, Norma Marshall, Lesley Easton, Val Armstrong, Minnie Helen Pozorski, Terry Mullins, Matthew Deakin, Margaret Booker, Anne Lacey, Kath Cragg, Michael Foy, Shirley Broadhead, Norah Preuss, Mavis Guilcher, and Andrew Chandler.

### **Weekend Masses**

The vigil mass at 5.30pm on Saturday, and the mass at 9.00am on Sunday will both be at St Michael’s. The 11.00am mass on Sundays will be at St Helen’s, where the same rules will apply. Numbers allowed in the building will be limited and stewards will be on hand to assist. Please adhere to the track & trace instructions, the one way system, hand sanitisation and social distancing measures indicated on entering the church. This is for the safety of all.

It is only possible to reopen thanks to those who have kindly volunteered to act as stewards and assisting in cleansing, etc.

All the weekday masses and other services as announced, will continue to be live streamed at 12 noon.

**If you do choose to attend mass, please remember that face coverings are required by law in places of worship, unless you have a valid exemption. Please contact Fr. Declan if you are in this category.**

### **Annual Mass Attendance Count**

Mass attendance figures need to be collected for this weekend and for the next two weekends.

### **Home Mission Sunday**

Each year we celebrate Home Mission Sunday, when the Bishops invite parishes to pray for the mission of the Church in England and Wales. There will be a second collection this week to support the work of evangelisation.

### **Lee Conway**

Next weekend we will be having a second collection for Lee, one of our parishioners, as he heads to a seminary in Spain, to enable him a little comfort during his years of study.

### **Donations and Weekly Offerings**

Please continue, if you can, to donations via PayPal, online payments and Standing Order. This is our main source of income. Donations to the parish can be made online via PayPal at

[corpuschristi.hallam-diocese.com/parish-news/donate-if-you-can/](https://corpuschristi.hallam-diocese.com/parish-news/donate-if-you-can/)

Another way is to donate is by Standing Order and the form is available on the website. Please note that the full name of the account is

**Diocese of Hallam, Corpus Christi Parish`.**

### **Apostles` Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried;

He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead;

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

from there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen

### **Prayer for Vocations**

Loving and generous Father: it is you who call us by name and ask us to follow you. In particular, you call some to serve you as ministers in your church. Bless our Diocese of Hallam by raising up faith-filled and dedicated priests, deacons and religious. Bless our families and choose from our homes those who are needed for your mission.

|                            |             |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Blessed John Anne          | Pray for us |
| Blessed Robert Ludlam      | Pray for us |
| Blessed Nicholas Garlick   | Pray for us |
| Blessed William Richardson | Pray for us |

|                                  |             |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| 0 Mary, Mother of Perpetual Help | Pray for us |
|----------------------------------|-------------|