

4th Sunday of Advent

First Reading Micah 5:1-4

In Bethlehem, the prophet declares, the saviour will be born.

Responsorial Psalm 79:2-3,15-16,18-19

God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

Second Reading Hebrews 10:5-10

Christ came into the world to do God's will.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia!

I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me.

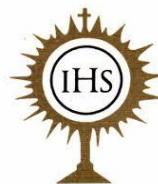
Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 1:39-45

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth declares Mary to be of all women "the most blessed".

Parish of Corpus Christi

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



PARISH PRIEST: Fr Declan Brett.

Parish Office: 01226 752372

email: parishofcorpuschristi@gmail.com

Website: <https://corpuschristi.hallam-diocese.com>

Facebook: Corpus Christi Dearne Valley

Parish Safeguarding Representatives:

Dave Coefield 07754 471052, Sheila Marren 07932 722188

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Service Times & Intentions

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
Tuesday Live Streamed	21 Dec	12.00pm	Yorkshire Brethren
Wednesday (St Michael's)	22 Dec	12.00pm	John and Mary Jones RIP
Thursday (St. Helen's)	23 Dec	12.00pm	Tony and Barbara English RIP
Friday (Sacred Heart)	24 Dec	12.00pm	John Nally RIP
Christmas Vigil (St. Michael's)	24 Dec	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Midnight Mass (St Helen's)	24 Dec	12.00am	Audrey O'Neill RIP
Christmas Day (Sacred Heart)	25 Dec	9.00am	Paul and Ann Galvin RIP
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	26 Dec	9.00am	Donald and Barbara Campbell RIP
Sunday (St Helen's)	26 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.

Sunday 19th December 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday Year C

Weekday Cycle I

"Blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled."

There's something about news, both good news and bad news. The most-watched programmes on television are news programmes. Even though it can be repetitious and depressing, people want to keep up with the latest news. And if we have news of our own we want to share it. You have to tell someone: news begs to be passed on. But how terrible it is if the news we have to impart is bad: "My mother has been diagnosed with cancer." "I've just had a call and Sally's gone missing." "Unfortunately Robert has been made redundant." The heart sinks at news like this.

But when the news is good it is so different: "John's done well; he got the grades he wanted." "Caroline has got engaged!" The best kind of news there is? Perhaps there is nothing quite like the joy of telling someone that a baby has been born. "Is it a girl or a boy?" is the immediate question. "Are mother and baby doing well?" "How was the birth?" "What does the baby weigh?" The questions come tumbling out.

As we hear in today's Gospel, Mary was bursting with news and it was about the birth of a baby. She couldn't keep it to herself: no sooner did the angel bring her the good news of great joy than she set off to share it with her cousin. The news tumbled out of her and immediately Elizabeth was beside herself with joy. And she, too, had her own good news to tell. She, who for so many years had been childless, who perhaps had given up hope of having a baby, had similar news to share. Why had she not travelled down from the hill country to tell Mary her news first, since she was pregnant first? Perhaps she was advised not to travel, not to risk losing this precious bundle inside her. So it was that these women shared their news, and just at that moment Elizabeth's child stirred inside her, leapt in her womb, and they were filled with joy.

There was something more. Elizabeth was filled, not only with joy, but with the Holy Spirit. And, filled with the Spirit, she gave a loud cry and gave us, if ever we should need it, the reason for our exaltation of Mary. She cried out to her cousin, "Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?" Suddenly her young cousin became the "mother of my Lord". And the visit of Mary was an honour. Then

Elizabeth added, "blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled". It is what Micah the prophet had promised. A saviour would be born, in Bethlehem: "He himself will be peace." Mary had believed the promise would be fulfilled – and would be fulfilled in her. That is the real secret of Mary: her faith. She believed the promise of the Lord.

The two women joyfully shared their faith together. Mary, travelling with the good news of the Gospel, was the first apostle, the first evangelist, the first missionary, the first person to share the faith she had. And when she reached Elizabeth there was a stirring in response. A great deal is said today about spreading the faith, "new evangelisation". Pope Francis commented on it: "We evangelise not with grand words, or complicated concepts, but with 'the joy of the Gospel'." The ones who do this best are often those whom the world has treated badly or who have made a mess of their life, and who find their way to the Church where Jesus meets us and answers the prayer we made in the response to the psalm today, "let your face shine on us and we shall be saved".

That is how the Church began, how the Gospel was first preached and how it spread throughout the world. People couldn't keep it to themselves: good news has to be shared. There are lots of ways to do it: singing carols round the streets and collecting for good causes; sending Christmas cards of the nativity rather than reindeers and robins; having nativity plays; inviting someone to come with you to Christmas Mass. Through such simple ways people can come to recognise that what we are celebrating is the birth of Jesus, the saviour of the world, and the faith of his mother, Mary.

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Prayers for the Sick

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners. We remember especially Clare Dingwall, Dominic Kilroy, Michael Bennett, Mary Gibson, Chris Haigh, Janette Barber, Claire Selby, Paddy McNicholas, Peter Hutchinson, Anne Whittingham, Sue Bird, David Hardy, Tess Lynch, Edna Yates, Justin Phillip Collins, Hannah Prentiss, Pat and Colin Hermitage, Thomas Collins, Norma Marshall, 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

We pray for the soul of Ann Lockwood who both died recently. Please keep her family 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.

Bonus Ball – Goldthorpe

The winning number was 38 and the lucky winner was Christine Mays

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.

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