

3rd Sunday of Advent

First Reading Zephaniah 3:14-18

The prophet looks forward to a time of joy as he awaits the coming of the Messiah.

Responsorial Psalm Isa 12:2-3, 4, 5-6

Sing and shout for joy for g

Second Reading Philippians 4:4-7

Trust in Jesus Christ and you will find true happiness.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.

Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 3:10-18

John the Baptist announces the coming of the Christ, the Anointed One, and baptism by water and the Holy Spirit.

Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Sunday 12th December 2021

Sunday Year C

Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

Weekday Cycle I

"I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord."

Service Times & Intentions

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
Tuesday Live Streamed	14 Dec	12.00pm	NO MASS
Wednesday (St Michael's)	15 Dec	12.00pm	NO MASS
Thursday (St. Helen's)	16 Dec	12.00pm	Rowland and Harriet Swallow RIP
Friday (Sacred Heart)	17 Dec	12.00pm	Margaret Bennett RIP
Saturday Live Streamed.	18 Dec	12.00pm	Philip Grant RIP
Saturday (St Michael's)	18 Dec	5.30pm	St. Anthony, for Billy's Intention
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	19 Dec	9.00am	Maureen and Dennis Walton RIP
Sunday (St Helen's)	19 Dec	11.00am	People of the Parish

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.

Christmas cards, calendars and diaries are now available from our three churches

What does it mean to be happy? This is surely one of our deepest questions and one that preoccupies the different stages of a person's life. At each stage, whether in childhood, during the angst of teenage years, in the years of exploration of early adulthood, in the joy of love and family, in sickness and in health, and later as we decline, we seek happiness, which is often elusive. The desire to love and be loved is ever present. It brings joy and sometimes pain, contentment and struggle, anxiety and sorrow, happiness and peace. We also try to know the meaning of God's love as we face the ups and downs of life. At times, we feel God is distant rather than close, judgemental rather than merciful, sometimes like a kind and forgiving father or a tender and caring mother. For some people, the search for happiness leads to excessive behaviour, wrong roads taken; for others, the search for happiness seems much easier and smoother.

A time of lockdown brought the nature of happiness to the front of the mind once again. For some this period was a good opportunity and a chance to re-evaluate priorities; for others, this period was painful and brought much friction. Domestic violence soared during the lockdowns. Healthcare professionals worked all the hours of the day to try to save sick people and went the extra mile in their care. The waste collectors and the local shops, the bus drivers and those in essential services, were more respected. People found deep happiness in serving others by volunteering or helping in a neighbourly way. It was the best of times and the worst of times.

At the time of King Herod, the Jewish people longed for a Messiah who would restore the kingdom of Israel and re-establish a right relationship with God. The coming of the Anointed One of God would bring happiness and fulfil the yearnings and longings of the people. The preaching of John the Baptist in the desert by the River Jordan led people to gather and wonder if he was the Messiah. Was he the prophet to fulfil the hope of the prophet Zephaniah in the first reading? Would he lead them to rejoice and dance with shouts of joy? Would he give them happiness? The coming of the Messiah might be likened to a return to the promised land. Some thought the Romans would be overthrown and the occupation ended. Others hoped God's law would be respected and lived. Some imagined that the world would come to an end.

John the Baptist tells the crowds who gather around him that he is not the Messiah, but rather the messenger or precursor who points them towards the one who comes in the name of the Lord. John promises that the Christ will inaugurate a new time and create a new people who will receive the gift of baptism by water and the Holy Spirit. They will live in a new relationship with Jesus Christ as friends inspired by the Holy Spirit. St Paul, writing to the Church at Philippi, tells the new Christians that they can trust in Jesus Christ in prayer and be thankful for his gifts. In him is to be found true happiness.

In baptism we were each baptised by water and anointed with the oil of chrism and we received the gift of the Holy Spirit. We were each clothed in a white robe as a new creation in Christ. We were each given a lighted candle to be a sign of faith. In this way, each of us began our new life with Christ who walks with us. Being a follower of Christ does not guarantee a life free from suffering. Such a life does not guarantee that we will not make mistakes or foolish choices. It guarantees that we can return to our merciful God and ask forgiveness, that our dignity as Christians can always be restored and that we can begin again as followers of Christ. Happiness comes from knowing that Christ is with me and will never abandon me. I am not alone. Christ walks with me. I know I am loved by the love who moves the sun and the other stars and that he desires that I live for ever with him in heaven.

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Prayers for the Sick

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners. We remember especially Dominic Kilroy, 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 Deacon Derek Wynne and Terry Gorman who both died recently. Please keep their families and friends in your prayers.

Barnsley Hospital Chaplaincy Update

The out of hours 'on call' Chaplaincy provision for all denominations, including Catholics, has recently been suspended. The only way that a Catholic priest can now be called, should you require the sacraments out of office hours during your stay, is by patients giving the contact details of their Parish Priest to the ward staff on admission.

Fr Damian is working in collaboration with ecumenical partners to try and get the 'on call' chaplaincy provision re-instated as soon as possible.

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Fr. Declan will be in St Michael's church on Friday 17th December from 7.00pm to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

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

St. Wilfrid's Centre Exhibition

Throughout December, the Sheffield Central Library are hosting a large exhibition about St Wilfrid's Centre in their foyer - 'Our Past, Our Present, Our Future and Our Thanks', to mark the 30th Anniversary and the contribution that individuals, staff, volunteers, clients and parishes have made. The Library is open 10-5 Monday to Friday and 10-4 Saturday. Please support the Centre by encouraging anyone you know to go and have a look at the exhibition. From the 13th December, there will be a display case at the Millenium Gallery exhibiting pieces of pottery made by our clients to celebrate the 30th Anniversary.

Bonus Ball – Goldthorpe

The winning number was 47. Paul Goddard 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
0 Mary, Mother of Perpetual Help	Pray for us