

## The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

### First Reading Exodus 24:3-8

The importance of blood, shed for the good of others. Israelites give this gift to God from their own flocks and herds – an offering of life to God, the Lord of life.

### Responsorial Psalm 115:12-13, 15-18

The cup of salvation I will raise; I will call on the Lord's name.

### Second Reading Hebrews 9:11-15

Unlike the multiple sacrifices in the past, the sacrifice of Jesus is a once-and-for-all sacrifice.

## Gospel Acclamation

### Alleluia, Alleluia!

I am the living bread which has come down from heaven, says the Lord. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.

### Alleluia!

### Gospel Mark 14:12-16. 22-26

Mark's account of the Last Supper and the institution of Eucharist: an action whereby Jesus' gift of himself is made available in every age.

## 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 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Sunday Year B

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Weekday Cycle II

*"This is my body... This is my blood."*

## Service Times & Intentions

<b>Saturday</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>5 Jun</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	Tony Wood Illness
<b>Sunday</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>6 Jun</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen`s)	<b>6 Jun</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Joseph Hartley RIP
Tuesday	8 Jun	12.00pm	Holy Souls
Wednesday (St Michael`s)	9 Jun	12.00pm	Intentions of Yvonne Durkan
Thursday	10 Jun	12.00pm	Deceased Members of the Taylor Family
Friday	11 Jun	12.00pm	Holy Souls
Saturday	12 Jun	12.00pm	Holy Souls
<b>Saturday</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>12 Jun</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	Valerie Hovington RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>13 Jun</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen`s)	<b>13 Jun</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Colin Barker 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)

"I'll believe it when I see it" is a phrase frequently used in the context of people changing their patterns of behaviour. How often have you heard it in a discussion about how someone who is known to be of distinctly dodgy character has turned over a new leaf (to use another well-known and well-worn proverbial saying)? Of course, the implication is that there is little chance of the person in question ever changing. In the ancient world, when reading and writing were reserved to a very small and well-educated group of scribes, visual signs and symbols were used more often than written statements. Very often the sacrificing of animals accompanied a formal agreement between traders. One example was when an animal was slaughtered and the carcass cut in two, with the halves of the animal laid on the ground. Then the parties to the agreement would walk together between the halves of the animal, effectively stating wordlessly, "May I end my days like this animal if I do not keep my half of the bargain."

Passover was, of course, the great Jewish feast commemorating – and spiritually renewing – the freeing of the Israelites from Egypt, their crossing of the Red Sea and their forty-year journey through the desert, and year after year this was commemorated. Today's Gospel takes us to Mark's account of Jesus giving Passover a whole new meaning on the night before he died.

There are three Passover celebrations in the Gospel of John, but only one in each of the other three Gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke. In these three, Jesus celebrates Passover on the night before he dies. It is important for us to realise that the way the ancient Jews marked out days was from sunset to sunset, so the Last Supper technically took place on the same day as Jesus' death. At this meal, begun after sunset, Jesus does two remarkable things which are quite plausible in his own language. He takes bread – an essential ingredient of Passover – and he says, "This is my body." Then he takes a cup of wine, saying, "This is my blood... which is to be poured out..." We are used to these words, echoed at every Mass, but, to Jesus' disciples, these were unusual words for Passover. What we might miss, though, is that Jesus' disciples do not sound surprised in the least.

In Aramaic, Jesus' own language, similar to Hebrew, the verb "to say" is also the verb "to do". We've actually heard this many times from the beginning of the book of Genesis. God said, "Let there be light", and there was light. This continues throughout the creation narrative. When God says, "Let there be..." it *must* happen. So, when Jesus says, "This is my body... This is my blood," he means it in reality. In Aramaic, there is no such thing as a figure of speech.

Oddly, we don't get any indication of reaction here from his disciples, presumably because they knew exactly how their language worked and that Jesus spoke literally when he said, "This is my body... This is my blood." We do, however, have a very clear idea of what people think when, in John's Gospel, Jesus says: "I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world." Jesus does *not* mean "I am *like* living bread." Clearly, Jesus' entire audience knows what he is claiming – that he, personally, is living bread. Most cannot accept it; the Twelve, led by Peter, say, "Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God." Peter never makes a greater or truer statement.

Back to the Last Supper and the Gospel text for today: Jesus, the living bread come down from heaven, is about to equate the surrendering of his own flesh and blood for the life of the world with the bread and wine which he now declares to be his body and blood. His gift is total. And Jesus even gives the bread and wine that is his body and blood to Judas Iscariot, and then, in John's account of the Last Supper, tells him to go and do what he has come to do. The Eucharist is the guarantee that God has never, does not and will never hold back God's love from anyone

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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, 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**

We pray for the repose of the soul of Ann Gallagher and of Kathleen Bracken who died recently. Please keep their families and friends in your prayers.

### **Day for Life**

Next weekend there will be a second collection for the Day for Life.

### **Red Mission Boxes**

Please bring in your Red Mission Boxes at your earliest convenience. If you are a UK Taxpayer, please consider using Gift Aid. Thank you for your support and for your continued prayers for missionaries around the world.

### **CAFOD**

As coronavirus brings devastation across India, CAFOD is working with experienced local Church agency, Caritas India, to provide vital support to poor and marginalised communities. Donations to CAFOD's Coronavirus Appeal will help Caritas India distribute PPE kits to frontline health workers, promote COVID & vaccine awareness campaigns, and set up safely run isolation & quarantine centres. You can donate online at: [cafod.org.uk/give](https://cafod.org.uk/give). Please keep praying for the people of India and all those affected by the pandemic.

### **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**

### **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