

## 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

**First Reading** Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8  
The prophet prays that God would tear open the heavens and come down.

**Responsorial Psalm** 79:2-3,15-16,18-19  
God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

**Second Reading** 1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
St Paul prays that his community will be open to God's Spirit as they await the coming of Christ.

### Gospel Acclamation:

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and show us your saving help.

**Alleluia!**

### Gospel

Mark 13:33-37  
Jesus tells his disciples to stay awake as they await the return of their master.

## 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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Sunday 29th November 2020

Sunday Year B

First Sunday of Advent

Weekday Cycle II

*"So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming."*

### Service Times & Intentions

Sunday	29 Nov	11.00am	People of the Parish
Tuesday	1 Dec	12.00pm	Reta Nicholson RIP
Wednesday	2 Dec	12.00pm	Cyril Howitt RIP
Thursday	3 Dec	12.00pm	Holy Souls
Friday	4 Dec	12.00pm	Holy Souls
Saturday	5 Dec	12.00pm	Holy Souls
Saturday	5 Dec	5.30pm	All the Howitt Family, living and deceased.
Sunday	6 Dec	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sunday	6 Dec	11.00am	Winnie Kilroy 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/>

A 2010 novel by Emma Donoghue has the brief title of *Room*. It tells the story of a mother who is imprisoned in a garden shed together with her young son, Jack. The boy has always lived in the shed and has experienced the outside world only through a small skylight and on a TV screen. When his mother tells him that there is a whole wonderful world outside the shed he does not believe her. He feels safe in the confined space of the room and is afraid of change. But finally the boy escapes and discovers the beauty and immensity of this larger world.

What is the point of this image which the novel gives us? It is a way of helping us to understand Advent, which is about the coming of Christ. The problem is that Advent is often imprisoned in the world of shopping and the commercial build-up to Christmas. Recorded carols and office parties anticipate the feast but do not provide any room to prepare for the real significance of the coming of Mary's boy child in Bethlehem. So each year on the first Sunday of Advent the Church calls us out of the narrow protected world where we are reluctant to change into the wider world of God's coming.

Today the coming of the Christ child at Christmas is set against the context of the final coming. We take up the theme of last Sunday, where we encountered Christ as the majestic king enthroned in heaven, passing a last judgement on his creation. Today we are reminded that the child in the manger will not be just another Christmas baby but the Word made flesh. He is the Son of God, creator of the world, who has humbled himself to be human. And he is the Son of Man who will come in glory on the clouds of heaven to call the whole of his creation to account. We miss the significance of all that because we prefer to slumber. Like Israel before us, we prefer to stay in our comfort zone, live with our sins, and hope that God will get off our backs and go away. It is at this point that we hear the voice of Isaiah, the great prophet of Advent.

In Advent we relive the prophecies of the Old Testament as they point forward to the coming of the Messiah. Isaiah is the most eloquent of these voices. He tells us that the worst possible thing for us is for God to leave us alone. When we are left alone

we wander around lost and our hearts harden. We are withered like autumn leaves blown away by the wind. Isaiah turns to God and begs, "Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down", asking God to break into our boxed-in world, which is closed in on itself and needs not just consumer satisfaction but the transcendent mystery of a cosmic God who enters into God's own creation and takes the form of a baby.

So how can we prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas? First, by placing him in the perspective of his final coming as judge and saviour. But second, by being alert. Being alert like the servant in today's Gospel who waits for his master to return, not knowing at what time he will come.

And yet being alert also means that we must be ready for the risen Christ to come to us *now*. St Paul tells us in the second reading that we have already been blessed by Christ. Christ strengthens us so that, "you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed". The Spirit makes Christ present in the sacraments, comes to free us and helps us to recognise the sins that blind us to the demands of God's justice in our lives. Advent is a good time for confession, so we are ready to greet Jesus at Christmas. As Christ comes to us in this Mass through his word and through his real presence in his body and blood we ask him to make us ready for his coming at Christmas. And as we celebrate these days of Advent we pray for the courage to change, to give God more room in our lives and be alert to God's presence so that we may obey the Lord's command to stay awake as we await his coming.

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### **Prayers for the Sick**

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners. We remember especially Peter Hutchinson, Clare Dingwall, Anne Whittingham, Terence Dyson, 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, Andrew Chandler.

### **Requiescant in Pace**

Please pray for the souls of Monsignor Peter Moran, John Conway and Vera Blacker who all died recently. Please keep their family and friends in your prayers.

### **Holy Souls**

During the month of November, we pray especially for those who have died. If you would like a mass for your loved ones, the Holy Souls lists and envelopes will be available from church for an extended period after the Lockdown restrictions are relaxed. The masses will then be said throughout the coming year.

### **Reopening of St. Michael's and St. Helen's**

On 23<sup>rd</sup> November, the Government announced their 'COVID-19 Winter Plan' that will come into effect from 2<sup>nd</sup> December. In this Plan, communal worship will be allowed to recommence in COVID-secure churches regardless of the COVID Tier that will apply to the local authorities in the Diocese.

Next weekend, masses will recommence with the Vigil mass at 5.30pm on Saturday evening in St. Michael's, then 9.00am on Sunday morning at St. Michael's, followed by 11.00am mass at St Helen's. Weekday masses from Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December will be at St. Michael's at 12 noon.

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

### **Donations and Weekly Offerings**

Please continue 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
O Mary, Mother of Perpetual Help	Pray for us