

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

**First Reading** Isaiah 58:7-10  
If we are prepared to share even life's essentials with others and to act with justice, then we will be very close to God.

**Responsorial Psalm** 111:4-9  
The good man is a light in the darkness for the upright.

**Second Reading** 1 Corinthians 2:1-5  
Our faith should not be placed in human wisdom, but in God's power.

## Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the World, says the Lord, anyone who follows me will have the light of life.

### Alleluia!

**Gospel** Matthew 5:13-16  
If we are truly the salt of the earth and the light of the world, people should be able to see Jesus alive and active in us.

## 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 5th February 2023

Sunday Year A

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekday Cycle II

*"You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world."*

## Service Times & Intentions

<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
Tuesday (St Helen`s)	7 Feb	10.00am	Tony and Barbara English RIP
Wednesday (St Michael`s)	8 Feb	10.00am	Colin Hermitage RIP
Thursday (St Helen`s)	9 Feb	10.00am	Deceased Members of the Wildsmith Family
Friday (Sacred Heart)	10 Feb	10.00am	
Saturday (St Michael`s)	11 Feb	10.00am	People of the Parish
<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>11 Feb</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	Terrance Nichol RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>12 Feb</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Catherine Haigh RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen`s)	<b>12 Feb</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Special Intention (MM)

**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

Just imagine, as a child, being captured, sold as a slave and treated with such brutality that you forgot your own name. This happened to a girl whom her captors called "Bakhita". We will celebrate the feast day of St Josephine Bakhita on Wednesday, but it's worth thinking of her a few days early because today's readings might have been composed with her in mind. St Josephine Bakhita, the patron saint of her native Sudan and of the survivors of human trafficking, was abducted as a child. Her captors mistreated her and forced her conversion to Islam. Yet even as an abused child, she experienced God without ever knowing God's identity. She said, "Seeing the sun, the moon and the stars, I said to myself: Who could be the Master of these beautiful things? And I felt a great desire to see him, to know him and to pay him homage."

Eventually, Bakhita found freedom, was baptised as Josephine and became a Canossian Sister. Instead of living in anger and bitterness for all she had suffered, she wrote, "If I was to meet those slave raiders that abducted me and those who tortured me, I'd kneel down to them to kiss their hands, because, if it had not been for them, I would not have become a Christian and religious woman." Before her death she declared, "The whole of my life has been God's gift."

In today's Gospel, Jesus declares that salt which has lost its flavour has also lost its value and is good only for being crushed underfoot. Unfortunately, some people are also regarded as worthless and are figuratively trampled upon by others. We're all used to the idea of bullying and may have been its victims. But few of us have experienced slavery, a very common phenomenon in Jesus' day. Sadly, the practice of slavery has never died out. Today, when someone is trafficked and sold into slavery, they are still considered to be disposable property, without their individual rights or freedoms. They are put on a par with the tasteless salt of which Jesus spoke.

Jesus described us as "the light of the world", using the image of a hill-top town that cannot be hidden. Yet the person who is so visible to the surrounding world also becomes vulnerable to persecution. How many human rights activists are arrested and become the victims of injustice, like Jesus? Jesus asked us to allow

our inner light to shine before the world so that people could see it and give glory to God. If we have eyes to see, growing into that flavourful salt or the lamp on a lampstand also means recognising the people who are considered worthless. Becoming the light of the world means being, like Jesus, prepared to suffer the consequences of speaking the truth to the powerful and unscrupulous people of the world.

Cruelty and violence are things that many of us fail to comprehend. We might recognise causes and effects, but surely it wouldn't occur to us to deliberately cause unjustified pain to another person? That's why, for example, when Russian military forces attacked Ukraine, millions came together to support the invaded country's suffering people, often performing extraordinary acts of kindness and heroism. But amid the international concern and generosity, a few individuals saw the refugee crisis as an opportunity to line their pockets through people trafficking and modern slavery. We are, rightly, appalled at such behaviour. Yet such abuse also happens on our own doorstep. As a police officer remarked, London's Oxford Street, an iconic and very busy tourist destination, is targeted by people traffickers. Most pedestrians wouldn't know that they had just witnessed someone being bought, sold and handed over to horrors beyond the imagination of the crowds of passing shoppers – and so traffickers repeatedly escape justice.

Did St Josephine Bakhita's abduction happen in broad daylight in the public gaze? We have no way of knowing. Despite the cruelty she encountered, Josephine became a saint. Perhaps today there are many other saints among the victims of human trafficking, modern slavery and abuse. We don't know – but God knows, and that is crucial. Men, women and children are not the tasteless salt to be trampled underfoot. Those who campaign for human rights and values to be respected are shining lights in our society – not targets for shooting practice. We all deserve dignity and respect and we are all called to give dignity and respect to others.

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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.

### **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

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

The Bonus Ball last Saturday was number 25. The winner in Goldthorpe was S Fey, and in Hoyland the winner was H Grayson, each winning £25.

### **Catholic Association for Racial Justice 12<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

In our task, as disciples of Christ, our responsibility is to make sure people are treated with dignity at work and are not exploited. Migrant communities and those suffering from racial abuse are particularly vulnerable to being drawn into unjust working conditions and labour exploitation. Funds raised from next week's second collection will be used for promoting racial justice in England and Wales. You can find more about their good works by visiting <https://www.carj.org.uk>

### **Dearne Churches Together**

The February DCT prayer meeting will be held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 1.45pm at Goldthorpe Pentecostal Community Church, Market Street, looking at St Paul's letter to the Ephesians 3:16-19 and focussing on the Love of God. All are welcome

### **Family Fun Day Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 10.00am-1.00pm**

At Goldthorpe Pentecostal Church, Market Street. The focus is on kindness and the parable of the Good Samaritan. Free entry, free refreshments, crafts and activities for all the family.

Please book in to help with catering, etc. Contact Julie on 07729 421405 or email [julie@gpcchurch.co.uk](mailto:julie@gpcchurch.co.uk)

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

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> 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>

### **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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