

## 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**First Reading** Ecclesiasticus 27:4-7  
What we say reveals who we truly are.

**Responsorial Psalm** 91:2-3, 13-16  
It is good to give thanks to the Lord

**Second Reading** 1 Corinthians 15:54-58  
Physical death does not have the last word, thanks to the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel** Luke 6:39-45

Jesus warns us against thinking that we might be better people than we actually are.

## 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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Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Sunday Year C

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekday Cycle II

*"For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart."*

## Service Times & Intentions

<b>Saturday</b> (St Michael's)	<b>26 Feb</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	Private Intention
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>27 Feb</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	John Nally RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen's)	<b>27 Feb</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	People of the Parish
Tuesday Live Streamed	1 Mar	12.00pm	
<b>Ash Wednesday</b> Goldthorpe	2 Mar	9.00am	People of the Parish
<b>Ash Wednesday</b> Hoyland	2 Mar	11.00am	Audrey O' Neill RIP
<b>Ash Wednesday</b> Wombwell	2 Mar	6.00pm	
Thursday (St. Helen's)	3 Mar	12.00pm	Paul Francis Galvin RIP
Friday (Sacred Heart)	4 Mar	12.00pm	Mary Gibson RIP
Saturday Live Streamed	5 Mar	12.00pm	
<b>Saturday</b> (St Michaels)	<b>5 Mar</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	John Nally RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	6 Mar	<b>9.00am</b>	Margaret Bennett RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen's)	6 Mar	<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.

There is an interesting story about St Francis de Sales and his imaginative approach to the giving of penances as part of the sacrament of reconciliation. A certain person came to Francis and confessed to the sin of gossiping about their neighbour. Francis told the person to take a bag of feathers, maybe a pillow, up to the top of the church tower and to scatter the contents into the air; then the person was to report back. The penitent dutifully carried out the confessor's instructions. When the person then returned, Francis told them to go out, collect all the feathers and put them back into the bag. Somewhat stunned, the individual concerned pleaded that this was impossible, that the wind would have carried the feathers far and wide. The saint then said that this is what had happened to all the things the person had said about others: whether the remarks were true or not did not matter; the damage to the other person could never be undone, because words cannot be taken back once they are spoken. We can apologise, say that we did not really mean what we said and claim that we have been misunderstood, but we can never fully retract the words as if we had never uttered them.

It is perhaps worth bearing in mind that, if we enjoy listening to gossip about other people, the person telling us the fascinating details is likely to be talking about us to others in turn.

The Wisdom writing in the Bible deals not so much with what we would call doctrine as with human life. Today's reading from Ecclesiasticus, which forms the backdrop to today's Gospel extract, concentrates on how a person's speech reveals what sort of character that person really is. Luke presents us with a series of statements of Jesus that warn his hearers to be careful in their judgement of other people. The example of the plank and the splinter is an instance of exaggeration or hyperbole to make the point: being concerned about a minor shortcoming in someone else can blind us to our own, probably greater failings.

The second section uses the idea that we can most easily recognise what type of tree we are looking at if we see what kind of fruit it bears. We might not be sure from the plant's shape or its leaves, but its fruit leaves no room for doubt. Jesus, the Wisdom teacher, makes his point by using his hearers' powers of observation in

regard to the natural world to make his point. Just as the fruit infallibly reveals the species of the tree, so a person's speech identifies what that person's inner self is really like. This is borne out in modern psychology, for example, when someone "accidentally" makes a mistake and uses the wrong word, such as, perhaps, reading out during the Psalm at Mass, instead of "Before whom shall I *shrink*?" the words "Before whom shall I *drink*?" This is what we commonly refer to as a "Freudian slip". The Gospel message is all about conversion, about change. In the light of today's reading, it is not about changing the way we behave, or the way we talk, but about changing the way we think. This is what humility is all about: being right-sized. It means having a proper appreciation of who we really are, with our good and strong points as well as our shortcomings. There is a poster that urges its readers to "Watch your thoughts, they become your words... your actions... your habits... your character... your destiny." That expresses well the influence that our thoughts can have on our very selves.

In the Christian context, we might remember that one of the important elements in our celebration of the Eucharist is table-fellowship, which forms part of the background to Jesus' meals with other people. This often landed him in so much trouble with those religious people who were, in Jesus' view, overly concerned with what we might call respectability, and who went and muttered, or gossiped among themselves, about him and his behaviour. And we should all remember that the last words we say before receiving Holy Communion are, "Lord, I am not worthy..."

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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, 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

### **Requiescat in Pace**

We pray for the repose of the soul of Ocholi Soucy Umameh, brother of Fr Michael Umameh of Sacred Heart, Hillsborough, who died recently. Please keep his family and friends in your prayers.

### **Rosary at Goldthorpe**

Rosary at Goldthorpe is every Wednesday at 1.30pm.

### **Ash Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022**

Next Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. Masses will be as follows:-

9.00am Sacred Heart Goldthorpe,

11.00am St Helen's Hoyland,

6.00pm St Michael's Wombwell

### **Racial Justice Sunday**

Thank you for your generous donations for the recent second collection. You raised £207.87 for this worthy cause.

### **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.

### **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)

### **World Day of Prayer - Service of Worship**

To be held on Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm at St. Andrew's Church, Bolton on Dearne. All are welcome.

### **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..

### **Synod Survey Deadline 7 March 2022**

Make sure Pope Francis hears your voice by completing the synod survey or a postcard. Encourage others (maybe family members) who have stopped going to church to respond as well. Forthcoming events are:-

**We, the People of God: Reading Vatican II for a Synodal Church** – a morning to explore and discuss these themes with Greg Ryan 5th March 2022 Blessed Trinity, Wickersley 9:30am-12:30pm

**Diocesan Pre-Synod Meeting** 26th March 2022 St Peter's Doncaster 10:00am-2:30pm including shared lunch.

Participants will need to register for free to join events by visiting the Eventbrite page and choosing the event they want to attend:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/diocese-of-hallam-synod-38169347133>

### **Bonus Ball Goldthorpe and Hoyland**

The winning number was 26, M Harrison was the lucky winner in **Goldthorpe**.

The **St Helen's** Bonus Ball will recommence soon, with the first payout being from Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March's draw. If you would like to join in with the chance to win £25 as well as raising funds for the parish, please see George Burnitt in Sacred Heart, Goldthorpe or Pat Tomlinson in Hoyland St. Helen's.

### **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