

5th Sunday of Lent

First Reading Isaiah 43:16-21
One phrase among many from this magnificent reading jumps out at us when God says, “there is no need to think about what was done before”.

Responsorial Psalm 125
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad.

Second Reading Philippians 3:8-14
Paul reflects on what God’s forgiveness means for us.

Gospel Acclamation

Seek good and not evil so that you may live,
and that the Lord God of hosts may really be with you.

Gospel John 8:1-11
A woman who has been caught in the act of committing a serious sin is not condemned by Jesus. Instead, she is told to go and sin no more.

Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Sunday 3rd April 2022

Sunday Year C

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Weekday Cycle II

“Has no one condemned you? ... Neither do I condemn you.”

Service Times & Intentions

Saturday (St Michael’s)	2 Apr	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	3 Apr	9.00am	Kitty Bainbridge RIP
Sunday (St Helen’s)	3 Apr	11.00am	Barry Cooper RIP
Tuesday Live Streamed	5 Apr	12.00pm	Holy Souls
Wednesday (St. Michael’s)	6 Apr	12.00pm	People of the Parish
Thursday (St. Helen’s)	7 Apr	12.00pm	Andy Andrews RIP
Friday (Sacred Heart)	8 Apr	12.00pm	
Saturday Live Streamed	9 Apr	12.00pm	
Saturday Vigil (St Michaels)	9 Apr	5.30pm	Francis and Cassandra Parkin RIP
Palm Sunday (Sacred Heart)	10 Apr	9.00am	People of the Parish
Palm Sunday (St Helen’s)	10 Apr	11.00am	C J Thomas RIP

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 a story from the early centuries of Christianity, when monastic communities grew up in the desert. These “desert fathers and mothers”, as they are usually called, lived a life that was more like that of hermits than the communal monastic life found in monasteries and abbeys today. That is not to say that their lives had no structure. For example, there would always have been an abbot or abbess – who was often renowned for wisdom. Some were so famous that people would travel miles through the desert just to hear the wise words of these remarkable holy people. Some also had a well-developed sense of humour – probably a very valuable gift while living in the wilderness. There is a story that one group of monks were walking through desert sands with their abbot until they came to a river. This also gave them the opportunity to replenish their supplies of water for the rest of their journey.

The monks were not the only ones at the water, however. There was a young woman there too, trying to find a way across the water, but with no success. The abbot saw her predicament and offered to let her cross the river on his back. She readily agreed and the two of them reached the opposite bank in no time. The abbot lowered her to the ground and she was able to continue her journey alone. The monks likewise continued on their way. The abbot was aware that one of the monks was particularly quiet. When they reached their destination, he asked the monk why he was so silent. The monk replied, “I am struggling to understand how you, Father Abbot, could possibly bring yourself to carry a young woman across the water.” The abbot replied, “I let that woman down as soon as we had crossed the water; it is you who appear to have been carrying her in your mind ever since.”

We find the same attitude among the scribes and Pharisees who had caught the woman in the Gospel in the act of committing adultery. This detail is necessary: only when someone was actually apprehended in the act could the capital sentence (stoning to death) be carried out. We must question the motives of anyone who would do such a thing as to spy on someone with the intent of catching them, sentencing them and then being prepared to carry out the sentence in such a horrific way. Jesus is present when they are ready to carry out the capital sentence and they address him: “Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and

Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?"

Scholars have pointed out that this passage does not seem to fit in with the wider context of the Gospel of John. Many commentators think it is a text that should not be anywhere in John, but should perhaps be in the Gospel of Luke, because it is much more like a typically Lukan story. Let's consider why.

Famously, Jesus refuses to be drawn into expressing an opinion. Moses had stated the Law; Jesus does not contradict Moses. He writes in the sand. Countless attempts have been made to identify what Jesus might have written. It is futile to do so. Perhaps he is just doodling, refusing to be drawn into an argument of law. When he speaks, his words are devastating: "If there is one of you who has not sinned let him be the first to throw a stone at her." Then he goes back to doodling in the sand. As usual, Jesus' response is brilliant. He refuses to contradict Moses and the Law, but he also highlights the hypocrisy of sinners wanting to condemn and put to death another sinner. He alone is sinless and he chooses not to condemn the woman.

Instead of condemning the woman, Jesus challenges her to go and not to sin any more. How could that become possible? Only through a complete change of mindset. Paul gives us a clue as to how to do so in today's second reading. Paul believes that nothing can happen to him that would counter what he receives through knowing Christ. With this focus on Christ, he turns away from anything that is negative. This positive thinking could work for us too.

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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 Mary Edwards who died recently.

First Holy Communion Programme 2022

The next meeting will be on Monday 11th April from 6.00pm to 7.15pm in St Michael's Church Hall and is for both children and their parents.

Marist Way and Rosary at Goldthorpe

Rosary at Goldthorpe is each **Wednesday** at 2pm. The next Marist Meeting with Rosary is on Wednesday 13th April.

Stations of the Cross

There will be Stations of the Cross every Friday in Lent at 6pm at St. John and St Mary Magdalene's Anglican Church in Goldthorpe. All are welcome

Reconciliation Service at Holy Rood

A Service of Reconciliation will be held at Holy Rood, Barnsley on Wednesday, 6th April at 7.00pm.

Chrism Mass

This year's Chrism Mass will take place in St. Marie's Cathedral on Wednesday 13th April, at 11.00 am.

Christians in Palestine Appeal 10th April 2022

About 200,000 Palestinian Christians currently reside in the Holy Land, descendants of some of the oldest Christian communities in the world. Next weekend's second collection is aimed at easing their plight in this troubled area of the world.

Knights of St Columba Easter Egg Drive.

The Knights are holding an Easter Egg Drive for the poorly children at Barnsley District General Hospital and are seeking donations of Easter Eggs. If you are able to help, please leave your Easter eggs at the back of church. Thank you.

St Wilfrid's Centre 20p for 2022 Fundraising Campaign.

It costs £500,000 to run the Centre each year, yet every **20p** donated can provide a hot drink for a client, and every **£2 coin** a two-course hot meal. There are a few collection boxes available from the back of church, or visit www.stwilfridscentre.org for more information.

Bonus Ball Goldthorpe and Hoyland

The winning number was number 40. Lucky winners were John Fleming in Goldthorpe and K Palfreyman in Hoyland. Please see George Burnitt in Sacred Heart, or Pat Tomlinson in St. Helen's as there are still spare numbers available.

Mass Offerings

There are plenty of Masses available for your intentions, especially for weekday masses. Please use one of the specially printed envelopes from the back of church.

Crisis in Ukraine

A Co-ordinator is required to oversee responses in the Diocese, collate relevant information and liaise with appropriate bodies. The post is on a Voluntary basis. Further information/application from Anna Portaluri aportaluri@hallam-diocese.com

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