

Easter Sunday

First Reading Acts 10:34. 37-43
Those who saw the Lord ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

Responsorial Psalm 117:1-2,16-17, 22-23

This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.

Second Reading Colossians 3:1-4
St Paul, thrilled by the true life Christ gives us, calls on us to raise our eyes and thoughts to the things that are in heaven.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Christ, our passover, has been sacrificed; let us celebrate the feast then in the Lord.
Alleluia!

Gospel John 20:1-9
Mary Magdalene, Peter and John find the Lord's tomb empty on Easter morning.

Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Sunday 9th April 2023
Easter Sunday

Sunday Year A
Weekday Cycle II

"The other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed."

Service Times & Intentions

Easter Vigil (St Michael`s)	8 Apr	8.30pm	People of the Parish
Easter Sunday (Sacred Heart)	9 Apr	9.00am	Maureen and Dennis Walton RIP
Easter Sunday (St Helen`s)	9 Apr	11.00am	Barry Cooper RIP
Tuesday (St Helen`s)	11 Apr	10.00am	C J Thomas RIP
Wednesday (St Michael`s)	12 Apr	10.00am	Holy Souls
Thursday (St Helen`s)	13 Apr	10.00am	
Friday (Sacred Heart)	14 Apr	10.00am	Beatrice Barry RIP
Saturday (St Michael`s)	15 Apr	10.00am	Yorkshire Brethren
Saturday Vigil (St Michael`s)	15 Apr	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	16 Apr	9.00am	Ted and Jim Wainwright RIP
Sunday (St Helen`s)	16 Apr	11.00am	Intentions of Yvonne Durkan

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

It might have been expected that when Jesus rose from the dead he would have appeared to multitudes of people, incontrovertibly proving himself to be the Son of God. But Jesus had once resisted the temptation to win followers by the spectacular feat of jumping from the top of the Temple. Unbelieving people who saw him after his resurrection would not become true followers either. He might have generated amazement, a nine-day wonder, but not real followers. In one of his first sermons, St Peter explained: "God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead."

On many occasions Jesus had told the disciples that he would be put to death and rise again. But what did that mean? What would it have meant to us? "Rise from the dead." Rise where? Rise how? What did he mean by "rise"? Bodies don't come back to life. Did he mean coming back as a sort of ghost? Without the benefit of hindsight, how could anyone have understood what he meant? The first clue was when Mary Magdalene, Peter and John found the tomb to be empty; no body, with the grave clothes left behind. Tentatively they began to understand something of what he meant by "rising from the dead". But where was he? Questions still hung in the air.

Soon they would see him, but the mystery remained. The first one to see him was Mary Magdalene. She hung around the empty tomb, and he appeared to her. But she didn't realise it was Jesus; she mistook him for a gardener, until he spoke her name, "Mary". On the evening of Easter Day, he appeared, apparently without opening the door, to the apostles gathered in the upper room, and showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. Clearly it was him. Later that same evening he joined two disciples who were on their way to the village of Emmaus, but we're told that "something prevented them from recognising him". They invited him into their house for refreshments and as he broke bread "their eyes were opened and

they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight". It was so perplexing that they raced back to Jerusalem to inform the apostles about it, who told them that it was true. Jesus had risen. He had appeared to Peter. A week or two later at the Sea of Tiberias the disciples were still finding his presence mystifying; at first they "did not realise that it was Jesus".

Statements like these in the Gospel seem to reflect a belief in the early Church that perceiving the risen Christ required more than eyes and ears. The appearances were mysterious, and not for all to see, but only "certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand" who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. It needed a supernatural gift of faith, not eyes alone, to see the risen Lord. St Thomas Aquinas wrote: "after the resurrection the apostles saw with the eyes of faith the living Christ, whose death they knew as an evident fact".

The real basis of the Christian faith lies not just in the historical evidence, strong indeed though it is, that the tomb was empty and his body was not there. The real evidence of the resurrection should be sought in the fact that his disciples ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. The Jewish holy day, the sabbath, is Saturday, the last day of the week. But because Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week, Sunday, that became our holy day; and every Sunday, ever since, his followers have joined together for what they first called the "breaking of bread" and we call the Eucharist or Mass. Here we listen to his word, are taught his ways and become one with him; but more than that, in the words of St Thomas Aquinas, we can come to see him "with the eyes of faith" and to recognise him in the breaking of bread. Here in the Eucharist we worship and adore Christ's presence, risen and in glory, which we perceive in faith.

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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 Houlton, 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.

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.

Parish Raffle for Lee Conway's 3 Peaks Challenge

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 per strip. Please show your support by buying a ticket.

1st Prize 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.

.. My Day by Day Easter 2023

Copies of the booklets are available free from the back of church. Please take one with you. You may leave a small donation if you wish, towards the cost of them.

Easter Offering

Your offerings on Easter Sunday are for our parish priest. Thank you

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.

Offertory Envelopes

New Offertory envelopes starting on Easter Sunday, 9th April, are available 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.

Bonus Ball - Goldthorpe and Hoyland

The Bonus Ball last Saturday was number 49. The winner was P English in Sacred Heart, St Helen's winner will be announced next week, each winning £25. 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. The AGM is on Wednesday 12th April and 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 if you would like a number.

Damien Thorpe – Federation Executive Headteacher.

We would like to express our thanks for all Damien's hard work and dedication to our three Federation Schools. His commitment to the Staff and children of the Federation has been exemplary and he will be sadly missed. We would like to wish him well as moves on to the next chapter in his life and career.

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