

Service Times & Intentions

Saturday (St Michael`s)	13 Feb	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday (St Michael`s)	14 Feb	9.00am	Sam and Elizabeth Wainwright RIP
Sunday (St Helen`s)	14 Feb	11.00am	Intention for Jim Clarke, illness
Tuesday	16 Feb	11.00am	Anne Marie Dodds RIP
Tuesday (Sacred Heart)	16 Feb	1.30pm	Funeral Service for Angela Hays
Ash Wednesday (St Michael`s)	17 Feb	10.00am	Neil Stuart RIP
Ash Wednesday (St. Michael`s)	17 Feb	12.00pm	Ash Wednesday Service
Ash Wednesday (St.Helen`s)	17 Feb	7.00pm	Ash Wednesday Service
Thursday (Sacred Heart)	18 Feb	9.30am	Requiem for Louisa Leeman
Thursday	18 Feb	12.00pm	Audrey O`Neill RIP
Friday	19 Feb	12.00pm	Lambert Fletcher RIP
Saturday	20 Feb	12.00pm	Richard Dewis RIP
Saturday (St Michael`s)	20 Feb	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday (St Michael`s)	21 Feb	9.00am	Deceased Grant & Howitt Families
Sunday (St Helen`s)	21 Feb	11.00am	Kristina Olczyk RIP

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent with services at both St Michael`s and St. Helen`s, the time of each service is printed above.

Prayers for the Sick

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners. We remember especially Amy Moore, 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.

Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Sunday 14th February 2021

Sunday Year B

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekday Cycle II

"Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him."

Few of us knew the fear of touching or being touched by an unclean person until the onset of the coronavirus in early 2020. One moment we were all willing to be herded into buses, planes or crowded cinemas or restaurants together, sharing sitting and breathing spaces, up close and personal. Then almost overnight, it seemed, other people became a dangerous enemy, potential disease-carriers, killers unawares. New concepts came into common vocabulary like social distancing, and in the lockdown that followed, we sheltered in homes that became fortresses, wary of coming too close to one another, with the safe distance marked out in supermarket queues and other places of unavoidable contact.

These fears would have been familiar in Jesus' time, when contact with a person who had a skin disease meant inevitable contamination, either physical or ritual. The diseased other was a person of dread and fear in an era with few reliable medical remedies. You stayed clean or you died, simple as that. Small wonder, then, that the man with a skin disease is doubtful about Jesus' willingness to come near him. Yet he also has faith that God can work a gift of healing through him, "If you want to... you can cure me." Jesus feels compassion for him and does completely the opposite of what makes sense. Anyone with a knowledge of contagion would shrink from a person so obviously diseased, but Jesus actively goes towards him and stretches out his hand to reach him. "Of course I want to!" It's the opposite of the survival instinct. Jesus is willing to go into the darkest and most fearful places that human beings can find themselves in. There are no "no go" areas for Jesus, not even death itself. He is willing to come into the memories and experiences that we most deeply wish to hide from in order to free us from the darkness that they contain.

We don't only fear physical contagion. For many people there is an instinctive shrinking away from whoever is thought to be "other", whether it be in cultural terms or in terms of morality and lifestyle. It's as if we fear that we will be contaminated by a different way of thinking or behaving. It's so much easier to judge and to erect barriers: them and us, insiders and outsiders, the virtuous and sinners. Jesus tells some powerful stories about this, for example the Pharisee praying, "I thank you, God, that I am not like other people..." In St Paul's time it was common for formerly

Jewish Christians to worry about mixing with pagans in the new Christian community. Paul tries to be culturally sensitive. He doesn't want to impose burdens on the conscience of others. But he also stresses the freedom of the children of God. It is not for us to stand in judgement on one another, but to mirror the welcome of Jesus even for those whose beliefs or practices we find strange or shocking. This isn't to say, "anything goes". But it is to proclaim the Christian belief that everyone can find a home in the family of Jesus. Our first task is to keep the door to this family home wide open, to make space for others to enter in God's own time and way, however "other" they may seem to us. Pope Francis teaches this powerfully in *Evangelii Gaudium*, "The Joy of the Gospel", where he reminds us that the Eucharist is "not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak". He goes on, "the Church is not a tollhouse; it is the house of the Father, where there is a place for everyone, with all their problems".

It is not for us to judge, but to recognise our own sinfulness and to offer the same welcome and compassion that we hope to receive ourselves. That is why forgiveness is at the heart of the prayer Jesus taught us. He puts the grace of forgiving and being forgiven alongside daily survival itself. Daily bread and daily forgiveness are his recipe for spiritual health, but the choice is ours. It is easy to highlight the faults of others, while we can be blind to our own sinfulness. At the heart of Jesus' teaching is mercy and compassion: he is willing to heal us of all our darkness, but are we willing to open up that darkness to his healing touch? And are we willing to become healers in our turn?

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6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading Leviticus 13:1-2. 44-46
The book of Leviticus shows us the practical implications of the Law of Moses. At a time when people had no defence against virulent diseases, rules are laid down which exclude those with skin diseases from wider society, for the protection of the whole people.

Responsorial Psalm 31:1-2. 5. 11
You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Second Reading 1Corinthians 10:31-11:1
Paul is talking to early Christians about how to behave when dining with pagans. Paul balances the freedom of the Spirit, which no longer requires strict adherence to the Law of Moses, and the need to avoid shocking the conscience of others.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 1:40-45
Jesus heals a man with a virulent skin disease and puts himself at risk of being rendered ritually unclean in the process. There is nothing any of us could ever do that Jesus would not be willing to heal, at whatever cost to himself.

Requiescant in Pace

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Louisa Leeman who died recently. Please keep her family and friends in yours prayers

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`

If you are making a payment to the parish for a second collection or any specific collection via PayPal or Bank Transfer, please specify the name of the collection so that the funds can be appropriated correctly.

Thank you for your generosity, especially during this difficult time.

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

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/

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.

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| 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 |