

3rd Sunday of Advent

First Reading Isaiah 35:1-6. 10
Desolate, dry places will be transformed into paradise. Creation's praise joins human praise, recognising God's marvellous works. We daily need to renew our faltering faith.

Responsorial Psalm 145:6-7,8-9a,9b-10
Come, Lord, and save us

Second Reading James 5:7-10
James emphasises patience, explaining that we must wait patiently just as a farmer waits for seeds to grow

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11
Jesus wants to assure both John and his disciples that he is the Messiah. He also reminds them that his power is displayed in humble acts of service rather than spectacular displays of political power.

Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Sunday 11th December 2022

Sunday Year A

Third Sunday of Advent

Weekday Cycle II

"Happy is the man who does not lose faith in me."

Service Times & Intentions

Saturday Vigil (St Michael's)	10 Dec	5.30pm	Susan and Alan Haigh Golden Wedding
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	11 Dec	9.00am	Miley Connors and Paddy Connors RIP
Sunday (St Helen's)	11 Dec	11.00am	Barry Cooper RIP
Tuesday (St Helen's)	13 Dec	10.00am	Brian Cutts RIP
Wednesday (St Michael's)	14 Dec	1.00pm	Funeral service for Mary Kenny
Thursday (St Helen's)	15 Dec	10.00am	Peter Hutchinson RIP
Friday (Sacred Heart)	16 Dec	12 noon	Margaret Bennett RIP
Saturday (St Michael's)	17 Dec	10.00am	Barrett and Priestly Families
Saturday Vigil (St Michael's)	17 Dec	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	18 Dec	9.00am	Boleslaw Przybysz RIP
Sunday (St Helen's)	18 Dec	11.00am	Margaret & Mint Burkinshaw 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, followed by the **MARIST WAY** at 2.00pm on 14th December.

This time last year, the United Nations annual conference on Climate Change – COP 26 – had just concluded in Glasgow. While world leaders met inside the summit, climate campaigners – many of them Christian – campaigned for climate action outside. Near the front gates, a banner of Christian Climate Action read "Stop Climate Chaos Deaths" and below it was a line-up representing seven dead bodies covered with white sheets labelled "War", "Famine", "Pollution", "Skin Cancer", "Drought", "Suicide", "Floods". The drama highlighted that the climate crisis and associated issues were already having a profound impact on communities and ecosystems around the world.

However, the same group also organised a "Coat of Hopes" which travelled with campaigners walking to the conference from London. The patchwork garment appeared at a Global Day of Action in Glasgow and conference delegates were invited to wear the coat to feel the weight of responsibility of the hopes, fears and prayers of ordinary people across the UK and the world for the environment and for vulnerable communities. Sewn onto the coat were more than three hundred patches produced by local church groups. The patches showed grief for loss of species, remembrances of landscapes, prayers that hearts could expand to welcome refugees displaced by climate breakdown, and also positive dreams of carefree joy in nature and living in peace. The Coat of Hopes displayed bees on flowers, birds feeding their young, and phrases like "Protect our home", "Waste is a design fault" and "Save our children's future".

Today's reading from Isaiah is full of joy. This third Sunday of Advent is called "Gaudete" Sunday and that is why we light the pink candle. "Gaudete" means "rejoice". The prophet inspires thoughts of a world of hope, a world of God's sure and strong promise to lift those who are bowed down. All creation will be fruitful, reflecting God's love. In the Gospel we sense a feeling of anticipation growing among the people. This is picked up in the Psalm and the second reading, which emphasise God's faithfulness to us. It is difficult during the trials of our lives to continually praise God in all the circumstances we experience. But that is what faith

is and we must be patient. Faith is bigger than our today and filled with the promise of tomorrow.

In the Gospel reading we hear that John the Baptist is so important because he urges people to turn from sin and towards God to experience God's mercy. Such challenges are crucial for any reform or authentic transformation of people or groups. That is why we focus on John the Baptist every Advent. However, Jesus' teaching goes way beyond John the Baptist. Christmas always renews our commitment to bring God's revolutionary love into a world that so desperately needs it. It is the Lord who brings love and healing into our lives.

We are prompted to consider: what kind of changes do we seek in Advent? Advent is a time to prepare not only materially but also spiritually for the coming of the Lord. It is a time to step outside our busy lives, our tasks and appointments, and simply recognise God's loving presence in all humanity and in the natural world. Take some time today to look up into the sky and be aware of breathing, taking in the fresh God-given air that keeps us alive. And can we be of service to people who are sick or in trouble or worried about facing Christmas on a low income? Can we give time to people who might be depressed or who do not have many friends? As Christmas draws near, let us glorify God for sending Christ to walk alongside us on this earth.

On Gaudete Sunday, we are reminded to rejoice in the living of our ordinary lives – to remember God's gifts to us in family and friends, in work and in play and in the natural world – to remember God loves us more than we could ever understand. We can have hope in our hearts and trust in God that we are able to do this in good and bad times. Does this mean we should go about our daily lives with a constant smile on our faces? Well, we could smile more often than we do. We could be more willing to focus on our blessings rather than our problems. As Advent progresses and Christmas draws near, let us pray for a heightened awareness of God's presence among us and openness to being changed and blessed by it.

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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 Hault, 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.

Requiescat in Pace

We pray for the repose of the soul of Fr John Windle, retired priest of the Diocese, who died recently. Please keep his family and friends in your prayers.

Sick & Retired Clergy

Thank you for your generous donations. The parish raised £224.03 towards the fund

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.

St Helen's School Carol Concert

KS2 are holding their Carol Concert in Church on Thursday 15th December at 2pm. All Parishioners are welcome.

Bonus Ball - Goldthorpe and Hoyland

The Bonus Ball last Saturday was number 23. The winners were M Booth in Sacred Heart and M Smith in St Helen's.

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.

Deanery Reconciliation Service at Holy Rood

You are invited to the service at 7.00pm on Thursday 15th December

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