

4th Sunday of Lent

First Reading Joshua 5:9-12
The shame of Egypt is taken away but not the memory of Egypt, which will sustain the new life.

Responsorial Psalm 33:2-7
Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
The creation of humanity is not yet complete but it continues as an act of reconciliation in Christ.

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia! Alleluia!

I will leave this place and go to my father and say:
'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.'
Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 15:1-3. 11-32
The story of the prodigal son is not just his story. It is the story of a whole family; indeed it is the story of the family of humankind.

Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Sunday 27th March 2022

Sunday Year C

Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)

Weekday Cycle II

"Your brother here was dead and has come to life."

Service Times & Intentions

Saturday (St Michael's)	26 Mar	5.30pm	The Barrett Family RIP
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	27 Mar	9.00am	Dennis Turner RIP
Sunday (St Helen's)	27 Mar	11.00am	People of the Parish
Tuesday Live Streamed	29 Mar	12.00pm	
Wednesday (St. Michael's)	30 Mar	12.00pm	Margaret Barrett RIP
Thursday (St. Helen's)	31 Mar	12.00pm	Brian McAllister RIP
Friday (Sacred Heart)	1 Apr	12.00pm	
Saturday Live Streamed	2 Apr	12.00pm	
Saturday (St Michaels)	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

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.

One of the big problems with funerals, as any funeral director knows, is not the attitude of the family to the deceased person but the attitude of those who come to mourn to each other. A Catholic funeral is an act of mercy by its nature, which is what the Catholics who come to a funeral should always keep in mind. They come to pray for the dead, which means that God has put God's own mercy at our disposal. Not absolutely, of course, as if we could stand in the way of God's mercy, but the way God forgives is left, to some extent, in our hands.

Yet forgiving the dead is easier than forgiving the living. Or to put it another way, forgiving the living might be more real than our forgiving the dead. As for the dead forgiving us, either they forgive everyone or they forgive no one. Funeral directors become very adept at managing this lack of forgiveness. They make sure that wives and ex-wives are not seated together, for instance. In one case, when a priest was asked not to pray for someone who was living with the deceased, who had left his wife for her, he simply refused to comply. He said that he would bend a lot at funerals, but wouldn't ever refuse to pray for someone – if he did so, he would stop being a servant of Christ. In the end, that worked out well. If this seems too negative, it's important to remember that funerals can also be a time and place for reconciliation of a sort. At least for a moment, people remember how unimportant our little squabbles are.

What comes first, justice or mercy? You might think that mercy comes first because you have to do something wrong before you can be shown mercy. That might be true for people, but it is not true for God. That is because God always knows what God intends to do. So even in God's creating us there is a sort of mercy, which was what St Thomas Aquinas thought. Mercy is the desire for the happiness of someone else. No one is made by God to be unhappy, but we have our choices. Justice is, therefore, never a final end, but people get stuck with justice because they won't accept mercy. The story of the prodigal son is a parable about mercy, but it is not a human mercy. Human mercy needs something to forgive, whereas God does not. Human mercy also comes from our own sinfulness, which is not the case with God. God's mercy comes into this world as forgiveness, but that is down to us and our human

behaviour. God does not need us to sin in order to show us love. So in the parable the elder son is loved perfectly by the father but somehow has lost sight of that. It is interesting that some of the words of the father to the elder son are very similar to the words of Jesus to his heavenly Father in the Gospel of St John. The words of the father to the elder son in the parable, "you are with me always and all I have is yours", can be compared to Jesus' words to the Father in the Gospel of St John, "all I have is yours and all you have is mine". The mercy of God is the love of the persons of the Trinity for each other, shared with humanity. Mercy is the most godlike of all virtues.

Mercy starts with prayer, because mercy starts with God. It is the fundamental purpose of God for all God's creation, so we cannot really be merciful without prayer. In a family, in our friendships, in our workplaces, we need to be merciful, and that means having a power that is from God alone. Gestures and actions help, but unless we are convinced we are carrying out God's work in being merciful, we will fail.

This is why forgiveness is at the heart of the Lord's Prayer and why a life of prayer is always a life of mercy. To put it another way, we might start from our own heart in committing ourselves to a course of action, but if we wish to commit ourselves to mercy, we must start from the heart of God, from the life of the Holy Trinity.

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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.

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.

Rosary at Goldthorpe

Rosary at Goldthorpe is every Wednesday at 1.30pm.

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.

CAFOD Lent Appeal

Thank you so much for your support of CAFOD's Lent Family Fast Day, the Walk Against Hunger and the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.

Your support means we can respond in crises such as Ukraine where our Caritas aid workers and volunteers could quickly help families fleeing conflict. It also means we're there in the long-term and can continue to respond to crises around the world, including in Afghanistan, Syria, Ethiopia, and South Sudan.

We work alongside communities as they rebuild their lives once the conflict is over, as in Sierra Leone. For lots more detail on how your donations are being used, please go to the CAFOD website cafod.org.uk

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 7. Lucky winners were P Goddard in Goldthorpe and D Smith 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.

Offertory Envelopes

New Offertory envelopes starting in April 2022 are now available at the back of church for those of you who require them. You may find the individual number on your envelope will be different to previous years. Don't worry, it's because many of you now donate by standing order so we don't need to order as many envelopes. There are some spare envelopes, so if you haven't used them before and wish to do so, please email, telephone or ask Fr Declan.

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