

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**First Reading** Zephaniah 2:3;3:12-13  
The day of judgement will leave a humble remnant to enjoy the earth in peace.

**Responsorial Psalm** 145:7-10  
How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**Second Reading** 1 Corinthians 1:26-31  
In choosing “nobodies”, God makes a nonsense of our human scale of values.

## Gospel Acclamation

### Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children.

### Alleluia!

**Gospel** Matthew 5:1-12  
Jesus teaches that only a life of integrity can bring true and lasting happiness.

## Parish of Corpus Christi

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



**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr Declan Brett.

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Sunday 29th January 2023

Sunday Year A

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekday Cycle II

*“How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*

## Service Times & Intentions

<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>28 Jan</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	Colin Hermitage RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>29 Jan</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen`s)	<b>29 Jan</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Anne Clark RIP
Tuesday (St Helen`s)	31 Jan	10.00am	Bridget and Brian Liptrott RIP
Wednesday (St Michael`s)	1 Feb	10.00am	Yorkshire Brethren
Thursday (St Helen`s)	2 Feb	10.00am	Anne Clark RIP
Friday (Sacred Heart)	3 Feb	10.00am	
Saturday (St Michael`s)	4 Feb	10.00am	Kath Cragg RIP
<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>4 Feb</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	Molly Bagnall RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>5 Feb</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen`s)	<b>5 Feb</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Bill Callaghan 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

History, some might say, is the story of human ambition and its often tragic consequences. Wealth and power, always an attractive prospect, have never been more glamorised than in our own day and age. People are encouraged to “Think Big”. There is even a children’s book entitled *Think Big!* In repurposing a well-known nursery rhyme, its author, Kes Gray, has Humpty Dumpty sitting on a wall, discussing the future with his friends. Humpty expects to end up on someone’s breakfast table – boiled – but his friends encourage him to aim higher. Had he thought of becoming an artist, asks Little Boy Blue. Maybe I’ll get a job in a space agency, Humpty thinks. He starts to imagine himself as an astronaut. Before long, he is boasting: “I’m going to be the best astronaut in the whole wide universe!” At this, Jack-Be-Nimble gives Humpty a hearty slap on the back, accidentally knocking him off the wall! “On second thoughts,” Humpty calls up, rather more meekly this time, “Make that an omelette!”

Over-ambition has its real-life casualties, too, especially in a celebrity culture that fosters unrealistic expectations. It is why, when encouraging youngsters to work hard and aim high, we may also need to remind them that it’s OK to live an unremarkable life – and better still to live a good one.

The Roman Empire in which Jesus lived was as aspirational as our own society. Glamour and power were much admired. The Jewish elite even assumed that wealth was a sign of God’s favour, and that poor people were accursed. Proudly they paraded their good fortune as though money and reputation were synonymous with a state of blessedness. Power and fame meant nothing to Jesus. He was happy in the company of people who were unimportant or scorned. He dined with tax collectors, welcomed little children, consorted with fisherfolk and, rather scandalously for those times, numbered women among his companions; some were probably widows. Many widows in those days were the poorest of the poor. In today’s Gospel, Jesus helped them see themselves as the lucky ones: “Happy those who mourn,” he said.

The widows may have been surprised to hear that, but Jesus used startling language to make people stop and think. Status and security, he was trying to say, do not bring the contentment people crave. Not even a wonderful relationship can offer any “happy-ever-after” guarantees. Ultimately, deep and lasting fulfilment comes, not from the things we have, but from the person we are and the good we do. Those truly blessed are the gentle, compassionate, humble people who suffer for doing the right thing and work hard to build bridges. They are the real princes and princesses of this world, for one day they will inherit God’s kingdom and enjoy all the comfort and recognition so far denied them.

There is nothing good about human suffering. On the contrary, Jesus’ vision of the kingdom of God was of a community where hunger and poverty are no more. But he did see a blessedness in craving for a better world; he did see contentment in living simply, or even going without, in order that others might have enough. Sharing a meal, giving to charity, working as a volunteer: there are many ways in which people willingly deprive themselves for the sake of others and, in doing so, find their own lives unexpectedly enriched. “Happy are the poor in spirit,” Jesus said. In other words, forget about thinking big: think little; think less – you won’t regret it.

We have all encountered the joyously unselfish, unassuming kind of people Jesus describes. We see them all around us: quietly getting on in the background, their minds on wholesome things, their focus away from themselves. They may get taken for granted, but they deserve respect. They are an inspiration – and their time will come, for they are the kind of people who work heroically to reduce our carbon footprint. Those who tread most gently upon this planet will be the ones to save it. Jesus made that a promise: “they shall have the earth for their heritage”, he said. Today’s Gospel makes it clear that God’s kingdom is for those with an eye to the common good rather than to their own self-interest. How farsighted Jesus was: the planet needs you; the future belongs to you.

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### **Prayers for the Sick**

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners. We remember especially Tony Walsh, Marie Bray (nee Walsh), Peter Gillott, Jan Dextor, Percy Winterton, Kath Hardy, Carole Dyson, Bernadette Houlton, 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**

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Janet O’Brien and Edie Mary Darvill who both died recently. Please keep their families and friends in your prayers.

### **Holy Hour**

On Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January a Holy Hour will be held at St. Michael’s at 6.30pm.

### **Marist Way and Rosary at Goldthorpe**

The Rosary at Goldthorpe is each **Wednesday** at 1.3pm. The Rosary will be combined with the Marist Way once a month. The next Marist Meeting with Rosary is on February 8<sup>th</sup>

### **Craft Group**

The Craft Group meet once a fortnight on Thursday morning in the Parish rooms at Wombwell from 10.00am until 12.30pm. The next meeting will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

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 18. The winner in Goldthorpe was J Whitfield, and in Hoyland the winner was J Andrews, each winning £25.

### **Monday Gentle Exercise Group**

The group has been running for several years and meets in St Michael’s church hall each Monday at 10.00am. They have been successful in obtaining funding from Barnsley Council as part of ‘levelling up’ which will cover the cost of renting the hall for a year. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Sandra, 01226 751656 or 07801490992

### **A Day of Reflection at the Beginning of Lent with Fr Denis Mc Bride CSsR**

Saturday 4th March 10:00-4:00pm at Whirlow Grange Spirituality Centre, Sheffield  
The event is free. Participants should bring their own packed lunch. Bookings can be made on the Formation and Mission Eventbrite page.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/hallam-formation-and-mission-46212155433>

### **Synod Next Steps in Hallam**

Saturday 25th March at Blessed Trinity Wickersley 10:00-2:00pm

### **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