

## 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 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Sunday Year A

Third Sunday in Lent

Weekday Cycle II

*"Anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again."*

Throughout the year the Atacama Desert in Chile normally receives less than twelve millimetres of rain. All that can be seen is mile after mile of dust and barren landscape. But if there is a year with unusually high rainfall, the desert blooms and is suddenly filled with flowers in vibrant colours that can be seen throughout the coastal valleys. All of these flowers have lain dormant for months, even for years, but they haven't died – they are just waiting for the water they need to turn a barren landscape into a lavish garden.

If you saw or walked through the desert on a normal day, it would take a considerable act of faith to believe that anything could possibly grow there. The view from the surface is anything but encouraging, but there is potential life hidden beneath the brown dust. Today's readings suggest that we are like that. To ourselves, and perhaps to others, it may seem that there is no life in us, no potential for growth or change. But God has been a gardener since the beginning, and knows what lies in our fallow ground, just waiting to flower and become fruitful.

In his encyclical on hope, *Spe salvi*, Pope Benedict wrote: "the Christian message [is] not only 'informative' but 'performative'. That means: the Gospel is not merely a communication of things that can be known – it is one that makes things happen and is life-changing... The one who has hope lives differently" (2).

We see Jesus making things happen in his life-changing encounter with the Samaritan woman. His message is performative, in that it brings something to life in her that has been there potentially, although only he can see it. This woman has been living in shame, avoiding her neighbours. No woman was allowed to divorce her husband in ancient Samaria, so it is likely that she was widowed or abandoned repeatedly. There must have been a lifetime of grief and hurt in her. But Jesus is willing to make himself vulnerable to her, to be dependent on her generosity and willingness to engage, despite all the social taboos against this. He creates what Pope Francis has called "a culture of encounter", by offering her welcome and listening to her questions. He has hope and trust in her and invites her to hope and trust in his offer of "living water". His gift of the Spirit to her allows what has been hidden in her to grow and flourish like the desert blooming.

### 3rd Sunday in Lent

**First Reading** Exodus 17:3-7

The book of Exodus tells the story of God's unfailing desire to be in relationship with us. However unfaithful we may be, however many false idols we may turn to in our search for security, God will never fail us and always holds to the covenant promises.

**Responsorial Psalm** 94:1-2,6-9

O that today you would listen to his voice:

'Harden not your hearts.'

**Second Reading** Romans 5:1-2. 5-8

Paul writes to the Romans, reminding them that through God's grace they have a reliable hope that cannot be disappointed. This is not cheap and easy grace, but the power, through Christ, to live differently and to trust in his promises.

### Gospel Acclamation

Lord, you are really the saviour of the world; give me living water, so that I may never get thirsty.

**Gospel** John 4:5-42

The story of the woman of Samaria is rich with resonance. Jesus comes to meet this woman where she is. He listens to her questions and her struggles with faith, trust and hope. He invites her to change her perception of God and by doing so changes her experience of herself.

### Service Times & Intentions

<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael's)	<b>11 Mar</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>12 Mar</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Christine Haigh RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen's)	<b>12 Mar</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Audrey O'Neill RIP
Tuesday (St Helen's)	14 Mar	10.00am	
Wednesday (St Michael's)	15 Mar	10.00am	The Yorkshire Brethren
Thursday (St Helen's)	16 Mar	10.00am	
Friday (Sacred Heart)	17 Mar	10.00am	People of the Parish
Saturday (St Michael's)	18 Mar	11.00am	Lisy Shaji RIP
<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael's)	<b>18 Mar</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	Deceased Members of the Goddard Family
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>19 Mar</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Margaret Bennett RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen's)	<b>19 Mar</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	People of the Parish

**Divine Mercy Chaplet** is at 3.00pm on Fridays at St. Michael's Church

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation** is always available upon request.

St Paul tells us that the three cardinal virtues are faith, hope and love, with the greatest being love, but it becomes clear that without faith there can be no genuine hope, and without these two there can be no lasting love. We are challenged by God to have hope not only in God's saving grace but in our own capacity for leadership, even when we don't feel equal to the task. Both Moses and the Samaritan woman became leaders when they learned that God's power can and does overcome our fragility. In God's eyes, whatever our weaknesses, we are enough. When we open ourselves up to live in intimate relationship with Jesus, nothing can separate us from God's love. On our own we are powerless, and we know this. With God, all things are possible, and even our poor efforts can make a difference to how the world is and will be.

God repeatedly chooses sinners like ourselves to bring about God's saving purpose. We become people who live differently, knowing that we make a difference. This isn't done in grand gestures of spectacular sanctity but simply in our capacity to embrace the promise of richness within the present moment, even if that richness is beyond our understanding. In his apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, "The Joy of the Gospel", Pope Francis spoke of "the joy which we experience daily, amid the little things of life" (4). When we begin to seek and find God in all the ordinary, daily encounters of life, we become open to the gift that they are to us. This is what turns us into people of hope, capable of giving hope to the world.

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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, Michael Bennett, Janette Barber, 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.

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

The Rosary at Goldthorpe will be every **Wednesday** at 1.3pm. The Rosary will be combined with the Marist Way once a month. The next Marist Meeting with Rosary is on Wednesday March 15th.

### **CAFOD Family Fast Day Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**

Thank you for your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day Give today using the envelope or at [cafod.org.uk/give](http://cafod.org.uk/give) and please join us in praying for CAFOD's development and emergency response work all over the world.

### **Diocesan Annual Appeal for LIFE**

Next weekend there will be a second collection in support of the LIFE charity whose three aims are to speak out against the injustice of abortion, to offer help and support to pregnant mothers and their children, and to share the pro-life message.

More information can be found by visiting the LIFE website [www.lifecharity.org.uk](http://www.lifecharity.org.uk) or TEXT TO TALK 07860077339 or National Helpline 08088025433

### **Knights of St Columba Easter Egg Appeal.**

As in previous years, the Knights are asking for donations of Easter Eggs for children who have to spend Easter in Barnsley Hospital. If you can help, please leave your donations at the back of church. Thank you

### **Easter Flower Collection**

There will be a basket at the back of church at the Sacred Heart, Goldthorpe each Sunday morning up to Easter for donations for Easter flowers. Thank you.

### **`Jesus of Nazareth`**

The 1977 mini series `Jesus of Nazareth` will be screened during Lent as a cinematic pilgrimage with Our Lord. The movie is aired in four sections, the next one is on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 6:30pm in the parish room at Sacred Heart, Goldthorpe. It's a great movie and all are welcome.

### **Lenten Lunch and Stations of the Cross**

Mass on Saturday mornings during Lent will be at St Michael's, Wombwell, at 11.00am, followed by Stations of the Cross and a light lunch of vegetable soup and bread. A warm welcome to all. For the lunch, please add your name to the list at the back of church or contact Liz Salmon. See posters for details.

### **Stations of the Cross**

Fr Carl Schaefer and our Anglican friends at St John and St Mary Magdalene, Goldthorpe, invite us to join them for Stations of the Cross at 6pm each Friday during Lent. All are welcome

### **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>

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

The next meeting will be on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March from 6.00pm to 7.15pm in St Michael's Church Hall and is for the children only.

### **Anointing of the Sick**

Fr Declan will now need more time to respond to call outs, so please do not leave it to the last minute.

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

The Bonus Ball last Saturday was number 7. The winner in Goldthorpe was Paul Goddard and in Hoyland the winner was D Smith, each winning £25

### **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