

3rd Sunday of Lent

First Reading Exodus 3:1-8. 13-15
The Lord hears the cry of his people's suffering and sends Moses to lead them to the promised land.

Responsorial Psalm 102:1-4,6-8,11
The Lord is compassion and love.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12
Be vigilant in living the life of faith.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Repent, says the Lord, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 13:1-9

Jesus calls us to repent and patiently waits for our response.

Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Sunday 20th March 2022

Sunday Year C

Third Sunday of Lent

Weekday Cycle II

"A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard."

Service Times & Intentions

Saturday (St Michael`s)	19 Mar	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	20 Mar	9.00am	Dennis Postlethwaite RIP
Sunday (St Helen`s)	20 Mar	11.00am	For a Successful Operation
Tuesday Live Streamed	22 Mar	12.00pm	
Wednesday (St. Michael`s)	23 Mar	12.00pm	Beatrice Barry RIP
Thursday (St. Helen`s)	24 Mar	12.00pm	
Friday (Sacred Heart)	25 Mar	12.00pm	John Nally RIP
Saturday Live Streamed	26 Mar	12.00pm	
Saturday (St Michaels)	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

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.

Gardening teaches us not only patience but also the unpredictability of growth. Well-established plants, much-loved shrubs and tall trees may grow in established patterns but can be suddenly struck down by blight, disease or a storm. Across Europe in recent years there have been many outbreaks of ash dieback disease caused by a virulent fungus. This once familiar tree with its bunches of seeds is under threat. New and tender plants can be difficult to establish. Beautiful-looking plants bought from garden centres can be very root-bound, find it difficult to live in the harsh world of rain and cold, and often fail to grow and flourish in a flower bed. Young plants attract slugs and snails in large numbers. The time of planting, and the state of the soil and its dryness or moisture, make a huge difference. Hope is often disappointed, sometimes by a lack of preparation of the environment in which the plant will grow. Sometimes it is only in the second year that a plant becomes established. A little simple gardening can open a person up to more understanding of the complex life of plants and their conditions for growth as well as being very therapeutic if we are patient.

Most of Jesus' teaching is to rural peoples in Galilee and Judaea. This is the setting of many parables about growth and God's providential care. It is the world of vines, mustard seeds, fig trees, sowing and reaping grain, wheat, weeds, rain, wind and the sun as well as the birds of the air. So often Jesus teaches about the work necessary for good harvests. The people whom he teaches understand the rhythms of nature but also that they cannot control the outcome; they are dependent upon God's providence. All this helps us understand more fully the ways in which God's kingdom breaks into the world and the Lenten message of preparation to put on the mind and heart, of Christ. In rich soil of the heart Christ will help us bear fruit that will last.

Today's readings present the image of the Lord who cares for his people with compassion and love but at the same time calls them back to himself in conversion. The Gospel confronts the mystery of suffering and whether this is part of God's punishment of people for not following God's Law. Jesus gives two examples of people who suffered: the Galileans and eighteen people killed when the tower of

Siloam collapsed. Some people must have said they were being punished for their sins. Jesus tells us that these events are not as a result of sin and are not God's punishment. This does not, however, diminish the need to repent and turn away from sin and bring one's life into harmony with God's plan.

This is also the message that St Paul delivers to the community at Corinth. He uses the experience of the Jewish people in the desert during the Exodus to look forward to the experience of the Church. This is called a "typological" interpretation that helps us understand the Christian experience in light of the Old Testament and so enriches both. In the desert, God guided God's people by a cloud, let them pass through the Red Sea, fed them with manna and gave them water to drink from the rock that produced a stream of water accompanying them on their journey to the promised land. But they clung to their idols and failed to love and serve the living God. Paul says that the Christians in Corinth have been guided by the Holy Spirit, baptised by water, fed by the Eucharist, and have Christ as their rock who stays with his Church. Yet they too fail to live out the teaching of the Gospel. The warning is again a call to repentance.

Jesus uses the beautiful image of the fig tree to illustrate the patience of God. The owner of the vineyard is concerned that the fig tree does not produce figs and wants to cut it down. His tenant farmer, who looks after the fig trees and knows more about them, tells him to be patient. He will feed the tree, tend it, and look after it and asks for one more year to allow the tree to produce figs. He is wise. Jesus presents an image of God as compassionate and merciful. This is the God whose mercy and love we are called to reflect in our lives and to whom we seek to grow closer in this Lenten season.

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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.

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.

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.

Red Mission Boxes

Please bring in your Red Mission Boxes at your earliest convenience. If you are a UK Taxpayer, please consider using Gift Aid. Thank you for your support.

CAFOD Lent Appeal

Thank you for giving to CAFOD's Lent Appeal. So far, you have donated £705.74, of which £280 is Gift Aided. Please bring in your Family Fast Day envelopes or donate by visiting 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.

Bonus Ball Goldthorpe and Hoyland

The winning number was 16. Lucky winners were R Whitfield in Goldthorpe and Mary McAllister in Hoyland. Please see George Burnitt in Sacred Heart, or Pat Tomlinson in St. Helen's if you wish to participate.

Synod

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>

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