

<p>3rd Sunday of Advent First Reading Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11 When humanity truly flourishes, the earth flourishes.</p> <p>Responsorial Psalm Luke1:46-48,49-50, 53-54 My soul glorifies the Lord.</p> <p>Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 Human beings need to pray, like they need to eat and drink.</p>	<p>Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!</p> <p>Gospel John 1:6-8. 19-28 We can say what God is not, we can say what the Christ is not, but it is God who reveals God to us, first in the humanity of Christ and finally in the vision of his Godhead.</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 13th December 2020

Sunday Year B

Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

Weekday Cycle II

"A voice that cries in the wilderness."

Service Times & Intentions

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
Tuesday	15 Dec	12.00pm	Holy Souls
Wednesday (St Michael's)	16 Dec	12.00pm	Winnie Kilroy RIP
Thursday	17 Dec	12.00pm	Mrs Margaret Bennett RIP
Friday	18 Dec	12.00pm	Holy Souls
Saturday	19 Dec	12.00pm	Holy Souls
Saturday (St Michael's)	19 Dec	5.30pm	Jemima McDonald RIP
Sunday (St Michael's)	20 Dec	9.00am	Donald and Barbara Campbell RIP
Sunday (St Helen's)	20 Dec	11.00am	People of the Parish

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:

[www.facebook.com/CorpusChristiDearneValley/live _ videos/](https://www.facebook.com/CorpusChristiDearneValley/live_videos/)

In a discussion in a studio chat show, some years ago, the question raised was this: why didn't Christ come now, when there are so many more mass media technologies? Couldn't he have spread his message more efficiently now? The implied supposition was that the world would be exactly the same, if he had not come, as it is now. In fact we don't even know if technology would have developed without Christ. The history of the world would have been different if it hadn't been for the spread of the Christian faith; we cannot know what the world would be like now. It is still a good question. Could Christ make himself better known in a TV studio, or on the Internet? Probably not. John the Baptist was waiting to meet the Messiah. When he did meet him, it was a personal meeting. One human being meets another human being, but the second human being was God the Son. So it was with all meetings between Christ and those who were to believe in him. These meetings are not recorded by cameras, but are held in the memory of the Church, and given their form in scripture. When John meets Jesus, he sees not just Jesus, but Jesus the Christ.

There is always an element of surprise in the meetings between Jesus and new disciples. Usually they are surprised by Jesus, but sometimes it is Jesus who is surprised. Jesus is amazed at the centurion's faith, but he is also amazed at the fact that only one of the ten lepers, a Samaritan, should come back to thank him. Perhaps this is why Jesus did not come in an age of mass media. We do not meet the Christ as these people did, but we can pray, and we can be amazed by his presence in our life. We understand that he is present in our own meetings with other people, particularly people we might not trust, people such as the Romans and the Samaritans in his day.

If we meet anyone in faith then Christ is there, and the meetings of Christ with John the Baptist and so many other figures in the New Testament are models for our own encounters with other people. John the Baptist at this moment thinks he knows what his encounter with the Messiah will be like. He is wrong, as the Christ asks to be baptised, showing humility rather than power. Yet there is one piece of wisdom that

John has, even before he meets Christ. He knows what he is not. In fact, he does not say what he is. Only Jesus says, "I am", in the Gospel of John. In one context this is what God alone can say, but it also means that the divine identity of Christ is the root of his human identity. Through this, the divine identity becomes the foundation of our human identity. John is merely a voice, but what he says becomes what he is, when he meets Jesus, just as we too become who we truly are by proclaiming Christ.

In prayer, we can begin to find out who we truly are. Who are we in the eyes of God and of humanity? To discover the answer to this question, we need to be in God's presence. It is from God that we come, it is to God that we return. The answer to the question, "Who am I?" must always include God. We are children of God, the redeemed of God, we are people who ran from God and people who are found by God. John the Baptist, therefore, can only answer in the negative to those who ask him who he is. He is still waiting for the Lord to truly come into his life.

Prayer, as the second reading tells us, is to make us ready to meet Jesus. Even John the Baptist, despite his lifetime of prayer, was not yet ready to meet the real Christ. We have neglected him, we have not prayed constantly, we have not given thanks to God, yet Christ is among us and at the end of our lives, and at the end of human history, we will meet him. The more we pray, the more we live a life of thanksgiving, the more joyful that meeting will be.

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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 Charles Pidgeon of Manchester who died recently. Please keep his family and friends in your prayers.

Christmas Masses

There will be three Christmas masses as follows:

Christmas Vigil	5.30pm	St. Michael's
Midnight Mass	12.00am	St. Helen's
Christmas Day	9.00am	St. Michael's

As numbers allowed at church services are limited under Covid-19 regulations, it is important that you book in advance.

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

As places of worship are now allowed to hold services, St. Michael's and St Helen's have reopened with limited access. There will be three Sunday masses, a vigil mass at St Michael's on Saturday, and 9.00am on Sunday. 11.00am mass is at St. Helen's. Parishioners are also invited to St Michael's on Wednesdays for mass at midday. All other weekday masses will be livestreamed only.

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/ 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.

Knights of St. Columba Christmas Appeal

The Knights of St. Columba are appealing for donations so that they can provide Christmas Hampers to needy families. If anyone would like to donate non-perishable food, they can be left in St. Michael's.

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