

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

**First Reading** Acts 3:13-15. 17-19  
Peter proclaims the good news that God raised Jesus from the dead for our forgiveness.

**Responsorial Psalm** 4:2,4,7,9  
Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.

**Second Reading** 1 John 2:1-5  
Jesus is the sacrifice who takes our sins away.

### Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, Alleluia!

Lord Jesus, explain the scriptures to us. Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us.

### Alleluia!

**Gospel** Luke 24:35-48  
The disciples are stupefied to encounter a very physical Jesus, risen from the dead.

## Parish of Corpus Christi

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



**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr Declan Brett.

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Roman Catholic Diocese of Hallam Trust • Registered Charity Number 512021

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Third Sunday of Easter

Sunday Year B

Weekday Cycle II

*"Touch me and see for yourselves."*

### Service Times & Intentions

<b>Saturday</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>17 Apr</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>18 Apr</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Mary and Jim Fleming RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen`s)	<b>18 Apr</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Jan Olczyk RIP
Tuesday	20 Apr	12.00pm	Fred and Mary Crane RIP
Wednesday (St Michael`s)	21 Apr	12.00pm	Thanksgiving for Ordination (4 years)
Thursday	22 Apr	12.00pm	Terry Dyson RIP
Friday	23 Apr	12.00pm	Alan Cutts RIP
Saturday	24 Apr	12.00pm	Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh RIP
<b>Saturday</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>24 Apr</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	Jack Barry RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>25 Apr</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen`s)	<b>25 Apr</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Jack and Mary Joyce 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:

[www.facebook.com/CorpusChristiDearneValley/live](http://www.facebook.com/CorpusChristiDearneValley/live)

There's a theory in psychology called "cognitive dissonance". At its heart is the idea that if people try to hold together two contradictory ideas, attitudes or behaviours, then they experience psychological stress ("dissonance") which they try to reduce or remove at all costs, to make their ideas, attitudes or beliefs consistent with each other. This means that when we do hold conflicting ideas or beliefs, something has to give – one of our beliefs, attitudes or behaviours has to be either abandoned or modified in some way to make it consistent with the other. The theory was first proposed by an American psychologist called Leon Festinger, who in the 1950s studied a religious cult which believed that the earth was going to be destroyed by a flood. Cult members bought into this idea wholeheartedly – giving up their jobs and their homes. When the flood didn't happen, this set up cognitive dissonance: their belief was in conflict with the facts. But instead of simply acknowledging that their belief in the flood was wrong, some cult members still clung to it, but modified it somewhat. They said that they had been right all along about the flood, but they reinterpreted their belief, to say that the earth had been spared because of the faithfulness of the cult members. Festinger concluded that some people would resolve their psychological stress by blindly believing whatever they wanted to believe, rather than abandon their beliefs.

The theory has been applied by some people to the followers of Jesus. They believed he was the Messiah – that he would set Israel free and establish God's kingdom. But this was empirically proved to be wrong when Jesus was crucified. According to this theory, Jesus' disciples were unable to cope with the trauma of the crucifixion and so, rather than abandon their belief in Jesus, they came up with the idea of resurrection as a coping mechanism to help them deal with their psychological stress at his death.

Today's very unusual Gospel almost seems to have been written as a rebuttal to any idea that the first disciples "invented" the resurrection as a coping strategy. Not only does Jesus appear among them – he asks for something to eat. He's not a ghost or a figment of their imagination. And the sight of him is described as something terrifying, rather than wishful thinking. Look at the words used to describe the

disciples' experience: "alarm and fright", "agitated", "dumbfounded", "they could not believe it". Rather than welcoming Jesus with great joy, it is almost as if they have to be shaken out of their disbelief by Jesus. "Touch me," he says, and he asks for something to eat. Far from clutching at straws to explain away the death of Jesus, they are so immersed in the brutal fact of his death that they are unable to process seeing him in the flesh. There is a stunned lack of understanding among those first disciples, even as they are overcome with joy.

Perhaps the greatest proof of the authenticity of their experience lies in their lived-out response to these events. "You are witness to this," Jesus tells them – witnesses that he is the Christ who suffered, died and rose, for the forgiveness of sins for all people. And that was precisely what so many of them did: witnessed not simply by their words but by their actions, even to the point of giving their lives to share this astounding news with the whole human race.

Our faith has to have the same elements we see in those disciples: the honesty of their struggle to accept the news of Jesus' resurrection, so that it can also become real for us, so that we too can "see for ourselves"; a genuine personal encounter with the risen Lord, with his love, his presence; and a desire to witness, to share this good news with the people of our time. Like them, we do this by our lives – by giving of ourselves in a genuinely self-sacrificing way, so that others may find life. We are called to bear witness to the truth that Jesus' cross is the way to life. This is no denial of the death of Jesus, but an affirmation that he shows us the way to life, precisely by his dying. There are no shortcuts to that struggle for faith, or to that personal encounter with Jesus. And there can be no passing the buck to others to do the work. We are his witnesses today.

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### **Prayers for the Sick**

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners. We remember especially Janette Barber, 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.

### **Requiescant in Pace**

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Eileen and Bernard Swift of Hoyland Common, and Margaret Mary Goddard of Wombwell who died recently. Please keep their families and friends in your prayers.

### **Easter Thanks**

Thank you for your generous donations for flowers to decorate our churches for the Easter celebrations.

Thank you to those who volunteered to clean and make our churches spotless.

And thank you for your generous Easter Offerings for Fr. Declan.

### **Priest's Training Fund**

Next Sunday the Church marks the Fourth Sunday of Easter, also known as 'Good Shepherd Sunday', after the Gospel of the Day. The day also marks the World Day of Prayer for Vocations within the Church.

There will be a second collection for the Priest's Training Fund (PTF) which is aimed at supporting those who offer themselves for the priesthood within our Diocese.

### **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/](https://corpuschristi.hallam-diocese.com/parish-news/donate-if-you-can/)

Another way 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
O Mary, Mother of Perpetual Help	Pray for us