

## 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

**First Reading** Wisdom 11:22 – 12:2  
Our patient God is a lover of life, whose spirit fills all things.

**Responsorial Psalm** 144:1-2,8-11,13-14  
I will bless your name for ever, O God my King.

**Second Reading** 2 Thess 1:11, 2:2  
Paul prays that God will make us worthy of our call.

## Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
Blessings on the King who comes, in the name of the Lord! Peace be in heaven and glory in the highest heaven!  
**Alleluia!**

**Gospel** Luke 19:1-10  
Zacchaeus meets Jesus, who comes to seek out and save those who are lost.

## 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 30th October 2022

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday Year C

Weekday Cycle II

*"This man too is a son of Abraham."*

## Service Times & Intentions

<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>29 Oct</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	Mary and Jim Fleming RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>30 Oct</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen`s)	<b>30 Oct</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Andrew J Marren RIP
Monday (St Michael`s) VIGIL	<b>31 Oct</b>	5.30pm	Holy Souls
Tuesday (St Michael`s <b>SCHOOL</b> )	1 Nov	9.00am	People of the Parish
Tuesday (St Helen`s)	1 Nov	10.30am	M Pozorski RIP
Tuesday(Sacred Heart)	1 Nov	2.00pm	Holy Souls
Wednesday (St Michael`s)	2 Nov	10.00am	Brian and Margaret Barrett RIP
Thursday (St Helen`s)	3 Nov	10.00am	Dominic Kilroy RIP
Friday (St Helen`s)	4 Nov	10.30am	Requiem Mass for Romain Irenaeus Felicite
Saturday (St Michael`s)	5 Nov	10.00am	The Beard Family
<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>5 Nov</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>6 Nov</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Christine Haigh RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen`s)	<b>6 Nov</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Brian McAllister RIP

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

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

**Rosary** each Wednesday in Goldthorpe at 1.30pm.

Last year, a lay-led synod in England explored the theme of what it means to belong and to be Church. One speaker, James Alison, outlined two contrasting ways of creating a sense of belonging. One is strong – or violent – belonging, where a nation, group, political party or church nurtures a sense of belonging by stoking fears of being threatened by “the evil other”. This threat may be external or internal. The Cold War is an example of an external threat, where both the USA and the USSR created a strong sense of national identity by portraying the other as an existential danger to their way of life. Alternatively, the “evil other” may be internal – the enemy within. Recent years have witnessed a rise in groups that portray various minorities as being threats to the cohesion and strength of the majority, whether this be people of a different ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or simply a different outlook on life. It’s an “us against them” sense of belonging.

The alternative type of belonging is Catholicity. At its root, the word “catholic” connotes wholeness or inclusivity. A genuinely Catholic sense of belonging might be termed “weak” or non-violent belonging, because it does not rely on demonising perceived enemies in order to strengthen the sense of identity and belonging among its members. Rather it seeks to identify what is common among us and to create a sense of identity based on shared humanity, struggles and hopes. It embraces rather than rejects, includes rather than excludes.

We see both these kinds of belonging at play in the dynamic between Jesus, Zacchaeus and the crowd. Zacchaeus knows himself to be “the evil other” in the eyes of his Jewish compatriots. He has sold out his birthright and betrayed his people by working as a tax collector for the hated Roman occupiers. And he has been successful at it, too – he is a senior tax collector and wealthy: doubly despised. Perhaps it’s not just that he is short that makes him climb the tree to see Jesus – he knows he would not be welcome to stand shoulder to shoulder with the other citizens of Jericho. That strong, violent, exclusive sense of belonging is at work here. Zacchaeus is not “one of us” and he has even internalised his status as the enemy within.

