

## 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**First Reading** 1 Samuel 26:2,7-9,12-13, 22-23

Though the king set out with an army to kill him, David refrained from harming Saul, even when the opportunity presented itself.

**Responsorial Psalm** 102:1-4,10,12-13

The Lord is compassion and love.

**Second Reading** 1 Corinthians 15:45-49

Human beings have bodies. Yet a physical being may become spiritually minded and bear the image of Christ.

## Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son.

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel** Luke 6:27-38

Those who are truly God's children resemble their heavenly Father in showing indiscriminate kindness, even towards their worst enemies.

## 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 20<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Sunday Year C

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekday Cycle II

*"Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you."*

## Service Times & Intentions

<b>Saturday</b> (St Michael's)	<b>19 Feb</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>20 Feb</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Sister Sheila Mary Hunt RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen's)	<b>20 Feb</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Bridget and Brian Liptrott RIP
Tuesday Live Streamed	22 Feb	12.00pm	NO MASS
Wednesday (St Michael's)	23 Feb	12.00pm	NO MASS
Thursday (St. Helen's)	24 Feb	12.00pm	NO MASS
Friday (Sacred Heart)	25 Feb	12.00pm	NO MASS
Saturday Live Streamed	26 Feb	12.00pm	NO MASS
<b>Saturday</b> <b>(St Michaels)</b>	<b>26 Feb</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	Private Intention
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	27 Feb	<b>9.00am</b>	John Nally RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen's)	27 Feb	<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.

Ice cream, chocolates, doughnuts... many of us crave sweetness. Sugary food may not be a healthy option, but it triggers the release of feel-good chemicals in the brain that give a momentary rush of pleasure. So does the thought of getting even with those who hurt us. Neuroscientists have discovered that revenge really is "sweet", for that part of our brain responsible for reward also governs vengeance. Like things full of sugar, thinking about how to get our own back may seem irresistible. Some might say not just irresistible, but justified. After all, revenge is provoked by someone else's wrongdoing. Taking matters into one's own hands may be tempting where there is no effective system of justice. However, so-called "honour killings" still take place even in the most advanced societies when people react with extreme violence to protect their reputation or their family name.

Revenge may be sweet, but it is sweetness of the bitterest kind. It does not try to reform the offender's behaviour but rather to inflict pain. The sweetness is only momentary, for after the "sugar rush" follow feelings of despondency. Research has found that an act of vengeance merely intensifies our focus on the wrongdoer and makes us brood even more on what they have done to us. In the end, people are no happier for getting their own back.

Jesus taught us to love our enemies. The idea sounded preposterous at the time. The Jewish nation was under occupation and its people felt justified in despising their Roman oppressors, as well as others outside their own religion. Revenge was enshrined in Jewish Law, from where we get the phrase "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth". The commandment to "love your neighbour" was important to the Jewish people, but they understood the term "neighbour" to be restricted in its scope – which is why Jesus told the parable of the good Samaritan. Jesus taught that every human being is our neighbour and that peace is something anyone can make. He detailed the kind of provocations people might face and suggested radical ways of dealing with them. You might, for example, treat your enemies well, only to find that they treat you badly in return. So what do you do? Keep on loving them just the same. If they mutter curses, mutter blessings back. If they abuse you, pray for them.

If they slap you in the face, give them the other cheek to slap. If they pinch your coat, hand over your shirt. Whatever they might take, let them. Don't ask for it back.

This was revolutionary talk, a completely undefended way of being. It ran counter to the human instinct to be self-protective. Kindliness is natural within families and between friends, and easy enough when it is in our interests. Jesus, however, taught *indiscriminate* kindness to everyone, even when it is never reciprocated, nor likely to bring us any benefit. Why? Because that is how God is, forgiving the ungrateful; showing kindness to the undeserving. Be like God, said Jesus.

Everyone gets annoyed from time to time. Anger is natural, but it need not trigger insults or violence. After the flaring up of irritation comes a choice and, by a steadfast refusal to retaliate and a quiet insistence on meeting negativity with goodness, we choose to imitate the way God is with us. Sometimes the loving choice may be to stand up to unacceptable behaviour, to be protective, or to help people understand the consequences of their action. That is not revenge. Love restores and teaches and heals: it does not harm or destroy.

More important than feeling love for our enemies is *showing* love. It was by watching how Jesus showed love that people began to understand what God is like. When Jesus, with his dying gasp, forgave those who jeered at him, the Roman officer said in amazement, "In truth this man was a son of God." All who imitate the loving forbearance of God are recognisably God's children. People can see God's likeness in us whenever we look for the good in others. Jesus calls us to transcend our instinctual behaviours in order to imitate the ways of God. And it's as we forgive others that God forgives us. Jesus used the colourful analogy of someone who deals out as generous a measure as possible, pressing it down and shaking the container to make space for more. So God pours love and mercy into our hearts and lives.

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### **Prayers for the Sick**

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners. We remember especially Janet O'Brien, Ralph Blackburn, Claire 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

### **Requiescat in Pace**

We pray for Sr Ann of the Carmelite Monastery, Kirk Edge, who died recently. Please keep her family and friends in your prayers

### **Rosary at Goldthorpe**

Rosary at Goldthorpe is every Wednesday at 1.30pm.

### **First Holy Communion Programme 2022**

The next meeting will be on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February from 6.00pm to 7.15pm in St Michael's Church Hall and is for the children only.

### **Marist Pilgrimage to Walsingham - Saturday 2nd July 2022**

IT'S BACK! The Marist pilgrimage to Walsingham will resume in July and the coach is booked for Corpus Christi pilgrims. Usual pick up points in Wombwell and Goldthorpe. Look out for more information being displayed in the parish soon.

### **Confirmation for Adults**

Fr Declan is to hold a programme for adults who wish to be confirmed, commencing on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 7.00pm at St Michael's. Please let Fr. Declan know if you wish to be included.

### **World Day of Prayer Friday March 4<sup>th</sup>**

The 2022 World Day of Prayer for Hoyland & District will be held at the Salvation Army Citadel, Central Street, Hoyland Common on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm. With the theme of "I know my plans for you", it has been prepared by the WDP team of England, Wales & Northern Ireland.

Tea & Biscuits will be served afterwards.

There will also be a Service at 2.30pm at St. Andrew's Church, Bolton on Dearne. All are welcome.

### **CAFOD Walk Against Hunger Lent Challenge**

There are 200 million children in the world whose lives are at risk from malnutrition. So, this Lent, challenge yourself to walk 200km, and help give hunger its marching orders.

Do 5k a day, your way, for 40 days and you'll conquer your 200k target in time for Easter – and help people around the world to live free from hunger. To take part, go to [cafod.org.uk/walk](http://cafod.org.uk/walk)

### **Bonus Ball – Goldthorpe**

The winning number was 49, Pat English was the lucky winner. 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.

### **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