|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **The Holy Family**  **First Reading** 1 Samuel 1:20-22. 24-28  Samuel’s mother gives Samuel to God, not to lose her son but to find him.    **Responsorial Psalm** 83:2-3, 5-6, 9-10  They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.  **Second Reading** 1 John 3:1-2. 21-24  The commandments are life, because they are given to us that we might live the life of God. | **Gospel Acclamation**  **Alleluia, Alleluia!**  Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son.  **Alleluia!**  **Gospel** Luke 2:41-52  The hidden life of Christ was not hidden from everyone. Christ needed other people to grow, just as we do. Otherwise he would not be fully human. |

**Service Times & Intentions**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Saturday**  (St Michael`s) | **---** | **---** | --- |  |  |
| **Sunday**  (Sacred Heart) | **26 Dec** | **9.00am** | Donald and Barbara Campbell RIP |  |  |
| **Sunday**  (St Helen`s) | **26 Dec** | **11.00am** | People of the Parish |  |  |
| Tuesday  Live Streamed | 28 Dec | 12.00pm | The Yorkshire Brethren |  |  |
| Wednesday  (St Michael`s) | 29 Dec | 12.00pm | Holy Souls |  |  |
| Thursday (St. Helen`s) | 30 Dec | 12.00pm | Deceased members of the Foody Family |  |  |
| Friday (Sacred Heart) | 31 Dec | 12.00pm | Brian Smith RIP |  |  |
| Saturday  Live Streamed | 1 Jan | 12.00pm | Holy Souls |  |  |
| **Saturday**  **(St Michaels)** | **1 Jan** | **5.30pm** | People of the Parish |  |  |
| **Sunday**  (Sacred Heart) | **2 Jan** | **9.00am** | Jemima McDonald RIP |  |  |
| **Sunday**  (St Helen`s) | **2 Jan** | **11.00am** | Ann Lockwood RIP |  |  |

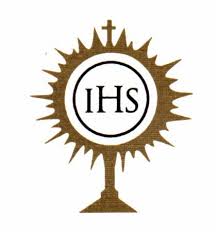
**Divine Mercy Chaplet** is at 3.00pm on Fridays at St. Michael's Church

**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.

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

Facebook: Corpus Christi Dearne Valley

Parish Safeguarding Representatives:

Dave Coefield 07754 471052, Sheila Marren 07932 722188

Roman Catholic Diocese of Hallam Trust • Registered Charity Number 512021

Sunday 26h December 2021 Sunday Year C

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Weekday Cycle I

“*He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority.”*

An exhibition of artworks from the Renaissance in the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge contained knives from a rich Italian house with musical notes engraved on them. What were the notes for? It was to enable the singing of grace before meals. Presumably most people would know the simple tunes used, but the design was there to make a point. The Christian family is just as much a sacred gathering as a service in church. In fact it is more so in one respect. People gather in church of their own free will, even though they are called by the Holy Spirit. They then disperse. We can gather at any church. The family is different. It is partly a matter of choice for the husband and wife, but it is not a matter of choice for the children. The family is the first church, and even if we may separate ourselves from the family by marriage or religious vows, we never lose our responsibility for each other in family.

Jesus was born into a family because this is part of the human good. Some people are deprived of that human good, but Christ was not, because he is the perfect human being. His deprivation would come from the persecution and unbelief of others, but it would not come from human dysfunction, as happens so often. This means that he offers us grace as part of a human family. Where he is, Joseph and Mary are not far away. We too need to offer prayer as part of the family, whatever sort it might be, because this is part of our own perfection, to acknowledge how much we are shaped by God through other people.

The word “person” may not sound like a theological word, still less the words that derive from it, such as “personality” or “personally”, yet it has its origin in Christian theology. It was adapted from the Latin word for “mask” as used by actors in ancient drama so that the actors could portray a multitude of characters. It was used to describe the persons of the Trinity and applied to human beings and angels as created persons. Person means the fundamental reality of each one of us, whatever we may be. Human weakness, or illness such as dementia, can limit our ability to act as free persons. Newborn children are limited in their ability to make decisions for themselves. There are limitations of nature, but nature cannot destroy the fact of personhood.

Children grow up and become more capable of making decisions for themselves, which is often difficult for their parents to accept. The story of Jesus in the Temple is precisely about that fact: that in his humanity Christ had to grow up to become able to fulfil his mission. This story might seem to suggest that Mary and Joseph were unaware of his divinity, but it is more a case that they were coming to terms with his humanity. A real humanity is always limited and, by accepting these limitations, the Son of God was deepening his humanity. If his Godhead had overwhelmed his humanity, the redemption would have been imperfect. Instead Jesus is truly dependent on his family and ultimately humanity as a whole, even to the point of death. Only at the resurrection is our personhood fully affirmed, where all redeemed humanity will be about their Father’s business.

The family is not an absolute good. Sometimes we may have to break away from our family to avoid sin. Yet the desire for good family life is an absolute. Here on earth nature often binds us to our families, but our love has to go beyond those bounds. This is not a contradiction but a larger truth, the truth of heaven, which swallows up the lesser truth of family life on earth.

So the Gospels speak of the importance of family life, with the story of the prodigal son where the love of the father is the image of the love of God. Yet Jesus also says, “If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple.” The paradox is resolved in the Holy Family, who are for each other but where all three keep in mind first their relationship to God, and from this fidelity a greater unity is forged.

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*Reflection by Redemptorists Publications. Used with permission*

**Prayers for the Sick**

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners. We remember especially Clare Dingwall, Dominic Kilroy, Michael Bennett, 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 Mary Gibson who died recently. Mary`s funeral will be held on Thursday 13th January at 10.30am at Sacred Heart, Goldthorpe. 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 incollaboration 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 59, therefore next week be a rollover and some lucky person may win £50!

**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](mailto:synod@hallam-diocese.com)

**Crib Offerings**

This year`s Christmas Crib offerings will benefit the Friends of the Holy Land, helping the most deprived Christian families living around Bethlehem, Gaza, Israel and Jordan.

**Christmas Offerings**

Fr Declan is most grateful for your generous Christmas Offerings. God bless 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. Ame

**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