

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 14th March 2021

Sunday Year B

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Weekday Cycle II

"God loved us with so much love."

It was midway through Lent and an elderly man slipped into the confessional box. He humbly confessed his sins, but after he had left the confessional, he somehow gave the impression that there was something more he needed to say. "Is there anything else?" the priest gently enquired. "As a matter of fact," the man replied, "there is. You see, I normally have a tot of whisky before I go to bed. This Lent I decided I'd give up the drink till Easter Sunday. And I've kept that promise right up to now." "Well, that's a wonderful effort," said the priest. "Tomorrow is Laetare Sunday, and that means we're already halfway through Lent; it'll soon be Easter. You must be very pleased." "I don't know, Father," came the reply. "You see, if I go without the drink much longer, I'm afraid I might lose my taste for the stuff altogether."

Whatever we think about that, our reason for rejoicing today is not that we have made it to the halfway mark of Lent, but rather that today we hear readings that bring us the most incredible news we could ever hear. It's as though the Church is asking us to raise our eyes and look to the future; to think of the extraordinary events that we'll soon be celebrating, events that form the climax of the Church's liturgical year, the suffering, death and glorious resurrection of our beloved Lord.

In the Gospel Jesus refers to an ancient story that would be well known to his Jewish audience. It tells how the people of Israel, while trudging through the desert on their way to the Promised Land, were beset by poisonous snakes that caused many deaths. Moses was inspired to fashion a snake in bronze and set it on a standard, promising that whoever looked up at it with faith would be healed. Today Jesus declares that he himself, the "Son of Man", must be lifted up just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert. As Christians, it's hard for us to hear those words without our thoughts immediately switching to Calvary and to the cross of crucifixion. Upon it there hangs not a lifeless symbol, like the bronze snake, but the living, tortured body of God's only Son, and there is a divine promise that whoever looks towards him in faith will enjoy eternal life.

The scene on Calvary speaks eloquently of how much God loves us. In the simple yet powerful words of John, the Gospel writer, "God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son." Calvary is the supreme proof that our God is a God of love, a

4th Sunday of Lent

First Reading 2 Chrons 36:14-16. 19-23
Israel's sinfulness brings destruction on Jerusalem and years of exile; the Lord's intervention, though Persian king Cyrus, brings an end to exile and offers the possibility of homecoming.

Responsorial Psalm 136

O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!

Gospel Acclamation

God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son; everyone who believes in him has eternal life.

Second Reading

 Ephesians 4:2-10

We are God's "work of art"; though marred by sin, we are restored as a new creation through God's loving goodness, shown in Christ.

Gospel

 John 3:14-21

Jesus, hanging lifeless on a cross, is the supreme sign that he came into our world out of love and in order to save us.

Service Times & Intentions

Saturday (St Michael`s)	13 Mar	5.30pm	Jack and Vera O`Connell RIP
Sunday (St Michael`s)	14 Mar	9.00am	Mrs Margaret Bennett RIP
Sunday (St Helen`s)	14 Mar	11.00am	People of the Parish
Tuesday	16 Mar	11.00am	Marie McKay RIP
Tuesday (St Helen`s)	16 Mar	2.00pm	Requiem Mass for Terence Dyson
Wednesday (St Michael`s)	17 Mar	12.00pm	Rose Hannah Hartley RIP
Thursday	18 Mar	12.00pm	Special Intentions (MM)
Friday	19 Mar	12.00pm	Private Intention
Saturday	20 Mar	12.00pm	Holy Souls
Saturday (St Michael`s)	20 Mar	5.30pm	Terence Dyson RIP
Sunday (St Michael`s)	21 Mar	9.00am	Ken and Winnie O`Hara RIP
Sunday (St Helen`s)	21 Mar	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

God who in the person of God's Son came into this world not to condemn but to save. What Jesus came to save us from is sin. Sin – it's such a tiny word, but, like an infinitesimally small virus, it represents a hidden enemy which is capable of causing catastrophic damage and, in the end, can leave us skulking forever in the dark instead of living in the joy of the light.

Today's second reading reminds us that Jesus came not simply to save us *from* something, but to save us *for* something. That something is life as a son or daughter of God. Through the mercy, the goodness and graciousness of God we are transformed: we become, in the incredible words of St Paul, "God's work of art", destined to live "the good life as from the beginning [God] had meant us to live it". Perhaps we tend to think of ourselves more as disaster areas than works of art. But today we are being asked to think again. We are assured by God's word that we are "God's work of art". If that is God's vision, then can it inspire us, in our own small way, to live up to God's expectations? Again, when we see goodness not in terms of keeping commandments but rather in terms of making a return of love to a God who first loved us, then what could give us greater joy than trying to live "the good life" as God has always meant it to be? If Sunday by Sunday we could bring to mind these truths, wouldn't every Sunday be a "Laetare Sunday", a day filled with gratitude and rejoicing for all that the Lord has done, is doing, will do in order to turn us into "God's work of art"?

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Prayers for the Sick

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners. We remember especially Claire Selby, Amy Moore, Paddy McNicholas, Peter Hutchinson, Clare Dingwall, Anne Whittingham, 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.

Requiescat in Pace

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Anthony Wildsmith who died recently. Please keep his 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`.

Offertory Envelopes

The offertory envelopes beginning from 11th April 2021 will soon be available as you come into church.

CAFOD Family Fast Day Friday 26th February 2021

Thank you for your generous donations. So far, the parish has collected £475.61, of which £139.50 is Gift Aided.. If you wish to donate, please do so in the next couple of weeks, so that the money can be sent to CAFOD without delay. Give today to reach vulnerable communities around the world with water and to provide other vital support. Donate online at cafod.org.uk/lent or by using a CAFOD envelope. You can also give via text. Text LENT to 70460 to donate £10

KSC Easter Egg Appeal

"The Knights of St. Columba are looking for donations of Easter Eggs to give to children in hospital at Barnsley General. If anyone wants to make a donation we will collect from the churches and will also buy some eggs from our funds."

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