

Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Roman Catholic Diocese of Hallam Trust • Registered Charity Number 512021

Sunday 11th April 2021

Sunday Year B

Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

Weekday Cycle II

"Put your finger here; look, here are my hands... Doubt no longer but believe."

Touch is the most powerful and intimate gesture we can share with another person. It is such a deep aspect of being human that it is, of course, the most powerful way of communicating love. At the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, we had to learn to live with the pain of "social distancing", shielding and self-isolating. Gestures such as handshakes, hugs and embraces became threats because of the danger of spreading coronavirus. Children learnt to be like helicopters by stretching out their arms to measure the distance between them. Public buildings have had to be reconfigured. Such actions create distance rather than intimacy. Many have suffered from social isolation and some people's mental health issues have been exacerbated.

The sacraments became more difficult to receive because they rely on touch and physical presence which mediate the presence of Christ: for example, the washing with water at baptism, and the anointing with sacred chrism at baptism, confirmation and holy orders. The anointing with the oil for the sick brings comfort and healing. The bread is transformed into the body of Christ but still looks like bread. The wine becomes the blood of Christ but tastes like wine. The Church had to pause its gathering for Mass. This Easter season we continue to build up our new world. The intimate scene of encounter between the risen Christ and St Thomas is remarkable. When Jesus had appeared to his disciples after the resurrection, the one who was crucified stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They saw the wounds in his hands and side and believed he had risen from the dead. Thomas, who was not present on that first Sunday, did not accept the word of the others. He was perhaps sceptical or maybe proud. Yet Jesus continues to desire to speak to him and bring forth his belief. The mercy of Jesus is so powerful that he does not abandon him but seeks another way to speak into his heart. Jesus will always keep trying to find a way into the hardened heart and never gives up on anyone. When he appears in front of Thomas, he invites him to touch his hands with his finger and put his hand into his side. Such an intimate gesture is a sign of profound love. We hear Thomas' profound profession of faith, "My Lord and my God!"

We must love God and allow God to touch us if we wish our faith to increase. God touches us in the sacraments and especially when we receive Holy Communion. We consume the body and blood of Christ and as an act of reverence can pray, "My Lord and my God!" We grow in our Christian faith when we love our neighbour. The two commandments are deeply interrelated: when we love God, we love God's children. When we love God's children, we bring forth our love of God. The appearance of the risen Christ to Thomas teaches us that when we touch the wounds of the body of Christ, then our faith is deepened. Our faith in Christ is not something abstract, but real in creation. We touch the wounds of the body of Christ when we reach out to those who suffer, the sick child, the dying parent, those who are poor or abused, those who have to go hungry, those whose wounds are sore and hurting. There we faithfully live the commandment to love our neighbour and love God. We are invited to enter into the wounds of others and be the compassionate presence of Christ through his body, the Church. He is the head, the source, the one who provides the nourishment and power for this outreach of love. He is the energy so that his Church may live and witness to this love. We do this through the power of touch.

Our age has also become acutely aware that touch can be intrusive or abusive; the unwanted hug, embrace or kiss. To respect others, we have to be keenly aware of what we are doing and act appropriately. Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit; we are invited to see the other person with wonder and respect. Teaching children this art is important for growth. We share in the mercy of God by loving and serving others. The power of touch is a God-given gift to renew creation and God's holy people.

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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.

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`.

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.

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

**2nd Sunday of Easter
Divine Mercy Sunday**

First Reading Acts 4:32-35
The early Church, gathered together, is shown as a foundation for prayer, unity and the sharing of goods for the good of all.

Responsorial Psalm 117:2-4,13-15,22-24
Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

Second Reading 1 John 5:1-6
Love of God is revealed in love of one's neighbour.

**Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Jesus said: `You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe`.

Alleluia!

Gospel John 20:19-31

The doubting apostle, Thomas, discovers new faith in the risen Christ.

Service Times & Intentions

Saturday (St Michael's)	10 Apr	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday (St Michael's)	11 Apr	9.00am	Winnie and Ken O'Hara RIP
Sunday (St Helen's)	11 Apr	11.00am	Fred Wildsmith RIP
Tuesday	13 Apr	12.00pm	Terence Dyson RIP
Wednesday (St Michael's)	14 Apr	12.00pm	Margaret Goode Intentions
Thursday	15 Apr	12.00pm	Thomas and Catherine Freaney RIP
Friday	16 Apr	12.00pm	Tony Wildsmith RIP
Saturday	17 Apr	12.00pm	Patrick Murphy RIP
Saturday (St Michael's)	17 Apr	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday (St Michael's)	18 Apr	9.00am	Mary and Jim Fleming RIP
Sunday (St Helen's)	18 Apr	11.00am	Jan Olczyk rRIP

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