

Parish of Corpus Christi

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



PARISH PRIEST: Fr Declan Brett.

Parish Office: 01226 752372

email: parishofcorpuschristi@gmail.com

Website: <https://corpuschristi.hallam-diocese.com>

Facebook: Corpus Christi Dearne Valley

Parish Safeguarding Representatives:

Dave Coefield 07754 471052, Sheila Marren 07932 722188

Roman Catholic Diocese of Hallam Trust • Registered Charity Number 512021

Sunday 22nd May 2022

Sunday Year C

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Weekday Cycle II

"It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves not to saddle you with any burden."

Service Times & Intentions

Saturday Vigil (St Michael's)	21 May	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	22 May	9.00am	Mary Gutowski RIP
Sunday (St Helen's)	22 May	11.00am	Bill Callaghan RIP
Tuesday Live Streamed	24 May	12.00pm	Holy Souls
Wednesday (Sacred Heart)	25 May	12.30pm	Requiem Mass for Mary Gutowski
Wednesday Ascension Day Vigil (St Michael's)	25 May	6.00pm	
Thursday Ascension Day (Sacred Heart)	26 May	9.00am	People of the Parish
Thursday Ascension Day (St. Helen's)	26 May	7.00pm	Eileen Greensmith RIP
Friday (Sacred Heart)	27 May	12.00pm	
Saturday (St Michael's)	28 May	12.00pm	
Saturday Vigil (St Michael's)	28 May	5.30pm	Mary Gutowski RIP
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	29 May	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sunday (St Helen's)	29 May	11.00am	Margaret and Mint Burkinshaw RIP

Divine Mercy Chaplet is at 3.00pm on Fridays at St. Michael's Church

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is always available upon request.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus said: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.'

Alleluia!

Gospel John 14:23-29

At the Last Supper Jesus speaks words of inexpressible comfort. He promises that the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Spirit, will find a home in us as individuals and as a community when we learn to keep his word.

6th Sunday of Easter

First Reading Acts 15:1-2,22-29

The leaders of the early Church allow themselves to be guided by the Holy Spirit in their decisions.

Responsorial Psalm 66: 2-3,5-6,8

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Second Reading Apoc 21:10-14,22-2

John's revelation is of the Church as the new Jerusalem, a walled and gated city, but these are not built to exclude sinners or those we consider unworthy or outsiders. The temple is the body of Christ himself.

The European football tournament that took place in the summer of 2021, having been postponed for a year because of the pandemic, will for many years be a memory of pride and shame for the English. A talented young team and its humble, thoughtful manager led England through a summer of extraordinary hope after a winter of pandemic-driven anxiety and depression. They were joyful in victory and gracious in defeat, unlike a small minority of fans whose hate-fuelled racist abuse and xenophobic thuggery brought shame to them and tarnished the name of the country they claimed to support.

Many of the England team were of migrant origin and showed gratitude for the country that welcomed their families. One of the players, Marcus Rashford, led a campaign for free school meals that illustrated a spirit of compassion and generosity rooted in gratitude and a well-deserved pride in his own achievements and those of his single mother, who brought her family up in poverty. All attempts to exclude and divide are rooted in fear and prejudice. If this is clearly illustrated in football, there is also a lesson here for the Church to reflect on.

Today's readings all contain teaching for us as individuals, but much more for us as the body of Christ in the world. The early Church struggled to discern between true and false teaching and to preserve the community from all attempts to divert attention from Jesus' unequivocal teaching about welcoming sinners into the kingdom. While it is important that we continue to discern where we are being led in Spirit and truth, Pope Francis has been equally unequivocal in his insistence that we cannot turn the Church into a private members' club, where those on the inside wear their virtue like a medal. In the early Church, sinners would be excluded from the community for years, their penitent status obvious for all to see. Every attempt we make to separate those we consider sinners from participation in the gathered community is similar in spirit to this excluding attitude.

