

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Easter Day</b></p> <p><b>First Reading</b> Acts 10:34. 37-43 Peter speaks to the household members of the Roman centurion Cornelius. He gives an outline of the story of Jesus and emphasises that his preaching is trustworthy as he has experienced the risen Jesus for himself.</p> <p><b>Responsorial Psalm</b> 117:1-2,16-17,22-23 This day was made by the Lord; We rejoice and are glad.</p> <p><b>Second Reading</b> Colossians 3:1-4 Our life as Christians should be centred on the person of the risen Christ, and this should influence the way we think and behave</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Gospel Acclamation</b></p> <p><b>Alleluia, Alleluia!</b> Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed; Let us celebrate the feast then in the Lord. <b>Alleluia!</b></p> <p><b>Gospel</b> John 20:1-9 Mary Magdalene finds the tomb of Jesus open and empty, and goes to inform Peter and the disciple Jesus loved. They visit the grave but only the beloved disciple understands what has happened.</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.

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Roman Catholic Diocese of Hallam Trust • Registered Charity Number 512021

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Sunday Year B

Easter Day

Weekday Cycle II

*“God raised [Jesus] to life and allowed him to be seen... by certain witnesses... Now we are those witnesses.”*

### Service Times & Intentions

<b>Saturday Easter Vigil</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>3 Apr</b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Easter Sunday</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>4 Apr</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Paul Galvin RIP
<b>Easter Sunday</b> (St Helen`s)	<b>4 Apr</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Terence Dyson RIP
Tuesday	6 Apr	12.00pm	Brian McAllister RIP
Wednesday (St Michael`s)	7 Apr	12.00pm	Beatrice Barry RIP
Thursday	8 Apr	12.00pm	Dennis Turner RIP
Friday	9 Apr	12.00pm	Maureen Walton RIP
Saturday	10 Apr	12.00pm	Bill Callaghan RIP
<b>Saturday</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>10 Apr</b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>11 Apr</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Winnie and Ken O`Hara RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen`s)	<b>11 Apr</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Fred Wildsmith 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)

When preachers are speaking about the resurrection, they will sometimes use the example of the caterpillar turning into a butterfly. The earth-bound creature which crawls about and spends all its time eating leaves appears to die, then emerges transformed from the shell of the chrysalis as a completely different being, complete with coloured wings and able to fly.

However, there is another story about this process which might help us as we reflect today on the central mystery of our Christian faith. A student was conducting research on how the butterfly appears from the chrysalis. She noticed that the insect had to struggle to get out of its protective coat, so decided to help it. She made a small cut in the shell and the butterfly came out very easily, then it promptly collapsed and died. She repeated the experiment with a couple of others and the same thing happened. She thought about the result of her tests and concluded that the struggle was actually an important part of the emerging and survival of the creature: it was the effort to escape which gave the butterfly its energy.

For John the evangelist, the story of *Jesus* ends on the cross. The crucifixion is the lifting up of Jesus in glory: it is his death, resurrection, ascension and giving of the Spirit all summed up in one event. The following episodes are part of the story of *the disciples*. Our Gospel passage today relates the circumstances surrounding the discovery that Jesus' tomb is empty. It opens with the three characters – Mary Magdalene, Simon Peter and the anonymous disciple whom Jesus loved – literally and symbolically in the dark. At the beginning, they do not understand the reason why Jesus' body is missing: at the end, Mary and Peter still do not know, but the unnamed disciple comes to believe. Peter may well have a position of authority and his companion defers to him by allowing him to enter first, but the latter has priority of place in Jesus' love.

There are clues in the text that God has been at work. We are told that “the stone had been moved away” and that the cloth which had been over Jesus' face was “rolled up”: this is a biblical way of expressing divine action. The signs of death – the

stone, the cloths – have been deprived of their meaning; the tomb and the cloths are empty. We might contrast this scene with the raising of Lazarus, who is restored to the life he lost; Jesus is now in a different plane of existence altogether. Only John's model "beloved disciple" realises this.

An observation that we sometimes hear in relation to the Easter story is that things began to go wrong in the Church when the male disciples failed to listen to the women who reported that Jesus was risen. This comment is based on the other Gospel accounts, in which the women have been confronted either by angels or by the risen Jesus himself. In John's version, Peter and the other disciple react to Mary Magdalene's report by running to see the tomb for themselves. Mary, apparently, does not yet believe that Jesus is risen. There is an important underlying message: our belief in the resurrection relies on the testimony of those who experienced the risen Jesus for themselves. It is not enough that the apostles and others accept second-hand evidence: they have to preach the Gospel message from personal conviction. No one saw Jesus rise from the dead: the first preachers are witnesses *to* the resurrection; they are not witnesses *of* the resurrection. They have experienced the risen Lord for themselves in those encounters which we refer to as "appearances". It is on their evidence that our belief in the risen Christ rests.

Today we are invited to renew our baptismal commitment as disciples of Jesus. The character in the fourth Gospel called "the disciple Jesus loved" represents the individual disciple, whoever he or she may be. That person's understanding of Jesus grows in the course of the story. Our understanding of Jesus and our love for him should also continue to grow throughout our lives. This is where the idea of struggle comes in. Our faith is not something static: it has to develop and grow, or it will die. From time to time our present ideas will not be enough any more and we will have to leave them for a deeper understanding.

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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.

### **Requiescat in Pace**

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

### **Easter Collection**

Your Easter offerings are for the Parish Priest. Thank you

### **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 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 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021 are now available as you come into church.

### **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