

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

Sunday Year A

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Weekday Cycle II

*"He cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!'"*

"There was a man named Lazarus" is what we're told in the opening sentence of today's Gospel. The way Lazarus is introduced suggests that he was well known to many people in the community for which the Fourth Gospel, the one attributed to John, was written. Lazarus has two sisters and this just about tells us all there is to know about Lazarus. Today's Gospel story is told from the perspective of Jesus and his disciples making their way to Jerusalem, presumably for Passover. There is also the suggestion of this being the lead-up to Jesus' own passion and death. They are approaching the town of Bethany. This was what we might call the "bed and breakfast" district for those who were travelling to Jerusalem, especially at the time of Passover.

There is a cloud hanging over the gathering as Jesus receives important information: "Lord, the man you love is ill." This message had been sent by Lazarus' two sisters, Martha and Mary. There's a strange piece of editing going on here, because the evangelist tells us that Mary was the sister of the sick man Lazarus, and it was Mary who anointed Jesus' head and wiped his feet with her hair. The problem is that, in John's account, we have still to hear that story. The raising of Lazarus will be the final "sign" in the Gospel of John – there are no "miracles" here, the writer of this Gospel calls them "signs". Jesus says to the disciples, "Let us go to Judaea", where Bethany was located. The disciples are not happy about this because, as they say, "the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?" The short answer is that they do go back to Judaea.

When Jesus and his disciples reach Bethany – a place that was used for overnight accommodation by pilgrims travelling to Jerusalem for major feasts like Passover – they are met by Martha, one of the sisters of Lazarus. Martha appears in two Gospels: this one, obviously, and in Luke where Jesus visits the sisters. Martha has a lot to say for herself in both cases. Here, she tells Jesus that her brother would not have died had he, Jesus, arrived earlier. She does concede that even now God will hear Jesus' prayers. Jesus reassures her that Lazarus will live, and Martha replies that she knows he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day. Jesus tells her that he himself is "the resurrection and the life". Whoever believes

## 5th Sunday of Lent

### First Reading Ezekiel 37:12-14

Through the prophet, the Lord speaks to the community in exile: "I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live."

### Responsorial Psalm 129

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

### Second Reading Romans 8:8-11

Paul focuses on how God's Spirit lives in us.

### Gospel Acclamation

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord, whoever believes in me will never die.

### Gospel John 11:1-45

The extraordinary account of the final sign that Jesus gave – the raising of Lazarus from death itself.

## Service Times & Intentions

<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>25 Mar</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	Enid Finean RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>26 Mar</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Paul Galvin RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen`s)	<b>26 Mar</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	People of the Parish
Tuesday (St Helen`s)	28 Mar	10.00am	NO MASS
Wednesday (St Michael`s)	29 Mar	10.00am	Margaret Barrett RIP
Thursday (St Helen`s)	30 Mar	10.00am	Holy Souls
Friday (Sacred Heart)	31 Mar	10.00am	Tony Walsh RIP
Saturday (St Michael`s)	1 Apr	11.00am	C J Thomas RIP
<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>1 Apr</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>2 Apr</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Kitty Bainbridge RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen`s)	<b>2 Apr</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Margaret and Mint Burkinshaw RIP

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

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

The Rosary is every **Wednesday** at 1.3pm in Sacred Heart, Goldthorpe

in him will never die. Martha's responses to Jesus have been very impressive, and now she tops them all: "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world."

That statement sounds very impressive – no one has referred to Jesus in these terms before. Unfortunately Martha's profession of faith is not quite good enough. Jesus gives instructions to the people at the tomb to take away the stone covering the opening, and Martha is horrified: "Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day." So much for Martha's protestation that she knew that God would do whatever Jesus asked. Clearly she did not think for a moment that this could involve her brother truly coming back to life. In fairness, how could she understand what Jesus was about to do? We've already gathered that the faith of the two sisters was quite remarkable for its time, but Jesus' intended action has no precedents. Martha has said that she believes God will do anything Jesus asks. The statement suggests that she hasn't fully taken on board Jesus' full identity and relationship with his Father.

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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.

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

Thank you for your generous donations last weekend. The sum of £235.63 was raised.

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

### **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 30th March. All are welcome, and please feel free to come to knit, sew, crochet and natter, or just for a cuppa

### **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.

### **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.

### **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 if you have concerns about a loved one.

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

The Bonus Ball last Saturday was number 58. The winner in St Helen's was C Tissington. There was no winner in Sacred Heart this week.

### **Churches Together in Hoyland & District**

Churches Together in Hoyland are holding a Good Friday Service outside Hoyland Common Co-op. Please see notice in the church porch for details.

### **Chrism Mass at St Marie's Cathedral**

St Marie's in Sheffield will be celebrating a Chrism Mass at 11.00am on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> April. All are welcome.

### **Deanery Reconciliation Service**

You are all invited to the Deanery Reconciliation Service at Holy Rood on Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm

### **Offertory Envelopes**

New Offertory envelopes starting on Easter Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> April, will be available soon for those who require them. If you haven't had envelopes before and wish to use them, please send an email, telephone or ask Fr Declan.

### **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
O Mary, Mother of Perpetual Help	Pray for us