

2nd Sunday of Easter

First Reading Acts of the Apostles

2:42-47

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles.

Responsorial Psalm 117:2-4,13-15, 22-24

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end

Second Reading 1 Peter 1:3-9

God the Father, in his great mercy, has given us a new birth as his sons and daughters, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus said: 'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

Alleluia!

Gospel John 20:19-31

Jesus said to the disciples, "Peace be with you," and showed them his hands and his side.

Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Sunday 16th April 2023

Sunday Year A

Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

Weekday Cycle II

"Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so am I sending you."

Service Times & Intentions

Saturday Vigil (St Michael`s)	15 Apr	5.30pm	Mary and Jim Fleming RIP
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	16 Apr	9.00am	Ted and Jim Wainwright RIP
Sunday (St Helen`s)	16 Apr	11.00am	Intentions of Yvonne Durkan
Tuesday (St Helen`s)	18 Apr	10.00am	People of the Parish
Wednesday (St Michael`s)	19 Apr	10.00am	
Thursday (St Helen`s)	20 Apr	10.00am	NO MASS
Friday (Sacred Heart)	21 Apr	10.00am	Dennis Turner RIP
Saturday (St Michael`s)	22 Apr	10.00am	Holy Souls
Saturday Vigil (St Michael`s)	22 Apr	5.30pm	Donald Bedford RIP
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	23 Apr	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sunday (St Helen`s)	23 Apr	11.00am	Sheila Leach 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 1.30pm in Sacred Heart, Goldthorpe

"The quality of mercy is not strained. / It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven / upon the place beneath." Thus begins the famous speech by Portia in Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice*. She continues: "It is twice blessed: / it blesseth him that gives and him that takes." In these few words Portia sums up the far-reaching power of mercy, which, as she will later say, is "an attribute to God himself". Just as repentance and forgiveness run through our Christian belief and practice, so they are dependent for their effectiveness upon the God who is merciful to all.

It takes a long time for feelings to mellow after human feuds or disagreements, whether we are talking about personal differences or wars between nations. There are perhaps fewer examples of us getting it right than getting it wrong. An example of getting it right would be the way in which South Africa transformed itself from an apartheid country into a democratic one. The way this was achieved was through the divergent groups getting together beforehand to discuss how they might move forward. To begin with, these meetings were unofficial, but then the State became involved. At an early stage they had to find a scenario that would allow them to raise difficult issues without immediately polarising into prejudice. They came up with four light-hearted descriptions. The "Ostrich" involved the present government putting its head in the sand; the "Lame Duck" meant the new government would be severely limited in its freedom to act by the constitutional settlement; "Icarus" would see a new government instituting radical economic reforms, which ultimately would bring the government down through doing too much too quickly; and finally the "Flamingo", which no one originally liked because flamingos take off very slowly, but was eventually chosen as the only viable way forward because flamingos may take off slowly but they take off together.

In the scriptural accounts of the risen Lord appearing to his disciples, the disciples do not at first recognise him. It is only when he calls them by their name, as with Mary Magdalene, or breaks the bread, as with his disciples on the road to Emmaus, that the penny drops and they realise who is speaking to them. Most commonly he appears among them and offers them his peace, using words that would become

part of every Mass: "Peace be with you." In today's Gospel, Jesus repeats these words, as though he needs to hammer home the foundation of our belief. If we do not receive his peace and share it among us, we cannot even begin our Christian journey.

With that peace alive within us, we are sent out to forgive and retain sins, for Jesus also gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit. This is John's version of the Pentecost story. If in Luke's account, in the Acts of the Apostles, the disciples then go out and speak in tongues in a way that everyone listening to them understands, in John's account the emphasis is on forgiveness and reconciliation. How do we heal and restore what is broken and lost? The story of Thomas' doubt helps us with this. Thomas is absent from the first resurrection appearance of Jesus among his disciples, and demands evidence if he is to cast off his doubt. Jesus himself provides that evidence, while noting that such visual proof is not going to be available to many. The Gospel stories are precisely what is offered to stimulate our belief and so have life through his name.

The majority of the risen appearances of Jesus occur when his disciples are gathered together. Even before he appears, they find a sense of safety in their companionship; and after the Lord ascends to his Father, as today's first reading relates, they even go so far as to live together and own all things in common. Their two practices of going to the Temple for prayer and then meeting in their own homes for the breaking of bread would become fused in time into what we now do in the Mass together. The Liturgy of the Word is followed by the Liturgy of the Eucharist, but they are both acts we share together, and it is out of that sharing – just as with the evolution of the "flamingo" – that we are empowered to bring the peace and mercy of Christ into our troubled 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 Hout, 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.

Requiescant in Pace

We pray for the repose of the souls of Richard Godfrey and Danny Barry who died recently. Please keep their families and friends in your prayers.

Anointing of the Sick

Please remember that 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.

Easter Offering

Thank you for your generous donations, best wishes and cards for Fr Declan over the Easter period.

Parish Raffle for Lee Conway's 3 Peaks Challenge

1st Prize A Marks and Spencer's Food Hamper value £50, (non-perishable items)

2nd Prize A bottle of Whisky and half a bottle of Pink Champagne

3rd Prize A £25 Morrison's Supermarket Voucher.

Raffle Proceeds are for Lee Conway's 3 Peaks Walk in April. All monies will then be given to support travel to World Youth Event in Portugal later this year for Hallam Youth. Tickets are £5 each. Please show your support by buying a ticket.

MARIST PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM - SATURDAY 1st JULY

A date for our diaries! The Marist pilgrimage to Walsingham will take place on Saturday 1st July and our coach is already booked. Usual pick up points at Wombwell and Goldthorpe, price to be £20 adults / £10 children. Sign-up notices will be displayed in all three churches towards the end of May.

Good Friday Collection for The Holy Places

Thank you for your donations, allowing us to send £85 for this worthy cause.

First Holy Communion Programme 2023

As the date of this year's First Holy Communion approaches, the next meeting will be on Monday 17th April from 6.00pm to 7.15pm in St Michael's Church Hall and is for parents and children.

Bonus Ball - Goldthorpe and Hoyland

The Bonus Ball last Saturday was number 17 The winner in Sacred Heart was M Bennett, and the winner in St Helen's was S Marren, each winning £25. Last weekend's winner in Hoyland was A Palfreyman. Spares numbers are available in Sacred Heart. Please see George Burnitt if you would like a number.

Agewell

Agewell meet alternate Wednesdays in St Michael's Church Hall and are looking for new members. It's an opportunity to meet people, have a cuppa in a warm environment, be entertained by interesting guest Speakers and enjoy day trips throughout the year. On Wednesday 26th April there will be a coach trip to visit Boundary Mills in Oswaldtwistle, costing £20. The trip is open to anyone. If you are interested in joining the Agewell group or have any questions, contact Geraldine Pickles 01226 750136 or 07518 486822

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