

2nd Sunday of Advent

First Reading Baruch 5:1-9
The prophet Baruch echoes the message of Isaiah that God will enable us to walk safely on level ground.

Responsorial Psalm 125:1-2a,2b-3,4-5,6
What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

Second Reading Philippians 1:4-6. 8-11
Paul wants us to prepare for the Day of Christ. His prayer for us is that we will always recognise what is best.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 3:1-6
John the Baptist is the one who fulfils the prophecy about preparing a way for the Lord and shows us what needs to be done.

Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Sunday 5th December 2021

Sunday Year C

Second Sunday of Advent

Weekday Cycle I

"I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished."

Service Times & Intentions

Saturday (St Michael`s)	4 Dec	5.30pm	Tommy Desmond RIP
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	5 Dec	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sunday (St Helen`s)	5 Dec	11.00am	Kath Hardy 90 th Birthday
Tuesday Live Streamed	7 Dec	12.00pm	Holy Souls
Wednesday (St Michael`s)	8 Dec	12.00pm	FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
Thursday (St. Helen`s)	9 Dec	12.00pm	Yorkshire Brethren
Friday (Sacred Heart)	10 Dec	12.00pm	John Nally RIP
Saturday Live Streamed.	11 Dec	12.00pm	Holy Souls
Saturday (St Michael`s)	11 Dec	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	12 Dec	9.00am	Josef Gutowski RIP
Sunday (St Helen`s)	12 Dec	11.00am	Andrew J Marren RIP

Divine Mercy Chaplet is at 3.00pm on Fridays at St. Michael's Church

Lectio Divina is at 7.00pm on Tuesdays in the Lady Chapel of St. Michael's Church

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available after the noon Mass in Goldthorpe on Fridays, after the Divine Mercy Chaplet in Wombwell on Fridays, and starting at 6:15 pm in Hoyland on Thursdays. It is always available upon request.

Have you ever noticed that if you stop for a few moments and watch construction workers on a building site, it often appears that nothing much is happening? Yet if you regularly pass the site and check the progress, you will probably be amazed at the speed with which the building is taking shape.

As human beings we have learnt how to construct not only buildings but transport networks that enable us to travel across or through even the most barren or mountainous terrain. Indeed some of the great viaducts and bridges add to the spectacular views we encounter. They are testimony to our determination to get to places no matter what the obstacles.

In today's Gospel reading, we hear the words of the prophet Isaiah painting a powerful poetic vision: "Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth." The writer of the book of Baruch, which we heard as our first reading, would have been familiar with Isaiah's words and echoes them in his own. In the Gospel Luke links it with the work of John the Baptist. John was the last of the prophets, sent to prepare for the Lord's coming. His job was to prepare as smooth a passage as possible for Jesus. We in turn are being invited to use this image as a way of thinking about how we might prepare ourselves to welcome the Lord.

As the years pass we might be tempted to reflect that, while we hear the call to prepare well every Advent, nothing much seems to change either in our own lives or in the family of the Church or in the world at large. But if we do think like that we would be wrong. The first coming of Jesus did radically change the course of human history. John's proclamation of a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins paved the way for Jesus to minister his Father's compassion to us in a way far beyond our imagining. Nothing can ever be the same again, whether we have taken this fact on board yet or not. The faith of the Church is that everything is moving towards the fulfilment of God's plan and that in due time the Lord will return again in glory. This is very much part of the Advent message: we look back and celebrate the coming of Jesus as a baby in Bethlehem and at the same time we look forward to his coming again in glory. So there is a lot to prepare for.

St Paul gives us a clue as to how we can get this right in practice. Firstly, it is worth remembering that the work begins and ends in God, which is why Paul says: "I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes." The work began for us when we were baptised and will continue until the journey is completed. Sometimes on a long journey we can get tired and disillusioned and wonder why we ever began it in the first place. Apart from the fact that we may become physically tired, there can also be the tension that arises with those who share the journey with us. We may have had to do our fair bit of bridge-building on that front and know that overcoming personal relationship problems can be much more taxing than finding or preparing a straight road to our destination. It is here that we can begin to take Paul's prayer to heart: increasing in love for each other, improving our knowledge and deepening our perception so that we can always recognise what is best.

The Christian faith has so much to offer others and especially at this time of the year. Christmas, for all that we may feel it has been hijacked by the commercial world, still touches the hearts of people and the story loses none of its magic, no matter how often it is told. Tell the story again to one another and especially to the children. Look back and see just how far you have come: hopefully the building has been going up more quickly than you realised. And now look for ways to smooth out what still needs sorting before the Lord comes again

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Prayers for the Sick

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners. We remember especially Ann Lockwood, Geraldine Pickles, Harrison Fisher, Michael Bennett, Mary Gibson, Chris Haigh, Janette Barber, Claire Selby, 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 souls of Brigid Russell (Fr. Declan's Auntie) and Jane Catherine Newsome who both died recently. Please keep their families and friends in your prayers.

Marist Way and Rosary at Goldthorpe

The Rosary at Goldthorpe will be every **Wednesday** at 2pm. The next Rosary with Marist Way is on Wednesday 15th December

First Holy Communion Programme 2022

The next meeting will be on Monday 6th December from 6.00pm to 7.15pm in St Michael's Church Hall and is for both children and their parents.

Christmas cards and diaries are now available from our three churches

Christmas Masses

Friday 24 th December	5.30pm Christmas Vigil	St Michael's, Wombwell
Midnight Mass	12.00 midnight	St. Helen's, Hoyland
Saturday 25 th December	9.00am	Sacred Heart, Goldthorpe

There will be no Sunday vigil mass on Christmas Day evening

Sunday 26th December morning masses will be as usual:
9.00am at Goldthorpe and 11.00am at Hoyland

Synod 2021-2023

Pope Francis has asked every one of the People of God to let him know how things are for them in the Church. He believes we are all trying to journey together through life, finding ways to communicate the fundamental message of Jesus, to love one another, in how we live our lives and in our words. That is the meaning of the word "Synodal" – it means "journeying together".

He has asked the Bishops of the world to ask you and then tell him. You can do this with other people in your parish; tell Bishop Ralph what you think between October 2021 to 7th March 2022. Our three Parish Representatives, Amanda Campbell, Elizabeth Salmon and Helen Grayson, will be inviting you to share your thoughts. Please collect the information from church, or find more information at synod@hallam-diocese.com

Bonus Ball – Goldthorpe

The winning number was 9, J Nally was the lucky winner.

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