

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter****First Reading** Acts 5:12-16

Luke gives us a picture of the early community of disciples in Jerusalem and how people were attracted to come to them for blessing and healing.

**Responsorial Psalm** 117:2-4,22-27

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

**Second Reading** Apoc1:9-13, 17-19

John recounts the vision that led to his writing this book, the Apocalypse or Revelation. The risen Jesus speaks to him and commissions him to set down all that he sees regarding the present and the future.

**Gospel Acclamation****Alleluia, alleluia!**

Jesus said: 'You believe because you can see me.'

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

**Alleluia!****Gospel** John 20:19-31

The risen Jesus makes himself present to his disciples on two occasions. He commissions them to continue his work. Then Thomas makes the supreme confession of faith.

**Parish of Corpus Christi**

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



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Roman Catholic Diocese of Hallam Trust • Registered Charity Number 512021

Sunday 24th April 2022

Sunday Year C

Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

Weekday Cycle II

"Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe."

**Service Times & Intentions**

<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael's)	<b>23 Apr</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	Donald Bedford RIP
<b>Easter Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	24 Apr	<b>9.00am</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Easter Sunday</b> (St Helen's)	24 Apr	<b>11.00am</b>	Callaghan Family
Tuesday Live Streamed	26 Apr	12.00pm	NO MASS
Wednesday (St. Michael's)	27 Apr	12.00pm	NO MASS
Thursday (St. Helen's)	28 Apr	12.00pm	NO MASS
Friday (Sacred Heart)	29 Apr	12.00pm	NO MASS
Saturday (St Michaels)	<b>30 Apr</b>	<b>12.00pm</b>	NO MASS
<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michaels)	<b>30 Apr</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	John Cutts RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	1 May	<b>9.00am</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen's)	1 May	<b>11.00am</b>	Mary and John Coefield 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.

Detective series are very popular on television at the moment. We, the viewers, often have the advantage of knowing exactly what has happened and we then watch the less informed police trying to work out who committed the crime. Sometimes, when confronted with reports of what a witness has said, the officer in charge will exclaim in exasperation something along the lines of "That's only hearsay. It's not evidence." Witnesses have to have been present and have reliable information about what they have observed. It is not enough to mention what someone else has told them, even if that turns out, in the end, to be accurate.

That, in a nutshell, is what the resurrection appearance stories in the Gospel are all about. Hearsay is not enough. Elsewhere, the Gospels tell us that the male apostles at first did not believe the testimony of the women who visited the tomb of Jesus and reported that he was risen. But today's story makes the point that to be a true witness *to*, not *of*, the resurrection, the person has to have had a personal experience of the risen Jesus.

In John's Gospel account, there are no apostles. An apostle means "one who is sent". In John's version of the Jesus story, Jesus is the sole actor: his followers do not share in his ministry. For example, in the story of the feeding of the crowd, it is Jesus who distributes the bread. Jesus does not send out others to preach and heal. There are no apostles, only disciples. It is this group who are locked away, fearful that what happened to Jesus might happen to them as his followers. The risen Jesus makes himself present among them and bestows on them peace, which removes the fear of the Jewish authorities that has locked them away. To overcome any remaining doubt, Jesus shows them his wounds from the crucifixion. Fear turns to joy and Jesus sends them as the Father sent him. It is at this point that disciples become apostles. Jesus then breathes the Holy Spirit on them: those who receive their message and confirm this publicly by being baptised will have their sins forgiven; those who do not will remain as they were.

The second scene occurs a week later when Thomas, the sceptic, is present. There is an important point here that, in the Gospel tradition, no one comes to believe in the risen Jesus purely on the word of other people. The official witnesses to the

resurrection all have to experience the risen Lord for themselves. Hearsay is not enough. Thomas represents all those who have heard about the resurrection but are not yet sure. It is this questioning, this desire to know for himself, which brings him to his personal encounter with Jesus and leads to his making the ultimate declaration about who Jesus really is: "My Lord and my God!"

The last words Jesus utters in today's Gospel story are, "Happy [or Blessed] are those who have not seen and yet believe." This is known as the "Johannine Beatitude" and applies to all of us today. Thomas the sceptic stands for all those who want to know more, who are reluctant simply to take other people's word in matters of faith. It is Thomas' personal integrity and search that bring him to a personal experience of the risen Jesus. This should encourage all those who want to know more, who are not satisfied with easy answers, to keep on asking questions, because, very often, the questions are more important than the answers.

This episode is sometimes called "Little Pentecost". There is no dramatic manifestation of the Holy Spirit; Jesus simply breathes on the disciples and sends them out. We are Jesus' disciples today and are called, not just to continue Jesus' mission of bringing knowledge of God's love for human beings to others, but also to continue Jesus' presence in our world, in our local community. This does not have to be anything dramatic or even explicit. The people mentioned in the reading from Acts recognised that the first disciples of Jesus had something special and they wanted part of it, so they came for blessing and healing. Perhaps if we live, quietly, more as disciples of Jesus, those around us might notice that we have something special and be attracted. In this way we could fulfil our calling to be missionary disciples, listening to what the Spirit is telling us in our daily 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, Clare Dingwall, Dominic Kilroy, Michael Bennett, Chris Haigh, Janette Barber, Claire Selby, Paddy McNicholas, Peter Hutchinson, Anne Whittingham, 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.

### **Requiescant in Pace**

We pray for the repose of the soul of Eileen Greensmith who died recently. Please keep her family and friends in your prayers.

### **Christians in Palestine Appeal 10<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

Thank you for your generous donations for last week's second collection, which totalled £174.11

### **Good Friday Collection for The Holy Places**

Thank you for your generous donations. The sum of £108.80 has been raised.

### **Change to Masses for next week.**

Please note there will be no weekday masses during next week.

### **Easter Collection**

The Easter Sunday collection is for the Parish Priest. Thank you for your generous offerings.

### **Rosary at Goldthorpe**

Rosary at Goldthorpe is each **Wednesday** at 2pm.

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

The Bonus Ball was Number 44. Winners were M Archibald in Goldthorpe and J Andrews in Hoyland. Please see George Burnitt in Sacred Heart, or Pat Tomlinson in St. Helen's if you wish to try your luck 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.

### **My Day by Day Easter 2022**

Copies of the booklets are available from the back of church. Please take one with you. They are free but you may leave a small donation if you wish, towards the cost of them.

### **Caritas in the Diocese of Hallam**

A new group has been set up at Carmel Care Centre, Hillsborough. Please see the poster at the back of church if you are interested in joining in with this free activity.

### **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