Jesus, however, does not buy into this sense of exclusive belonging. He initiates contact with Zacchaeus – not just speaking to him but inviting himself to dinner at Zacchaeus' house. Jesus refuses to be put off by the complaints of those who have a strong sense of religious and national belonging. They see this man as a "sinner" and a traitor – by very definition, not one of us. Jesus is not deterred by such hostility, not afraid to place himself alongside Zacchaeus against the wishes of the crowd. This enables Zacchaeus to grow into his full stature, correcting the consequences of his sins and turning his life around. Jesus defines Zacchaeus as "one of us" – not "one of them" – a "son of Abraham" and therefore, by definition, a brother, family. Jesus speaks of salvation having come to Zacchaeus' house. Salvation, healing and wholeness are the very definition of Catholic belonging. The story of Zacchaeus challenges each of us. Firstly: how do I understand my own sense of belonging – my belonging to my nation, my family, my Church, my parish? Do I define who I belong to – who belongs to me – in terms of exclusivity? Do I foster a sense of external enemies who threaten to "swamp", overwhelm or destroy the groups and people I hold dear? Is my sense of belonging dependent on identifying enemies within, whom I can demonise, victimise or reject? Is my own sense of self-identity and belonging so weak that I need to cling to an "us against them" mentality?

Secondly: how open am I to being transformed? Can I, like Zacchaeus, acknowledge my own vulnerability, mistakes and imperfection? Am I willing to "climb a tree" – to go out of my comfort zone to seek out opportunities to be made whole and be reconciled? Am I strong enough to admit my weakness; am I big enough to own my shortcomings? When we can do that, our personal place of weakness becomes the means by which we can come into fellowship with others who are equally flawed and damaged, rather than seeing them as threats we need to guard against. That's when "us against them" becomes just "us".

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### **Prayers for the Sick**

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners. We remember especially Karen Barber, Jan Dextor, Ellen Cooper, Percy Winterton, Kath Hardy, Carole Dyson, Bernadette Houlton, Janet O'Brien, Michael Bennett, Janette Barber, Claire Selby, Paddy McNicholas, Peter Hutchinson, David Hardy, Tess Lynch, 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**

We pray for the repose of the soul of Romain Irenaeus Felicite who died recently. Overnight repose is on Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 4.00pm in St Helen's. The Requiem mass will take place on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 10.30am

### **Mission Sunday**

Thank you for your generous donations last weekend, which will enable the parish to forward £250 to Missio on your behalf.

### **All Saints Day Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November**

Masses are as follows:-

Vigil (31.10.22) 5.30pm	St Michael's Church
9.00am (1.11.22)	St Michael's School
10.30am	St Helen's Church
2.00pm	Sacred Heart Church

### **Holy Souls**

November will soon be upon us, the month when we pray especially for those who have died. If you would like a mass for your loved ones who are no longer with us, the Holy Souls lists and envelopes are now available from church. Masses for the Holy Souls will then be said throughout the coming year.

### **Service of Remembrance Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November**

The service will take place at 7.00pm in St Michael's church, followed by refreshments in the church hall. All are welcome.

### **Home from Home Hallam**

The Diocese of Hallam has welcomed their first Syrian refugee family and are raising funds to support them. The family consists of two young parents and four children including a newborn baby. One of the children is severely disabled and the family have complex social and health needs. Please visit <https://bit.ly/3RtV3hy> to access the newsletter or to donate: <https://bit.ly/3D8BzKR>

### **Children's Liturgy in Goldthorpe**

We are happy to share that Children's Liturgy will soon be starting again at Sacred Heart, Goldthorpe, on the first Sunday of each month. Our first session will be on Sunday 6 November, to be held in the Parish Room, during mass, and the children will be back into church during the Offertory Hymn. If your child is not old enough yet to have made their First Holy Communion, but would like to learn a little more about our faith, in a simple way, they are very welcome to join us. We are both DRB-checked by the Diocese and we are looking forward to seeing you in November. *Maureen Greaves and Amanda Campbell*

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

The Bonus Ball for 23<sup>rd</sup> October was number 34. There are no winners to announce as in both St. Helen's and in Sacred Heart that number is a spare number, so next week will be a rollover.

### **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