

Nativity of the Lord

VIGIL MASS

Responsorial Psalm 88:4-5,16-17,27,29
I sing forever of your love, O Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Tomorrow there will be an end to sin in the world and the saviour of the world will be king.

Alleluia!

MIDNIGHT MASS

Responsorial Psalm 95:1-3,11-13
Today a saviour has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord

Alleluia, alleluia!

I bring you news of great joy: today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord.

Alleluia!

10.00am MASS

Responsorial Psalm 97:1-6
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Alleluia, alleluia!

A hallowed day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, worship the Lord, for today a great light has shone down upon the earth.

Alleluia!

Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Sunday 25th December 2022

Sunday Year A

Nativity of the Lord

Weekday Cycle II

"The Word was the true light... coming into the world."

Far away from where Jesus was born, in the city of Rome, there stood a grand temple to the Roman god Saturn. Eight noble pillars still remain, even though it was built nearly five hundred years before the birth of Jesus, had to be restored after a fire, and eventually fell into ruin. Just as we celebrate festivals and holy days, so did pagan Romans; and Saturnalia, as they called it, was the most popular feast in the Roman calendar. It was a public holiday lasting from 17 to 25 December, with music and dancing, parties and colourful costumes. Homes were decorated with greenery, candles were lit and carried around, and people gave each other presents.

If you think this sounds a bit like Christmas, you are right. No one had recorded the date when Jesus was born, and so when the Church decided to fix a suitable day to celebrate it, 25 December was chosen, the last day of Saturnalia. For as well as the singing and merriment, one Saturnalia custom that particularly interested the Church was that domestic slaves changed places with their masters on that day, and the masters waited on the slaves. The Church thought: did Jesus not say, "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve"? And St Paul had written, "His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave." Saturnalia also included the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year, after which daylight begins to increase. As it was a festival of light, Christians thought it an appropriate day to celebrate the coming of Jesus, the light of the world.

Christianity is not a narrow faith. The Gospel tells us that every human being is enlightened by God, whether they recognise God or not. Members of other religions, and people without faith, have light. The Second Vatican Council, in its Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions, said: "The Catholic Church rejects nothing of what is true and holy in these religions. It has a high regard for the manner of life and conduct, the precepts and doctrines which, although differing in many ways from its own teaching, nevertheless often reflect a

Service Times & Intentions

Saturday Vigil (St Michael`s)	24 Dec	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday (St Helen`s)	25 Dec	Midnight Mass	Peter Hutchinson RIP
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	25 Dec	10.00am	Christine Haigh RIP
Tuesday (St Helen`s)	27 Dec	10.00am	Anne Clarke RIP
Wednesday (St Michael`s)	28 Dec	10.00am	Yorkshire Brethren
Thursday (St Helen`s)	29 Dec	10.00am	Dominic Kilroy RIP
Friday (Sacred Heart)	30 Dec	10.00am	Holy Souls
Saturday (St Michael`s)	31 Dec	10.00am	Colin Hermitage RIP
Saturday Vigil (St Michael`s)	31 Dec	5.30pm	Austin and Mary Tarmey RIP
Sunday (St Helen`s)	1 Jan	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	1 Jan	11.00am	Owens Family

ray of that truth which enlightens all men and women." The light of reason, of goodness and of truth is found in everyone, but many do not realise it as the light of God.

Therefore God sent John the Baptist to witness and speak for the light, so that everyone might believe. The second reading reminds us that "At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets." But now God has spoken through God's Son, Jesus, who came to live among us: "The Word was made flesh." This is the belief grasped by St Thomas, who on seeing Jesus after his resurrection murmured, "My Lord and my God", words we might utter silently when the host and chalice are raised above the altar at Mass.

Why was Jesus born? Why did God send him into the world? The Gospel tells us that to all who accepted him "he gave power to become children of God". Those who recognise that the light within them, the desire to do good, the desire to love, the desire to seek the truth, is implanted by God really have become "children of God". When we grasp this we are impelled to adore the God who made us, the God who is the light within us, the source and origin of love, beauty and goodness. The wonder of Christmas is that, like the ancient Roman devotees of Saturn, we know how to celebrate with singing and dancing, with feasting and fun, and exchanging presents as signs of love. Like them, gathering round their temple to rejoice in the light, we too gather here to rejoice in the light of the world. Christ came down to earth in order to raise us to heaven. He lived an earthly life so that even on earth we might begin to live the life of heaven as children of God. In the words of today's Collect, he humbled himself to share our humanity so that we might share in his divinity. He is the giver of immortality and we have seen "his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth".

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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 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

We pray for the repose of the soul of Colin Hermitage who died recently. Please keep his family and friends in your prayers. Colin's funeral has been arranged for Tuesday, January 10th 2023 in St Michael's church at 2.00pm

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 prayers.

Bonus Ball - Goldthorpe and Hoyland

The Bonus Ball last Saturday was number 32. The winner in Goldthorpe was M Bennett, receiving £50 rollover. In Hoyland the winner was S Haigh, receiving the usual £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

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is always available upon request.

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
O Mary, Mother of Perpetual Help	Pray for us