

The Baptism of the Lord

First Reading Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7
Isaiah's description of the servant of the Lord sets the tone for the ministry of Jesus.

Responsorial Psalm 28:1-4,9-10
The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Second Reading Acts 10:34-38
Peter gives a summary account of Jesus' ministry to new converts, beginning with the story of Jesus' being baptised by John the Baptist.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens opened and the Father's voice resounded: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.'

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 3:13-17
Jesus persuades John the Baptist to baptise him along with all those who wish to live a decent human life under the word of God.

Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Sunday 8th January 2023

Sunday Year A

The Baptism of the Lord

Weekday Cycle II

"Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands."

Service Times & Intentions

Saturday Vigil (St Michael's)	7 Jan	5.30pm	Colin Hermitage RIP
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	8 Jan	9.00am	Irvin and Stella Bennett RIP
Sunday (St Helen's)	8 Jan	11.00am	People of the Parish
Tuesday (St Helen's)	10 Jan	10.00am	Anne Clark RIP
Tuesday (St. Michael's)	10 Jan	2.00pm	Funeral of Colin Hermitage
Wednesday (St Michael's)	11 Jan	10.00am	Holy Souls
Thursday (St Helen's)	12 Jan	10.00am	Audrey O'Neill RIP
Friday (Sacred Heart)	13 Jan	10.00am	John Nally RIP
Saturday (St Michael's)	14 Jan	10.00am	
Saturday Vigil (St Michael's)	14 Jan	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	15 Jan	9.00am	Irvin and Stella Bennett RIP
Sunday (St Helen's)	15 Jan	11.00am	Peter Hutchinson 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

Imagine the setting of a state banquet, with shining cutlery and glistening glasses all set out on splendid tables. The distinguished guests arrive and take their places, all in the proper order; then the king and queen come to the top table, grace is said and all sit down. There are all sorts of formal manners and customs to be observed, and rules such as which knife and fork to use for each course, and which glass to drink from.

But suddenly the company freezes: the guest of honour, sitting next to the king, has picked up, in his hand, a leg of chicken that has been served to him. This is against all the rules of etiquette. However, the king, realising the likely embarrassment that would be inflicted on his guest, picks up in his own hand the leg of chicken from his own plate and proceeds to eat it, in front of the great and good of the company, thereby inviting them to follow his example.

One of the ways in which we can be sure that a Gospel passage is historically accurate is that the main character is shown in an embarrassing light. It means that the story was too strong in the community's memory to be left out of the record, but had to be explained later in some less negative way. A good example is Peter's denial about knowing Jesus personally, afraid that admitting he knew him would get him into trouble with the Jewish authorities. There are no mosaics in St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican with the words "I know not the man" or "Get behind me, Satan!" But prominent around the inside of the dome is the Latin text "Tu es Petrus...": "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church..."

All four Gospel writers include, near the beginning of their accounts, the encounter between Jesus and John the Baptist. The question then is, who is the more important? If Jesus is the Messiah, why should he have to undergo a ritual signifying repentance and purification? Matthew presents this dilemma in the form of a dialogue between the two main characters, in which John the Baptist acknowledges Jesus' superior status, but Jesus recognises the ministry of the Baptist and wants to identify himself with all those who are coming to express their

desire to reform their way of living and to be closer to the relationship with God which the covenant expects.

This incident is another Epiphany. Jesus is revealed as the Son of God. Soon he will be put to the test as to how he understands being the Son of God, the Messiah: will he take the apparently easy way of using his power for his own advantage, or taking political influence or popular acclaim? That is the story awaiting us in our future Sunday Gospel readings.

Matthew the evangelist tells us that Jesus is Emmanuel, "God-with-us". In this story of the baptism of Jesus, he is telling us that Jesus identifies himself with anyone who wants to live a decent human life under the word of God. Jesus does not submit to being baptised because he needs to be freed or absolved from sin: he does so to associate himself with the rest of us. It might be useful to reflect that the biblical idea of sin is basically of falling short of the ideal – of missing the mark, say on a dartboard: it is not usually outright rebellion against God. If we say that we have sinned, very often we are simply admitting that we have fallen short of our ideals, that we have not lived up to our Gospel calling as we would have liked.

But in our Gospel reading today, Jesus seems to be saying to John the Baptist, whom Matthew presents as the person concerned about proper procedure, that people are more important. Like the king who picked up the chicken leg with his fingers, thereby signifying that his guest was more important than human conventions, the evangelist tells us that Jesus – Emmanuel, God-with-us – is one of us, one who understands us and lives our life completely.

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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 Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI who died last Saturday 31st December.

The funeral of Colin Hermitage has been arranged for Tuesday, January 10th 2023 in St Michael's church at 2.00pm

The funeral of Kath Cragg is arranged for Thursday, 26th January at 9.30am in St Michael's.

Craft Group

The Craft Group, after 3 years absence, is hoping to start up again on Thursday 19th 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 Offerings

A big thank you from Fr Declan for your generosity, as well as all the cards, gifts and good wishes. A big thank you to all those who helped prepare our three churches for the Christmas period, and to those who give their time to the parish in so many ways, throughout the year.

Hallam Bethlehem Fund

Thank you for your generous donations, which raised £156.50

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