

## 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**First Reading** Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18  
Joshua asks the people to renew their promise to serve the Lord always.

**Responsorial Psalm** 33:2-3,16-23  
Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**Second Reading** Ephesians 5:21-32  
St Paul speaks about marriage, obedience and fidelity, love and self-sacrifice.

## Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**  
Your words are spirit, Lord and they are life: you have the message of eternal life.  
**Alleluia!**

**Gospel** John 6:60-69  
Jesus, like Joshua, calls for his disciples to remain faithful after some had gone away.

# 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 22nd August 2021

Sunday Year B

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekday Cycle I

*"We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God."*

## Service Times & Intentions

<b>Saturday</b> (St Michael's)	<b>21 Aug</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	Jim Wainwright RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>22 Aug</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen's)	<b>22 Aug</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Barry and Philip Cooper RIP
Tuesday (St, Michael's) Live Streamed	24 Aug	12.00pm	NO MASS
Wednesday (St Michael's)	25 Aug	12.00pm	NO MASS
Thursday (St. Helen's)	26 Aug	7.00pm	NO MASS
Friday (Sacred Heart)	27 Aug	12.00pm	NO MASS
Saturday (St Michael's) Live Streamed.	28 Aug	12.00pm	NO MASS
<b>Saturday</b> (St Michael's)	<b>28 Aug</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>29 Aug</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Sr. Ann Coyle RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen's)	<b>29 Aug</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Colin Barker RIP

Judas Iscariot is an enigmatic character. Why did he betray Jesus? Was it just the money? Did he stop believing in Jesus? Or was it disillusionment? The famous passion play which is staged every ten years at the German village of Oberammergau takes this latter view. Judas did believe: he believed Jesus was going to inaugurate the new glorious kingdom of God expected by the Jews. But he thought Jesus was being slow to act. Judas grows weary of following Jesus. He takes himself off and starts thinking, "Why should I continue to follow him?... I am tired of believing and waiting... I wish to share his reign. It fails to materialise, and what is forthcoming – dread and suffering. Who feels like sharing those with him? Not !! Not !!" But after Jesus is condemned to death Judas falls into despair. He throws back the thirty silver pieces and says to himself, "How kind he has been toward me! How gently he comforted me when dark dejection oppressed my soul! How he warned me, when I was already harbouring this shameless betrayal. And I, this is how I have rewarded him... Not a disciple any longer."

One of the most poignant events in the Old Testament is when old Joshua assembled God's people at Shechem, just before he died. He wanted to hear them make a decision, an irrevocable decision, either to serve or to desert God: to make their decision and then to stand by it for life. And to his joy he heard them echo his own vow, "We have no intention of deserting the Lord... We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God."

One of the most poignant events in the New Testament is towards the end of the sermon Jesus preached about the bread of life, when he declared that, "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." Some of his followers said, "This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?" And many of them left him. Then came that most heart-breaking moment when Jesus turned to the twelve apostles: "What about you, do you want to go away too?" Like Joshua he calls for a decision. And Peter spoke for them all, "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."

Many Catholics today find some Catholic teaching difficult. St Paul, in the second reading, instructs wives to obey their husbands. That will strike some as “intolerable language”, and indeed in Catholic marriage vows brides have never promised to obey their husbands. But before we get too annoyed with St Paul, let us notice his next words: “Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her.” Jesus never made unreasonable demands on the Church, nor must husbands make unreasonable demands on their wives. Rather must a husband sacrifice himself for love of her. And they form one body. This was breakthrough teaching on the status of women and marriage.

We may question other teachings of the Bible or the Church, but a closer study of them can sometimes alter our perceptions. In the end, if we question its teachings, or the Church is beset by scandals and we are let down by our priests, then, like those early followers of Jesus, we may even come close to leaving him. So what is it that holds us in the Church? Perhaps, for some, it is the response of Peter, “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.” We may sense the truth of these words; and when it comes down to it, what keeps many people close to Jesus is love for him. We may love him because of the Church; and sometimes, perhaps, it may seem we love him despite the Church.

Judas, of course, was the exception among the apostles. And there are many real saints doing God’s work today. There are those whose lives have been transformed after being converted to Christ and who, coming into the company of Christ’s faithful people, have discovered this to be true: “You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.”

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### **Prayers for the Sick**

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners. We remember especially Chris Haigh, 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

### **Change to Masses this week.**

Fr Declan is away during the week, therefore there will be no weekday masses.

### **Rosary**

Rosary will be at 1.30pm each Wednesday at Sacred Heart Church Goldthorpe.

### **Donations and Weekly Offerings**

We are planning to close our PayPal account. If you have been making contributions this way, please pick up a Standing Order form after Mass.

Please note that the full name of the account is

**Diocese of Hallam, Corpus Christi Parish**

### **Bonus Ball in Goldthorpe**

We are looking to restart the Bonus Ball again on the 4th September. There are a few spare numbers if anyone would like to have one, or if you no longer want your numbers would they please let George Burnitt know. Thank you.

### **Pension Plan for Priests**

The Diocese is looking to create a Pension Plan for all the priests in the Diocese of Hallam. If anyone has expertise in pension plans, please speak with Fr. Declan.

### **CAFOD responding to multiple emergencies across the world**

CAFOD is responding to significant crises across the world this week. We are working with local Church organisations in Haiti to deliver emergency aid to people affected by the catastrophic earthquake and tropical storm. In the tragic situation in Afghanistan, we are working to ensure the safety of our local partners and their communities. We are supporting local aid workers to deliver urgent food and water supplies to hundreds of thousands of people facing extreme hunger in Tigray in Ethiopia, South Sudan and north-east Nigeria. You can read more about how we can all express solidarity with our sisters and brothers affected by these emergencies on the CAFOD website: <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Emergencies-news>. Your compassion, generosity and prayers have helped us to stand together and enable us to continue to support communities in these difficult times. Thank you.]

### **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