

## Mary, Holy Mother of God

**First Reading** Numbers 6:22-27  
We are beloved and blessed by God our Father.

**Responsorial Psalm** 66:2-3,5,6,8  
O God, be gracious and bless us

**Second Reading** Galatians 4:4-7  
As adopted children of God our Father, we are sisters and brothers in Christ.

## Gospel Acclamation

### Alleluia, alleluia!

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son.

### Alleluia!

## Gospel

Luke 2:16-21  
Following the angelic announcement of his birth, the shepherds come to visit the infant Jesus. Mary treasures all these events in her heart.

## Parish of Corpus Christi

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



**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr Declan Brett.

23 Park Street, Wombwell Barnsley, S73 0HQ  
01226 752372

email: [parishofcorpuschristi@gmail.com](mailto: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

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Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023

Sunday Year A

Mary, Holy Mother of God

Weekday Cycle II

*"As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart."*

## Service Times & Intentions

<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>31 Dec</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	Austin and Mary Tarmey RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>1 Jan</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen`s)	<b>1 Jan</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Owens Family
Tuesday (St Helen`s)	3 Jan		NO MASS
Wednesday (St Michael`s)	4 Jan		NO MASS
Thursday	5 Jan	9.00am	<i>School Mass at St. Michael`s School</i> People of the Parish
Thursday	5 Jan	11.00am	<i>School Mass in Sacred Heart Church</i> Peace in our World
Thursday	5 Jan	2.00pm	<i>School Mass in St Helen`s Church</i> Peter Hutchinson RIP
Friday (Sacred Heart)	6 Jan	10.00am	Holy Souls
Saturday (St Michael`s)	7 Jan	10.00am	Durkan and Holmes Families
<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>7 Jan</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	Colin Hermitage RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>8 Jan</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Irvin and Stella Bennett RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen`s)	<b>8 Jan</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.

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

Few babies come into this world without a certain amount of pain, drama and excitement. When all is known to be well, a certain calm comes and the child's parents are caught up in silence and wonder. This is the time to gaze on this unique miracle of love; the time to look at each tiny finger and toe and to wonder at the extraordinary and inexplicable gift that has been bestowed on them. This is a time of treasuring and pondering the beauty of this new life. Yet, even at this moment, there is a dream in the heart of every parent for their child's future.

Mary had a dream, too, and in some ways her heart held more than a dream for her child. Her heart carried God's dream for the world within it: God's dream to bring peace, to bring love, to bring hope was the promise Mary had carried in her womb and now carried in her arms and in her heart.

Our readings today place us within the family relationship of God, who is Father, Son and Spirit. Our first reading sees the Lord remind his people that they are God's children. In addition to letting his face shine upon them, the Lord offers them a blessing of peace and a promise of God's graciousness. St Paul in our second reading reminds us that we have been adopted as children of God. We are no longer slaves, but sons and daughters of God.

In our Gospel, we are privileged to be given a glimpse into a moment where Mary herself takes in the wonder of Jesus' birth and ponders the unique experience of being mother to the Son of God. While Mary's response to the miracle of Jesus' birth is one of pondering in silence, it differs from that of the shepherds, who are astonished and who return to their flocks, "glorifying and praising God".

We are no less blessed by God our Father, who calls us his adopted children and who loves us with that same love which he has for Jesus, his own Son. Indeed, the Lord loves us so much that he has become human like us. In Jesus, God feels our sorrow, our joy and our fears, and understands our dreams. In Jesus, God says to each one of us, "I am showing you my face." We are made in God's image and likeness. As such each person we encounter is an "image of God". Each person we meet on our journey shows us the face of Christ. Among the many people we encounter on life's journey, there will be people like the shepherds, who are poor

in mind, body or resources. There will also be those, like the magi, who are rich in mind and spirit as well as in material resources. We are called to do as Mary did and to welcome each one as if they were Christ himself.

Gazing and treasuring is another virtue we can learn from Mary. Mary received Christ graciously into her womb and into her heart; Mary could allow the future to unfold, allow Jesus to grow as he needed, while not standing in the way of God's plans for our world. Her ability to do this came from her silent time with the Lord and from that quiet space within her heart where she pondered and treasured life's gifts.

Similarly, our own joy comes from those same places. Firstly, from gazing at Jesus and spending time with him in silence and prayer, and secondly from our ability to reach out in love to all we meet, regardless of their station in life and simply because we believe that they are, for us, at this moment in time, the face of Christ. This week, may we ponder Christ's love in the silence of our hearts and find the face of Christ in all those we meet. *"The Word was the true light... coming into the world."*

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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, 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 Hermitage, Thomas Collins, Norma Marshall, Val Armstrong, Terry Mullins, Matthew Deakin, Margaret Booker, Michael Foy, Shirley Broadhead, Norah Preuss, Mavis Guilcher.

### **Requiescant in Pace**

We pray for the repose of the soul of Colin Hermitage and Kath Cragg who both died recently. Please keep their family and friends in your prayers.

Colin's funeral has been arranged for Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> 2023 in St Michael's church at 2.00pm

### **Craft Group**

The Craft Group, after 3 years absence, is hoping to start up again on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January. We meet in the Parish rooms at Wombwell 10.00am until 12.30pm. All are welcome, and please feel free to come to knit, sew, crochet and natter, or just for a cuppa!

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

The Bonus Ball last Saturday was number 19. The winner in Goldthorpe was T Swindells and in Hoyland the winner was M Tomlinson, each winning £25.

### **Christmas Offering**

Thank you for your offertory donations which are traditionally for the Parish Priest.

### **Christmas Crib Collection**

A collection basket will be available for your donations which will be for the Hallam Bethlehem Fund

### **Changes to Mass Times**

Please note the changes to the mass times for next week.

There will be no mass on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday. On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January there are three school masses, celebrating the beginning of the spring term.

### **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
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