

<p>2nd Sunday of Advent First Reading Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11 God tells the people of Israel to be consoled: they have paid the price of their sins and must now prepare a way for the Lord in a repentant heart.</p> <p>Responsorial Psalm 84:9-14 Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.</p> <p>Second Reading 2 Peter 3:8-14 We are waiting for God to bring about the long-promised new heavens and new earth. In the meantime, we should live good lives and be at peace. (St Michael's)</p>	<p>Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!</p> <p>Gospel Mark 1:1-8 John the Baptist appeared, promising that he was preparing the way for someone greater than himself. He baptised with water but the one whose coming he foretold would baptise with the Holy Spirit.</p>
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Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Sunday 6th December 2020

Sunday Year B

Second Sunday of Advent

Weekday Cycle II

"Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals."

Service Times & Intentions

Saturday (St Michael's)	5 Dec	5.30pm	All the Howitt Family, living and deceased.
Sunday (St Michael's)	6 Dec	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sunday (St Helen's)	6 Dec	11.00am	Winnie Kilroy RIP
Tuesday (St Michael's)	8 Dec	11.00am	Reta Nicholson RIP
Wednesday	9 Dec	9.00am	Marie Brasher RIP
Thursday	10 Dec	9.00am	Margaret Barrett RIP
Friday	11 Dec	9.00am	Holy Souls
Saturday	12 Dec	12.00pm	Holy Souls
Saturday (St Michael's)	12 Dec	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday (St Michael's)	13 Dec	9.00am	Cyril Howitt RIP
Sunday (St Helen's)	13 Dec	11.00am	Edward Stasiukiewicz 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/>

The tale is told of a young man who discovered a beautiful song that touched his heart and inspired him to sing, first silently and then aloud. Others heard his voice and its words, which almost danced through the air and into their hearts. Before long, they too were singing. Person by person, the music spread throughout the land, promising ever more freedom and joy as the number of singers increased. Some people disliked the song and objected to its message of hope, which seemed to threaten their very existence: something had to be done to silence it. The leaders dispatched a detachment of soldiers to arrest and imprison the young man who had begun the cascade of song. Yet he continued singing, his voice soaring to the skies beyond the bars of his cell. Other prisoners heard him and joined in the chorus. Enough was enough! The only way to silence the song would be to kill the singer. An armed guard marched him into the courtyard in the centre of the prison and fastened him, still singing, to a pole in the ground. The senior officer gave the order, the guns barked and, at last, there was silence – but only for a second: from every cell in the prison, one inmate after another started singing the same song that had cost the young man his life. This time, in spite of the death of the young singer, his song spread throughout the world. It could not be stopped. The song was greater than the authorities who had tried to destroy it.

John the Baptist described himself as a voice crying in the wilderness as he called upon the people of his time to prepare the way of the Lord. The Jewish people had a long history of hearing prophets challenge them to repentance and saw the Baptist in the light of their sacred traditions. John's words and unusual lifestyle fitted into a recognisable and deeply cherished pattern. That is why they headed towards the River Jordan for a good dose of spiritual cleansing. John gave practical, common-sense suggestions for leading a better life and thereby inspired many people to try to follow his ideas. It's something we can recognise and appreciate. Most of us appreciate the feel-good factor after a session of renouncing past shortcomings. How many of us have emerged light-hearted from the sacrament of reconciliation?

Yet John was far from putting himself on a pedestal: he was merely the pointer in the right direction. However high he might rise in people's estimation, he recognised his unworthiness even to unfasten the Messiah's sandal strap. How did John feel when the Messiah turned out to be his cousin? Most of us would hold back from equating a cousin and God. That, however, says something about John's humility: in a way that he couldn't understand, the Baptist knew that he was merely the vehicle for a song that was greater than himself.

The story of the young singer echoes the work, imprisonment and execution in Mexico of Blessed Miguel Pro, a young Jesuit, who died by firing squad on 23 November 1927. He was executed without trial, wrongfully accused of trying to assassinate the president. His crime? He had faithfully served the oppressed and suppressed Mexican Church during the Calles dictatorship. His song? Jesus and the Gospel. Like John the Baptist, Pro was a singer who willingly gave his life for the song that had touched his heart and inspired his music. Both were voices in a wilderness, preparing the way for the Lord who was to come.

Before he died, Pro blessed the firing squad. He knelt in prayer, raised his arms in the shape of the cross, holding a crucifix in one hand and his rosary in the other. He prayed aloud: "May God have mercy on you! May God bless you! Lord, you know that I am innocent! With all my heart I forgive my enemies!" He shouted, "Viva Cristo Re!" ("Long live Christ the King!") – and the guns fired. Forty thousand people attended Pro's funeral: his song had been heard.

If I were charged with being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to indict me? Do I sing the same song as John the Baptist and Miguel Pro? Do I have their courage?

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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 soul of William Dolan who died recently. Please keep his family and friends in your prayers.

Funerals

Funerals for the week ahead are as follows-

John Conway	Tues 8 th Dec	1.00pm	Wombwell Cemetery
Edward Stasiukiewicz	Tues 8 th Dec	6.00pm	Reception into St Helen`s
	Wed 9 th Dec	11.00am	Requiem Mass
Cyril Howitt	Thur 10 th Dec	11.00am	Requiem Mass Sacred Heart
William Dolan	Fri 11 th Dec	12.45pm	Requiem Mass Sacred Heart

Numbers of mourners are currently restricted to 30

Reopening of St. Michael`s and St. Helen`s

For the time being, only one weekday mass will be for parishioners to attend. This will usually be the Wednesday mass, except for this week when it will change to Tuesday, it being the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Fr Declan will continue to livestream the weekday masses.

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

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception –Tuesday 8th December

Mass will be at 11.00am at St. Michael`s.

Certificate in Pastoral Ministry

Is there a ministry in your parish, deanery, or diocese-wide which you already do or would like to develop? For details and please get in touch with Greg Ryan, gryan@hallam-diocese.com before 15 December if interested.

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/

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