

## 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**First Reading** Exodus 32:7-11. 13-14  
When the Israelites returned to the worship of idols, God showed mercy to them.

**Responsorial Psalm** 50:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19.  
I will leave this place and go to my father.

**Second Reading** 1 Timothy 1:12-17  
Paul was the arch-persecutor of Christians, yet God was endlessly patient with him.

## Gospel Acclamation

### Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.

### Alleluia!

## Gospel

Luke 15:1-32  
The parable of the prodigal son assures us that mercy will be shown to every sinner who turns back to God.

## 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 11<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Sunday Year C

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekday Cycle II

*"Your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."*

## Service Times & Intentions

<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>10 Sept</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	Dominic Kilroy RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>11 Sept</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen`s)	<b>11 Sept</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Minnie Helen Pozorski RIP
Tuesday (St Helen`s)	13 Sept	10.00am	Janine Cook RIP
Wednesday	14 Sept	10.00am	
Thursday (St Helen`s)	15 Sept	10.00am	Dominic Kilroy RIP
Friday (Sacred Heart)	16 Sept	10.00am	NO MASS
Saturday (St Michael`s)	17 Sept	10.00am	
<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>17 Sept</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	John Nally RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>18 Sept</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen`s)	<b>18 Sept</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Andrew J Marren RIP

**Divine Mercy Chaplet** is at 3.00pm on Fridays at St. Michael's Church  
**The Sacrament of Reconciliation** is always available upon request.

On 13 May 1981, a young Turkish man by the name of Mehmet Ali Ağca sat calmly writing postcards in St Peter's Square in Rome. He had killed before and, having escaped from prison, he was ready to kill again. As the white "popemobile" slowly made its way through the crowd, Ağca aimed his semi-automatic pistol and discharged it. Two bullets hit Pope St John Paul II in the hand and arm. Two more tore through his body, narrowly missing his heart. That he survived was a miracle. Yet there was something even more miraculous. Pope St John Paul forgave Ağca, and, as soon as he recovered, went to the prison to meet him face to face. He held his hand, the very hand that had held the gun, and talked to him for more than twenty minutes. When, nineteen years later, Ağca was pardoned by the Italian authorities, it was at St John Paul's request. Because Ağca was a professional assassin, St John Paul recognised that the real culprits were those who had ordered the shooting. Ağca was deported to Turkey to serve out his earlier sentence. Yet the experience of forgiveness had a profound effect on him, and many years after the attempted assassination – twenty-six years to the day – Ağca was received into the Catholic Church. As soon as he was released from his Turkish jail, he returned to Italy to lay flowers on the tomb of St John Paul II.

In this controversial act of forgiveness, St John Paul was living out today's Gospel, the parable of the prodigal son, where a father forgives his headstrong son and reinstates him within the family. Parables were Jesus' preferred teaching method. They captivated his listeners, though to some this lesson on forgiveness might have sounded extreme. After all, the prodigal son only came back because he was feeling sorry for himself. No doubt it offended people's sense of justice that, having rejected his family, the young man should be welcomed home.

Who was this soft-hearted father Jesus was talking about? Our *heavenly* Father, of course. Jesus was trying to convey what God was like to people who imagined God to be exacting and vengeful. God is not like that, Jesus was saying. Our heavenly Father is like any parent who believes in the essential goodness of their wayward child. Divine justice is satisfied, not when sinners come to a bad end, but when they turn their lives around. More than patient, Jesus was suggesting that

God actually goes searching to bring sinners home. And to be sure people heard this correctly, Jesus related the same message three times over. First, it was a story about a shepherd going after a strayed sheep; then, about a woman searching frantically for a lost coin; finally, about a father who runs to embrace his lost son. Each parable ends, not in reprimand, but in rejoicing. The message is clear: God longs for the wayward to return to the right path.

