

## 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**First Reading** Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23  
The Preacher reflects on the vanity of human endeavour.

**Responsorial Psalm** 89:3-6,12-14,17  
O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.

**Second Reading** Colossians 3:1-5. 9-11  
Paul tells the Colossian Christians to let their thoughts be on heavenly things

## Gospel Acclamation

### Alleluia, alleluia!

Your word is truth, O Lord, consecrate us in the truth.

### Alleluia!

**Gospel** Luke 12:13-21  
Jesus warns us to be on our guard against avarice of any kind.

## Parish of Corpus Christi

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



**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr Declan Brett.

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Roman Catholic Diocese of Hallam Trust • Registered Charity Number 512021

Sunday 31st July 2022

Sunday Year C

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekday Cycle II

*"This very night the demand will be made for your soul."*

## Service Times & Intentions

<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>30 July</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	31 July	<b>9.00am</b>	Spiridion S Ingalla RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen`s)	31 July	<b>11.00am</b>	Colin Barker RIP
Tuesday (live streamed)	2 Aug	10.00am	Holy Souls
Wednesday	3 Aug	10.00am	Fr Denis Norman RIP
Thursday (St. Helen`s)	4 Aug	10.00am	Dominic Kilroy RIP
Friday (St Helen`s)	5 Aug	1.00pm	Requiem Mass for Elsie Mallett
Saturday (St Michael`s)	6 Aug	10.00am	Beatrice Barry RIP
<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>6 Aug</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	Deceased Members of Barber and Biggins Families
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>7 Aug</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Soul of Margaret Mason RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen`s)	<b>7 Aug</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	People of the Parish

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

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation** is always available upon request.

A *Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens is one of the best-loved Christmas stories ever written. First published in 1846, it is thought to have had the astounding effect of renewing the celebration of the feast itself throughout Britain. It does not refer directly to the original Christmas story but takes as its central point the Christmas message of peace and goodwill to all. In the course of one night, the miser Scrooge is subjected to visitations from the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future. These experiences put Scrooge in touch with the bright young man he once was, the terrifyingly destructive presence he has become and the devastation that lies ahead both for him and for others if he does not change his ways.

The effect when he awakes from this series of nightmares on Christmas Day is that of a total transformation. He emerges as a personality now full of joy and kindness and even a sense of mischief. His ghostly guides have put him in touch with his deeper and more real self. It has taken a mixture of remembered joy and anxious fear to achieve the change, but the new Scrooge becomes a symbol of how we should live in generous concern both for our families and for our neighbours and colleagues. Where there was meanness there is now openness, penny-pinching is replaced by extravagance, and disdain is replaced by delight.

At a first reading of the book of Ecclesiastes, we might think the author is throwing up his hands at the absurdity of life and declaring human life to be nothing but vanity. A closer reading reveals he is trying to tackle the same issue as the one Jesus faced. There was a general belief at the time that wealth was a sign both of God's blessing and that you had lived a good life. If you were poor, you must have done something wrong. It is a view Jesus struggled to reverse even with his own disciples.

The story of the rich man building bigger barns is only found in St Luke's Gospel as he is the Gospel writer most concerned with the dangers of riches and the need to come to the support of those who are poor. Jesus isn't a killjoy. He enjoys feasting with both rich and poor people, but he is only too aware that the pursuit of money and material wealth gets in the way of his message. If we make material possessions the main aim of our life, it will be difficult for us to think of others,

especially those who are in greatest need. We can become addicted to wanting more and more rather than using our success to remedy the inequalities that surround us. The story of the man building bigger barns has a touch of the ghost of Christmas future.

We live in a capitalist world. Most of us don't fully understand what this implies but, consciously or unconsciously, it does affect the way we live. In such a world the economy is the central concern, and the economy is only deemed successful if it grows. In order to grow, there has to be a constant increase in productivity and sales – the “bigger barns” – and a constant increase in consumption, namely people willing to purchase such products. Endless advertising tries to ensure this pattern is maintained. Providing a fair share for all in this merry-go-round is not easy and has never been achieved. Does the state interfere to enable such a balance or not? As individuals, how do we express our Christian beliefs when the pressure is to build our own barns at others' expense?

As the power lies in the hands of rich people, it can be difficult for them to share more generously, as this feels like letting go of control. Those who are poor may feel envious of what they do not have, especially as advertising presents all goods as being available to all. Those in the middle can swing between fear and greed. The miracle is that so many people still manage to put their energies into concern for others and seek to build up community in whatever way they can. These are the ones who listen to the inner voice of love that expresses the human heart at its best and most resilient. As Tiny Tim exclaims in *A Christmas Carol*: “God bless us, every one!”

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### **Prayers for the Sick**

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners. We remember especially Carole Dyson, Bridie Pickering, Bernadette Hault, Janet O'Brien, Clare Dingwall, Michael Bennett, Christine 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, Terry Mullins, Matthew Deakin, Margaret Booker, Kath Cragg, Michael Foy, Shirley Broadhead, Norah Preuss, Mavis Guilcher.

### **Requiescat in Pace**

Please pray for the soul of Elsie Mallett who died recently. The Requiem Mass will be on Friday 5th August at 1.00pm in St Helen's. Please keep her family and friends in your prayers

### **Rosary at Goldthorpe**

The Rosary is at 1.30pm each Wednesday at Goldthorpe. Please note there will be no Rosary on 27<sup>th</sup> July.

### **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 and for your continued prayers for missionaries around the world.

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

The Bonus Ball was Number 23, the winners were Peter O'Hanlon in Goldthorpe and P Tomlinson in St. Helen's.

### **Parish Pilgrimage to Walsingham**

#### **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September**

The Parish is organising the Pilgrimage at a cost of only £20 per person. There are 51 seats available on the coach so if you wish to participate please add your name to the list at the back of church or let Fr Declan know.

### **Changes to Mass Times**

Please note that the weekday masses in our three churches will be at **10.00am** from now onwards.

### **Repair and Maintenance Collection**

After a two year absence, there will be a basket towards the Repair and Maintenance of our churches at the weekend masses, unless there is a specific second collection for another cause. Thank you.

### **St Vincent de Paul Society Urgent Appeal**

The SVP is launching an urgent appeal to help refugees and asylum seekers in crisis. Please see the insert in the newsletter for further details and how you can help.

### **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