

<p>4th Sunday of Advent First Reading 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16 David is getting ready for his next big project. Having overcome his enemies, he wonders if he now needs to build a house for the ark of God. God, however, has different ideas of greatness.</p> <p>Responsorial Psalm 88:2-5, 27, 29 I will sing forever of your love, O Lord.</p> <p>Second Reading Romans 16:25-27 In his letter to the Romans, Paul explains that the mystery which has puzzled generations of seekers of truth has now been resolved. The wisdom of God has been revealed in the person of Jesus.</p>	<p>Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!</p> <p>Gospel Luke 1:26-38 We see two sides of Mary's character. She is a meek and humble servant of the Lord but she is also a strong and courageous young woman, able to ask sensible questions, even of an angel, the messenger of God.</p>
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Parish of Corpus Christi

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



PARISH PRIEST: Fr Declan Brett.
Parish Office: 01226 752372
email: parishofcorpuschristi@gmail.com
Website: <https://corpuschristi.hallam-diocese.com>
Facebook: Corpus Christi Dearne Valley

Parish Safeguarding Representatives:
Dave Coefield 07754 471052, Sheila Marren 07932 722188
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Sunday 20th December 2020 Sunday Year B
Fourth Sunday of Advent Weekday Cycle II

Service Times & Intentions

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
Tuesday	22 Dec	12.00pm	Gordon English RIP
Wednesday (St Michael's)	23 Dec	12.00pm	The Gough Family RIP
Thursday	24 Dec	12.00pm	Dec'd members of English Family
Thursday (St Michael's)	24 Dec	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Friday (St Helen's)	25 Dec	12.00am	Audrey O'Neill RIP
Friday (St Michael's)	25 Dec	9.00am	Cyril Howitt RIP
Saturday	26 Dec	12.00pm	Patricia Grant RIP and Family
Saturday (St Michael's)	26 Dec	5.30pm	Peter Auchterlounie RIP
Sunday (St Michael's)	27 Dec	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sunday (St Helen's)	27 Dec	11.00am	Barry Cooper & Phillip Cooper RIP

"How can this come about?"
How does wisdom work? It might be helpful to start with the insight of Meister Eckhart, a famous German Dominican philosopher, theologian and mystical writer of the thirteenth century. He said: "Wisdom consists in doing the next thing you have to do, doing it with your whole heart and finding delight in doing it." So how do we determine the next thing we have to do? This time last year, it may have been about making all sorts of elaborate plans and schemes to be more successful in our professional lives, or in acquiring something that we have worked hard to achieve. Now, as this momentous and, in many ways, tragic year draws to a close, we wonder what is now the next thing we have to do. How will we do it with our whole hearts and find delight in doing it?
In today's Gospel, we have the arrival of the angel Gabriel, who invites Mary to rejoice that she has been chosen to be the mother of Jesus. Classical artists tend to depict Mary as a docile young woman, often kneeling in prayer as she accepts the awesome invitation. Mary, though, is also eminently practical and asks the angel to explain how this will be possible since she has no husband. Mary is testing the wisdom of the message she has received. She is being invited to risk her reputation and perhaps even her life. The law of Moses would have classified her as someone deserving death by stoning, since she would have been regarded as an adulteress. She would also have known that her parents would have been disgraced in their community because of their daughter's shame. The angel, in reply, is able to offer compelling evidence that the invitation to Mary is genuine. Against all the odds, Mary's kinswoman Elizabeth, well beyond the age of child-bearing, is now expecting a baby herself as a sign of God's blessing.
We, of course, know that the story of Jesus unfolded to reveal all sorts of joy and sorrow, contradictions and challenges, leading to his death on the cross of a criminal and, ultimately, his resurrection in glory. But, like the uncertainty which has been the hallmark of this year, let us simply sit with the tensions and the challenges of what Mary was asked to do and be assured that it all worked out well for her, and for us, in the end.

We use all sorts of imagery for holiness and commitment. Our readings today use the imagery of the dwelling places of God. David does not simply go off and begin his great construction enterprise without checking with his wise advisor, the prophet Nathan. As it turns out, David doesn't get to finish the work and it falls to his son, Solomon, to complete the building of the Temple in Jerusalem. God's promise to David was to make David himself the house. His family line would be forever blessed, and this was achieved through the birth of Jesus.

We use the image of the house for many aspects of our lives. Our political institutions are often named "houses". "House of David" meant the entire chosen people of God rather than a building. For us as a faith community, our house of God can be both our physical place of public worship and the house of our hearts. Are we sometimes more caught up in the trappings of the architecture and lavish liturgy than the meaning of our worship? What type of house can we make for God this Christmas, at the end of a year in which our own homes may have been places of refuge and safety but also places of restriction and confinement, away from family and friends? What did we learn about the things that make our houses good places to be? Were these physical items or ways we use our time? Should we ration our social media activity so that we can actually be present in real time to others, or do the new technologies offer us more opportunities to connect with those who are isolated and unwell? How can we be more fully the house of God as we go forth to love and serve the Lord this Christmas? We remember that the first house of Jesus was a stable and that he had to rely on the shelter offered by strangers. Are we able to take this as our model for the Christian life?

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Prayers for the Sick

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners. We remember especially Paddy McNicholas, 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 Maxwell Stephenson who died recently. Please keep his family and friends in your prayers.

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.

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.

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/

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