

## 1st Sunday in Lent

**First Reading** Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7  
Adam and Eve yield to temptation in the garden of Eden.

**Responsorial Psalm** 50:3-6,12-14, 17

Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

**Second Reading** Romans 5:12-19  
Jesus' gift of divine life more than outweighs the loss suffered by Adam when he fell.

## Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel** Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus sees off Satan in the wilderness and shows us how to walk in the path of life.

## 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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Roman Catholic Diocese of Hallam Trust • Registered Charity Number 512021

Sunday 26th February 2023

Sunday Year A

First Sunday in Lent

Weekday Cycle II

*"All the kingdoms of the world."*

## Service Times & Intentions

<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael's)	<b>25 Feb</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>26 Feb</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Angela Hays RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen's)	<b>26 Feb</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Thanksgiving for 80 <sup>th</sup> Birthday
Tuesday (St Helen's)	28 Feb	10.00am	NO MASS
Wednesday (St Michael's)	1 Mar	10.00am	NO MASS
Thursday (St Helen's)	2 Mar	10.00am	NO MASS
Friday (Sacred Heart)	3 Mar	10.00am	NO MASS
Saturday (St Michael's)	4 Mar	10.00am	
<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael's)	<b>4 Mar</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>5 Mar</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Margaret Bennett RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen's)	<b>5 Mar</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Brian McAllister 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

Those of us of a certain age are often struck by the skill with which young people get to grips with new technology. Let's suppose we've got ourselves a new television, one of those that talks to the internet and is connected to a satellite dish. It comes with an instruction manual that seems to have been translated badly out of Chinese. When we've failed to figure out how it all works, what we need is a teenager. They'll know what to do, and will be able to show us – and being shown is much better than being told or reading the instructions.

As we enter upon our Lenten journey, our instructions are clear: pray, fast and give alms. We are told this in our liturgy, and we read it in the scriptures and the teaching of the Church. But who better than the one who wrote our instructions – the Word of God himself – to actually show us what to do?

In today's Gospel, we see Jesus living out the instructions we have received in the way that he resists the temptations of Satan. "Man does not live on bread alone": we don't fast during Lent because we want to make ourselves miserable – Lent is, after all, a joyful season – but to direct our minds and bodies towards the love of higher things, the things of heaven. Notice how the devil begins his temptation of Jesus by saying, "If you are the Son of God..." In other words, take advantage of being special; but Jesus' reply places himself in perfect solidarity with his fellow human beings: "*man*" – in other words, every human being – does not live on bread alone. In the temptations in the wilderness, we see Jesus living out what St Paul says about him in the letter to the Philippians: he does not cling to his equality with God, but empties himself, taking the form of a servant. Notice that all of this happens in the wilderness. In the scriptures, the wilderness or desert is a place of temptation, of trial, but it is also a place of revelation, where prophets like Moses and Elijah encounter the living God. As we read about Jesus' temptations, we are encountering God living as a human being, tempted in all things as we are, and showing us how to live without sin.

To live like this is to walk the path that leads to heaven, and so we must focus on God. Not putting God to the test, we must instead worship God, serving God alone.

The goal of Jesus' earthly life was to lead us to heaven, and the goal of our lives, and of our Lenten observances, is to follow in the path that he has trodden for us. When Satan offers Jesus all the kingdoms of the earth, Jesus rejects that offer because he is laying claim, on our behalf, to something much greater: the kingdom of heaven. This last temptation of Jesus points towards the very end of St Matthew's Gospel, where Jesus and the apostles find themselves not in the desert but on a high mountain – another place of revelation. Here Jesus says, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." By walking the way of the cross, Christ has won, for himself and for us, far more than Satan ever pretended to offer.

When we undertake our Lenten penances, let us remember that we are doing so in imitation of Christ. He has shown us how to live, how to fulfil the instructions that God has been offering since the call of Abraham. If we forget this, there is a danger that Lent can be for us a moment of temptation: the temptation to think that if we work hard enough, if we pray hard enough, if we make ourselves miserable enough, we can earn ourselves a place in heaven.

Imitating Christ means letting go of pride, letting go of a sense of our own achievements. Instead, everything has been achieved for us by Jesus, and in particular by his death and resurrection. In a few weeks we will be celebrating that paschal mystery on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. The purpose of Lent is to prepare us for that celebration by reminding us that through this mystery he has opened for us the gate of paradise. Letting go of pride and rejoicing to share in the path of life opened up for us by Jesus is the real meaning of our Lenten observances.

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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, 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.

### **Bonus Ball - Goldthorpe and Hoyland**

The Bonus Ball last Saturday was number 29. The winner in Goldthorpe was T McCoy, and in Hoyland the winner was Ellen Cooper

### **Message from Lee Conway**

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, I shall be walking the Three Peaks Challenge to raise funds toward the cost of sending some of our young people to Portugal for World Youth Day in August.

I have a crowdfunder and here is a link:

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/3-peaks-for-hallam-wyd>

*Thank you*

### **Masses for next Week.**

Fr Declan will be away studying next week. Please note there will be no weekday masses

### **First Holy Communion Programme 2023**

The next meeting will be on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February from 6.00pm to 7.15pm in St Michael's Church Hall and is for the children only.

### **Lent Day By Day Booklets**

Booklets are now available from the back of church. Please take on for free or, if you wish, make a donation of £1. Junior versions for children are also available.

### **40th Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, 30th June–6th July 2023**

Bishop Ralph invites you to join him on this special pilgrimage. The cost is £840.00 per person for 6 nights Full Board (excl. Insurance), flying from Leeds Bradford Airport direct to Lourdes. Booking forms available to download at [www.hallam-lourdes.com](http://www.hallam-lourdes.com) Enquiries 07724 650066 or 01302 247910.

Hallam Youth – Lourdes Young people travel with their school groups but this year places are available for young people aged 16+ in parishes, who do not attend Catholic schools, who wish to join Hallam Youth on the diocesan pilgrimage. Email [smcdonald@hallam-diocese.com](mailto:smcdonald@hallam-diocese.com) for details

### **CAFOD Family Fast Day**

This year's Lenten Family Fast Day will be next Friday 3rd March. Envelopes are available at the back of church. Please consider using the Gift Aid slip if you are a UK Taxpayer, thus enabling CAFOD to benefit further from your generous donations.

### **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
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