

2nd Sunday of Advent

First Reading Isaiah 11:1-10
The descendant of Jesse will usher in an age of peace such as the world has never known.

Responsorial Psalm 71:1-2,7-8,12-13, 17
In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.

Second Reading Romans 15:4-9
Inspired by the scriptures, Christ's followers are called to be examples of tolerance for the world to follow.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 3:1-12
John the Baptist calls for repentance because the judge is coming.

Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Sunday 4th December 2022

Sunday Year A

Second Sunday of Advent

Weekday Cycle II

"If you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit."

Service Times & Intentions

Saturday Vigil (St Michael's)	3 Dec	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	4 Dec	9.00am	Donald and Barbara Campbell RIP
Sunday (St Helen's)	4 Dec	11.00am	Dominic, Winnie and Julia Kilroy RIP
Tuesday (St Helen's)	6 Dec	10.00am	Anne Clark RIP
Wednesday (St Michael's)	30 Nov	10.00am	Bernadette McVey RIP and Peggy Lennika RIP
Thursday (St Helen's)	8 Dec	10.00am	People of the Parish
Friday (St Helen's))	9 Dec	12 noon	Requiem for Anne Clark
Saturday (St Michael's)	10 Dec	10.00am	Brian Smith RIP
Saturday Vigil (St Michael's)	10 Dec	5.30pm	Susan and Alan Haigh Golden Wedding
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	11 Dec	9.00am	Milly Connors and Paddy Connors RIP
Sunday (St Helen's)	11 Dec	11.00am	Barry Cooper 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 story goes that someone once asked the Pope what would he do if he looked up in the sky and saw Christ descending from heaven in glory, with all the angels heralding his second coming as the world comes to an end. After thinking for a moment, the Pope said, "Look busy." You sometimes see the words "Jesus is coming, look busy" on bumper stickers too. The joke is not just that there's no point trying to fool Jesus, but that when the second coming is here, the time for busyness is past. To say the least, big changes are coming! But there can be a comfort in routine, and when big changes come along there is always a temptation to keep our heads down and focus on "business as usual".

This is especially so when the change that's coming threatens a situation that we've grown comfortable with. Perhaps we have got used to certain perks or privileges. Imagine a shake-up like this, maybe at work or at school, in your family life perhaps... everyone else seems happy about it, but what about you? It's easy to imagine how we might smile and go along with it, while secretly being determined not to get knocked off our perch, not to let go of our comfortable life.

John the Baptist's preaching took place in the desert, the wilderness. In the Old Testament, the wilderness is an in-between place, a place of journeying. The people of Israel entered it through the Red Sea when they escaped from Egypt, a place of slavery; but it was not their final destination: this was to be the Promised Land, and to enter that land they had to cross the River Jordan. This is why the Baptist performed his ministry there: to show that by repenting of their sins the people could at last truly enter that land. Whatever side of the river they lived on, their true homeland was nowhere other than with God in heaven.

But were they really willing to make that journey? John seems sceptical when the Pharisees and Sadducees come to him for baptism, and warns them of the danger of presumption. Perhaps they were coming to be baptised just because John's movement was popular, and they didn't want to seem out of touch with the latest religious fashion. They were, after all, the leaders and opinion-formers of the Jewish people, and here was a popular movement they couldn't afford to ignore.

They would let themselves be immersed in the water, but then go back home to carry on fighting among themselves for power and influence, their hearts and minds unchanged. But this makes a mockery of baptism, which is supposed to be an outward sign of our belonging to God's coming kingdom. That kingdom is what Isaiah promises us in our first reading, a kingdom of peace that the world cannot give. For those unwilling to live in such a land, to be gathered into God's barn, the alternative is a fire that will never go out: carrying on as they are is not an option. The same challenge is presented to us today: do we truly want to live in the kingdom of God, to be citizens of heaven, or – if we are honest – would we be happy just to carry on as we are? Do we go through the motions of our religious rituals because it seems like the right thing to do, because it's how we were brought up, because our friends and family are doing it? Or do we sincerely desire to be part of God's harvest? Although in some ways we are still making our journey through the wilderness of life, and the busyness of the world has its calls upon us, Christians are called to live already as children of the kingdom.

The call of John the Baptist to show the fruit of repentance is echoed by St Paul, who invites the Christians in Rome to glorify God by their love for one another. We want those outside the Church to believe that our faith is more than empty words and meaningless rituals, so we might ask ourselves whether people can look at us and see that we behave as citizens of heaven. Do we show one another patience, tolerance, compassion and mercy? The changes the Gospel invites us to make can be hard to contemplate, but if we encourage and support one another we can truly embrace God's kingdom.

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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 Carol Clamp who all died recently.

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 note change to masses for those days.

Please keep their families and friends in your prayers

Sick & Retired Clergy

This 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.

Bonus Ball - Goldthorpe and Hoyland

The Bonus Ball last Saturday was number 11. The winner in Sacred Heart was M Burnitt winning the rollover £50. In St Helen's the winner was D Butterworth, winning the usual £25.

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.

Sacred Heart, Goldthorpe

This year the parishioners at Sacred Heart have decided that instead of sending personal Christmas cards there will be one collective card for everyone to sign and have a collection Box for donations for a chosen charity of Fr Declan's. This year it will be the Hallam Bethlehem Fund.

Christmas Mass Times			
24 th December	Christmas Eve	St Michael's	5.30pm
	Midnight Mass	St Helen's	12.00am
	Christmas Day	Sacred Heart	10.00am

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