

## 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

**First Reading** Nehemiah 8:2-6. 8-10  
After their return to their homeland from exile, the people of Israel are moved to tears by the public reading of God's word.

**Responsorial Psalm** 18:8-10,15  
Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life.

**Second Reading** 1 Corinthians 12:12-30  
St Paul teaches that we together are Christ's body, made up of many different parts.

## Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Lord has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives.  
**Alleluia!**

**Gospel** Luke 1:1-1-4; 4:14-21  
The beginning of Luke's Gospel: Jesus proclaims God's word and sets out his mission statement.

## 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](mailto: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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Sunday 23rd January 2022

Sunday Year C

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekday Cycle I

*"The spirit of the Lord has been given to me."*

## Service Times & Intentions

<b>Saturday</b> (St Michael's)	<b>22 Jan</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>23 Jan</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Irvin and Stella Bennett RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen's)	<b>23 Jan</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Andrew J Marren RIP
Tuesday Live Streamed	25 Jan	12.00pm	
Wednesday (St Michael's)	26 Jan	12.00pm	Blanche Neale RIP
Thursday (St. Helen's)	27 Jan	12.00pm	Phyllis Steele RIP
Friday (Sacred Heart)	28 Jan	12.00pm	Peter Cusack RIP
Saturday Live Streamed	29 Jan	12.00pm	Soul of Julia Connor, Connor and Nicholson Family
<b>Saturday</b> <b>(St Michaels)</b>	<b>29 Jan</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	Mary and Jim Fleming RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>30 Jan</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Angela Hays RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen's)	<b>30 Jan</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	People of the Parish

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

**Lectio Divina** is suspended for the time being

**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.

Beginnings are important. The first line of a book, or the first scene of a film, can determine its success or failure. Authors and directors spend a lot of time working on that opening. Some are truly memorable. Perhaps we remember such lines or scenes that stick in our minds long after we've read the book or seen the movie.

In today's Gospel reading, we have Luke's beginning: in effect we have two beginnings. There's the actual opening of Luke's work, when he sets out what he's intending to do. Then we skip a few chapters further on, to the focus of his story, with Luke's account of the beginning of Jesus' adult ministry, in the synagogue at Nazareth.

According to Luke, how did Jesus choose to launch his ministry? He went back home, to his own town. In the synagogue at Nazareth he stood in front of the people and read the passage from the prophet Isaiah. It summed up the heart of his mission: "good news to the poor... liberty to captives... to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free". The people liked what they heard. The initial reaction was positive. He spoke with authority; here was a man you could believe in, not like the usual teachers and preachers, not like the establishment types with their vested interests.

But if you look ahead to next week's Gospel, you can see how quickly the attitude changed. You can almost hear the whirring of the people's minds. This man speaks about "good news for the poor"; but what does that mean for us, who are comfortably off? He speaks of liberty for captives; but perhaps we'd prefer to lock them up and throw away the key. He speaks of freedom for the downtrodden; but do we really want, can we afford, a society where everyone is treated the same? And people's self-interest begins to take over; it's not long before they're trying to get rid of this man who talks about such things.

How do we react to Jesus' message today? Because it's not just a message from history, although Luke is careful to set it in historical context, to remind us that it's based on eyewitness evidence. What Jesus is doing, as his opening, is not just setting out his own agenda, but proclaiming the word of God. He goes back to the prophets to proclaim that this is part of God's plan from ages past, part of what's

called salvation history. At the heart of this plan is the word of God, revealed in the scriptures. Today's first reading takes us back to the time when the people of Israel had returned to their homeland after years of exile in Babylon. Their return was marked by a public reading to the whole people of the "Book of the Law", the words of the Lord their God, which had been revealed to them, the very heart of their religion. In his apostolic letter instituting this Sunday as the Sunday of the Word of God, Pope Francis commented: "These words contain a great teaching... The Bible is the book of the Lord's people, who, in listening to it, move from dispersion and division towards unity. The word of God unites believers and makes them one people."

Jesus speaks of himself as the fulfilment of prophecy. God has come to be with God's people, as was promised from of old. Jesus looks to the future, too, because he is setting out the manifesto, the mission statement of his Church. It's based both on the word of God – spoken of by Pope Francis as "the inexhaustible riches contained in that constant dialogue between the Lord and his people" – and on the Spirit of God. Jesus is able to fulfil this ancient prophecy because the Spirit has been given to him. He proclaims God's will in the power of the Spirit. In the power of the Spirit he will fulfil God's will, bringing "good news to the poor... liberty to captives... to the blind new sight", freedom to the downtrodden. It's what God has anointed him to do. And it's something that can only be achieved in the power of God's Spirit. Today Jesus invites us, who share that Spirit through our baptism, to be part of his mission. He went back to his hometown to begin it. He calls us to do something similar: if we're to share his mission, this is where we start, among the people we know.

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### **Prayers for the Sick**

We pray for our sick and/or household parishioners. We remember especially Janet O'Brien, Ralph Blackburn, 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, Kath Cragg, Michael Foy, Shirley Broadhead, Norah Preuss, Mavis Guilcher, Andrew Chandler

### **Requiescant in Pace**

We pray for the souls of Fr Frank Flynn, retired priest of the Diocese, and Julia Anne Connor who both died recently. Please keep their family and friends in your prayers

### **Marist Way and Rosary at Goldthorpe**

Rosary at Goldthorpe will be every **Wednesday** at 1.30pm.

The first Marist Meeting with Rosary is on Wednesday February 9th.

### **Wombwell Luncheon Club – St Michael's Parish Hall**

The Lunch club meet each Thursday at noon, providing a freshly made two course lunch, followed by tea or coffee and biscuits, There is also Bingo and a free raffle. The cost is £4 and is open to anyone.

### **Bonus Ball – Goldthorpe**

The winning number was 4, B Mays was the lucky winner. Since recommencing in mid October, £340 has been raised for parish funds and there are still free numbers. Please see George Burnitt if you would like a number, so you not only have a chance of winning, you are also helping the parish.

### **SPUC**

Thank you for your generous donations to SPUC (not LIFE as previously announced). The parish has raised £248.66 in total.

### **2022 Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes: Friday 24th June–Thursday 30th June**

(6 nights) £765.00 Full Board flying from Doncaster Airport. Insurance £33. Booking form and further details available from [www.hallam-lourdes.com](http://www.hallam-lourdes.com) or telephone 07724 650066. Please note: everyone participating in the 2022 pilgrimage must be fully vaccinated against Covid-19. The travel organisers feel that it is possible to plan for the pilgrimage to take place safely, but if it does not prove to be possible and the diocese cancels, then full refunds will be made. Please see the posters for further details, or visit [hallamlourdespilgrimage@gmail.com](mailto:hallamlourdespilgrimage@gmail.com)

### **Synod Open Meeting**

You are all welcome to attend an Open Synod Meeting in St. Michael's Church Hall at 12.30pm on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January. This is one of many meetings throughout the Diocese and it would be wonderful if as many Corpus Christi parishioners as possible could attend

### **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