What is not stated is whether the prodigal son ever did. For this is telling us about grace – God’s grace – given without condition, a generosity we are meant to imitate. By including the resentful older brother in this parable, Jesus clearly means us to try to let go of our grudges, even if it means a struggle. After all, forgiveness can transform people – as it did Mehmet Ali Ağca – even if there are no guarantees that they will be changed for the better. All we can be sure of is that, in the struggle to forgive, we will be.

Some people may identify with the prodigal son, especially if they feel in need of forgiveness themselves. Others sympathise with the older brother, whose outrage mirrors what they may be feeling when they see innocent people suffer and guilty people let off lightly. This parable challenges us all. In challenging us, Jesus is not asking us to abandon our sense of right and wrong, but to allow mercy to play its part. He may be asking us to take an empathetic leap, to try to understand what it may be like for wrongdoers to endure the consequences of their own poor choices and to own up to them. We may be asked to sense something of their inner struggle, for many people long to “come home” to who they really are. They may be looking for someone like us, someone gracious enough to help them take that first step.

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### **Prayers for the Sick**

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners. We remember especially Percy Winterton, Kath Hardy, Carole Dyson, Bridie Pickering, Bernadette Hault, Janet O Brien, 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.

### **Marist Way and Rosary at Goldthorpe**

The Rosary at 1.30pm on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September will be followed by the monthly Marist Meeting at 2.00pm.

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

The Bonus Ball for 3<sup>rd</sup> September was number 6. The winners were Eddie Goddard in Goldthorpe and M Stephenson in Hoyland.

### **Second Collection for CES 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> September**

This Sunday is Education Sunday, when Catholics are encouraged to reflect on the Church’s enormous contribution in this country and pray for all those involved in Catholic education. There will be a second collection for this worthy cause.

### **Home Mission Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September**

Each year we celebrate Home Mission Sunday, when the Bishops invite parishes to pray for the mission of the Church in England and Wales. There will be a second collection next weekend to support the work of evangelisation.

### **Annual Mass Count**

Commencing next weekend and for a further three weeks, the number of attendees at each of the weekend masses will be recorded.

### **Parish Pilgrimage to Walsingham Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September**

We pray for Fr Declan and those who are travelling to Walsingham next Friday. May they all have a safe journey and enjoy the experience of `England`s Nazareth`.

### **DEC Pakistan Floods Appeal**

Devastating floods have hit Pakistan, leaving millions in urgent need of help to survive. A third of the country is now underwater (that’s an area almost the size of Great Britain). From the Coppers for CAFOD jars in our 3 churches the sum of £130 can be sent immediately. If you wish to donate you can do so by using one of the CAFOD envelopes in church or via the jar. Your donation will help CAFOD’s local partners support communities with clean drinking water, food, emergency medical assistance and shelter. Please pray for those affected and donate now at [cafod.org.uk/give](http://cafod.org.uk/give)

### **Synod Conversations and the Gospel of Mark**

The Diocese is hosting a new event, I am Mark in Hallam Diocese. Join in at St Marie’s Cathedral, Sheffield, on Saturday October 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm, and listen to nearly the whole Gospel in one evening. For further information and to book your ticket go to <https://hallam-diocese.com/i-am-mark-in-hallam-diocese/> Register soon because space is limited.

### **St Bernadette Relic Tour - 4th/5th October 2022.**

Please see the programme for the visit of the relics to the Diocese of Hallam. Each year our diocese goes on pilgrimage to Lourdes. Next month, Lourdes is coming to our diocese. All are very welcome. Registration is useful but is not required and you can attend any of the liturgies at the Cathedral and St-Peter-in-Chains, Doncaster. For more information on this national event please visit [www.hallam-lourdes.com](http://www.hallam-lourdes.com) <<http://www.hallam-lourdes.com>> and [www.stbernadette.org.uk](http://www.stbernadette.org.uk) <<http://www.stbernadette.org.uk>> . This short video trailer gives more information too <https://www.youtube.com/w>

### **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