

Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Sunday 27th November 2022

Sunday Year A

First Sunday of Advent

Weekday Cycle II

"Stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming."

1st Sunday of Advent

First Reading Isaiah 2:1-5

The prophet Isaiah speaks of the pilgrims climbing up to Jerusalem and finding peace. We are called to make our home in Christ and in his kingdom where there will be peace, justice and joy. The Church shows us the way.

Responsorial Psalm 121:1-2,4b-5,6-7,8-9

I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.'

Second Reading Romans 13:11-14

In a stark warning, St Paul calls us to amend our lives and return to the way of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and show us your saving help

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 24:37-44

Jesus warns against complacency and summons us to focus on Christ and his life.

Service Times & Intentions

Saturday Vigil (St Michael's)	26 Nov	5.30pm	Bryan Ward RIP
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	27 Nov	9.00am	Christine Haigh RIP
Sunday (St Helen's)	27 Nov	11.00am	People of the Parish
Tuesday (St Helen's)	29 Nov	10.00am	Colin Barker RIP
Wednesday (St Michael's)	30 Nov	10.00am	John Nally RIP
Thursday (St Michael's)	1 Dec	12 noon	Funeral of Eithne Kearney
Friday (Sacred Heart)	2 Dec	10.00am	Bridie Pickering RIP
Saturday (St Michael's)	3 Dec	10.00am	The Beard Family
Saturday Vigil (St Michael's)	3 Dec	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	4Dec	9.00am	Donald and Barbara Campbell RIP
Sunday (St Helen's)	4 Dec	11.00am	Dominic, Winnie and Julia Kilroy 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.

The Irish poet Patrick Kavanagh's poem "Advent" speaks powerfully to these weeks. The opening lines are very evocative: "We have tested and tasted too much, lover – / Through a chink too wide there comes in no wonder." In an age that is often focused on the next experience, seeking one "high" after another, the poet invites us to recognise the desire for pleasure and to begin a more reflective time. We are invited into the "Advent-darkened room" with the penances of "dry black bread" and "sugarless tea" which will "charm back the luxury/ Of a child's soul". It is an opportunity to rediscover wonder and surprise in a tired and overstimulated life.

Children can teach us many lessons during these weeks. They are busy preparing their Nativity plays, carol singing and end-of-term activities. They are full of natural excitement and exuberance as they look towards Christmas. Being naturally curious and wanting to explore their world, children teach us to be more spontaneous. Parents will know how one question follows another as they discover knowledge and are fascinated by what they see around them. The poem invites us to see again, like children, "the newness that was in every stale thing" and evoke wonder and praise at the mystery of the gift around us. Already small bursts of colour begin to break into the dark world of winter as some winter flowers appear. They are hopeful signs pointing us towards new life and Christ. The poem ends, "Christ comes with a January flower."

Both St Paul and St Matthew present an urgent message to us today: "stay awake". Jesus warns us that if we are complacent, then the life of a Christian can become lukewarm. We live in a half-hearted way and are only half-alive. We may be ashamed of aspects of our lives that we wish to hide in the darkness and do not want to expose these deeds to the harsh reality of light where others may see them. Rather Advent invites us to be ready to move out of darkness into the light and live with integrity and honesty. There is no room for hidden bad practices. The early Church expected Christ to return in glory very soon after the resurrection. The Gospels communicate an urgency and a warning about living expectantly for the coming of the last days. Now, well into the third millennium, we have lost our

expectation for the coming of Christ at the end of time. His promise remains that he will come to judge the living and the dead at the second coming. We can trust in the promise of eternal life and the resurrection from the dead.

While we are not as aware of the second coming, the time of our death remains uncertain. We can hope for a long life but cannot guarantee it. We know so vividly and painfully that this is often not the case: sickness strikes, an accident happens, a tragedy occurs and life is turned upside down. It is like a burglar coming in the middle of the night and breaking into the house. The Advent readings remind us of our mortality. This season provides an opportunity to reassess our priorities and live with eyes open to wonder and the gifts we see around us. It is a good time to appreciate and thank those we love for their presence and place in our lives. Advent is a time of waiting in hope. The old will pass away. We can hope that Christ will break again into our lives to bring his gift of peace, for which so many people long today.

For many families the busyness of the pre-Christmas season is a challenge to a good Advent. In contrast to this whirlwind of busyness, Advent is an opportunity to give some time to prayer and to reflect on the gifts that we have been given. At the end of the day, a period of reflection can open our eyes to the wonderful gifts around us and lead us to praise God.

Advent is a time of repentance when we are encouraged to go to confession and recognise those times when "we have tested and tasted too much" and been indulgent and selfish. Perhaps there are times when we know that we have gone beyond what was right and good. Repentance and confession open the heart again to Christ. We are called to "stay awake".

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Prayers for the Sick

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners. We remember especially Marie Bray (nee Walsh), Peter Gillott, Jan Dextor, Ellen Cooper, Percy Winterton, Kath Hardy, Carole Dyson, Bernadette Hoult, Janet O Brien, Michael Bennett, Janette Barber, Claire Selby, Paddy McNicholas, 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.

Requiescant in Pace

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Anne Clark, Mary Kenny and of Eithne Kierney who all died recently.

Eithne`s funeral will take place on Thursday 1st December at 12.00 noon in St Michael`s Church.

Anne`s funeral will be on Friday, 9th December at 12 noon in St Helens.

Mary`s funeral will be on Wednesday, 14th December at 1.00pm in St Michael`s.

Please keep their families and friends in your prayers

Needy Parishes

Thank you for your generous donation last weekend, which raised £268.36.

Sick & Retired Clergy

Next weekend there will be a second collection for the Sick & Retired clergy to help ensure all of our sick and retired priests are cared for at their time of need, after years of service to God and their parishioners.

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 and make sure your name is on the box that you leave, or empty your own box and bring to church, making sure your name is on your donation. This allows the Missio Co-ordinator to log your donation and therefore claim the Gift Aid. Thank you for your support and for your continued prayers for missionaries around the world.

Knights of St. Columba Christmas Appeal for Barnsley Hospital

This year the Knights are hoping to help the elderly patients in Barnsley Hospital. Items such as slippers and toiletries would be gratefully received and all age groups appreciate chocolate! If you can help, please leave your donation at the back of church.

Children`s Liturgy in Goldthorpe - Sunday 4th December

There will be Children`s Liturgy in the Parish Room during 9.00am mass. Any children who have not yet made their First Holy Communion are very welcome - our readings and activities will be about Advent. We are looking forward to seeing you again, Maureen Greaves and Amanda Campbell.

First Holy Communion Programme 2023

Please note there is a change to the planned programme and the next session on 5th December is now for the children only. A session for parents will be included in the first children`s session after the Christmas holiday, which is to be held on Monday 16th January 2023. Thank you for your support.

Bonus Ball - Goldthorpe and Hoyland

The Bonus Ball last Saturday was number 59. There wasn`t a winner in Sacred Heart but in St Helen`s the winner was M Harrison.

Christmas Cards

Christmas Cards, diaries and calendars are now available. Please take a look.

Second hand Book Sale - Sunday 11th December at Goldthorpe

After the 9.00am mass at Goldthorpe there will be a Second hand Book Sale (with some surprise Christmas extras) in the Parish Room - all proceeds for parish funds. Suggested book prices will be Hardback £1, paperback 50p, but any donation will be very gratefully received. Why not support the parish and buy a last-minute Christmas gift by snapping up a pre-loved book? Thank you.

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