The first reading, from Acts, gives us an illustration of this. It tells of an argument in the early Church about whether those who were not of the Jewish faith should have strict rules about membership imposed upon them. This quarrel about admitting pagans

to the early Church is the first of many attempts throughout the Church's history to control and exclude access to grace. We see it today in arguments about admittance to the sacraments. The Church is a field hospital, not a fortress. The sacraments are medicine for those who are sick, not a reward for those who are virtuous. We are called to the freedom of the children of God, but we repeatedly prefer the security of slavery to the responsibility that comes with such freedom.

It is part of the challenge of discernment that we have to try to balance the teaching of the Church with Christ's call to freedom, mercy and compassion. The 2015 Synod on the Family wrestled with these thorny issues as it looked at the exclusion from the sacraments of people who are divorced and remarried or those in same-sex relationships. There is no easy answer to these questions, but the teaching of the Gospels is quite clear, as is Pope Francis' stated preference for a "bruised, hurting and dirty" Church.

The story from Acts, like the vision of John in the Apocalypse, from which we heard an extract in our second reading, serves to remind us that we are guests at Christ's table at the Eucharistic feast, not hosts or bouncers, controlling who is welcome. Christ himself is the feast and the one who issues the invitations. Every member of the Church is a sinner, welcomed by his compassion and mercy. The Spirit, whose coming Christ promises in the Gospel, brings peace and drives out fear. But it is fear that drives human attempts to exclude and control, whether in society's many prejudices like racism, sexism and homophobia, or within the Church when we judge others to be "outsiders". The challenge to us is to look at the root of our judgements and to overcome prejudice with courage and fear with freedom. In God's house all are welcome.

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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, 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.

Mary Gutowski

The Requiem Mass for Mary Gutowski will be at 12.30pm on Wednesday 25th May in Sacred Heart, Goldthorpe.

Rosary at Goldthorpe

The Rosary at Goldthorpe will be every **Wednesday** at 1.30pm.

Ascension Day Thursday 25th May

Ascension Day is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass times are as follows:-

Wednesday 24 th May	6.00pm	St Michael's (Vigil)
Thursday 25 th May	9.00am	Sacred Heart
Thursday 25 th May	7.00pm	St Helen's

Rainbows Bereavement Support

Rainbows are an organisation who support children who have been bereaved at a most difficult and painful time in their lives. They have a Part Time vacancy in the South Yorkshire area. Please see the notice board for further details.

Marist Pilgrimage to Walsingham

The annual Marist pilgrimage to Walsingham will take place on Saturday 2nd July. The coach will pick up at St Michael's Wombwell at 7.30am then at Goldthorpe by the Anglican Church at 7.45am. Owing to higher fuel costs the price this year has had to increase to £20 per person, thank you for your understanding. Payment will be due by the weekend of 11/12 June. If you would like to join the pilgrimage please sign the list at the back of church which includes further contact details.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham 2022

Bishop Ralph will be leading the Pilgrimage to the Shrine at Walsingham on Saturday, 23rd July. Please see poster for further details.

Padley Pilgrimage 2022 Sunday 10th July

In honour of the Padley Martyrs Blessed Robert Ludlam and Blessed Nicholas Garlick. Gather at Grindleford Station at 3.00pm for a procession to the Chapel for Mass at 3.30pm Please see the poster at the back of church for further details.

Mental Health Matters – Caritas Hallam Appeal 14th/15th May

The second collection for Caritas will be taken in just St Michael's and Sacred Heart this weekend as it was omitted last weekend.

World Day of Communications Second Collection 29th May

Next Sunday is World Communications Day, when we take up the command of Jesus to preach the Good News of the Gospel to the whole world. There will be a second collection next weekend.

Bonus Ball - Goldthorpe and Hoyland

The Bonus Ball was Number 35, the winners were E Dyson in Goldthorpe and M Tomlinson in 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
0 Mary, Mother of Perpetual Help	Pray for us