

<p>15th Sunday in Ordinary Time First Reading Isaiah 55:10-11 The word of the Lord is like rain falling on the earth, enabling it to bear fruit.</p> <p>Responsorial Psalm 64:10-14 Some seed fell into rich soil and produced its crop.</p> <p>Second Reading Romans 8:18-23 Humanity, like creation, is waiting for God to set it free.</p>	<p>Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!</p> <p>Gospel Matthew 13:1-23 People are like the places where seeds fall – their faith will determine whether there is a harvest of God’s riches.</p>
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Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Service Times & Intentions

Saturday Vigil (St Michael`s)	15 July	5.30pm	Mr and Mrs Sebastian RIP
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	16 July	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sunday (ST MICHAEL`S)	16 July	11.00am	Elaine Coefield Illness
Tuesday (ST Michael`s)	18 July	10.00am	
Wednesday (St Michael`s School)	19 July	9.00am	Shaun Barrett RIP
Wednesday St Helen`s School	19 July	11.00am	
Wednesday Sacred Heart Church	19 July	2.00pm	
Thursday (St Michael`s)	20 July	10.00am	
Friday (Sacred Heart)	21 July	10.00am	Holy Souls
Saturday (St Michael`s)	22 July	10.00am	
Saturday Vigil (St Michael`s)	22 July	5.30pm	Deceased Members of Barber and Biggin Families
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	23 July	9.00am	Private Intention
Sunday (ST MICHAEL`S)	23 July	11.00am	People of the Parish

Sunday 16th July 2023 Sunday Year A
Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Weekday Cycle II
"Imagine a sower going out to sow."

Talk of climate change has made us all more aware of how the weather affects our lives, in a way that farmers have always been. What we have come to learn is that there is a key relationship between rain and what happens to the earth – and to us. Floods can be devastating, but a drought is a terrible thing. In recent times, after years of failed rains, the people of Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia have faced catastrophe with conditions akin to famine in the worst-hit areas. But as well as the rains, good harvests depend on the condition of the earth where seeds are planted. Gardeners, as well as farmers, know that, and there’s a whole industry of gardening aids to help the soil, from composts to liquid feeds and weedkillers.

Today’s Gospel reading highlights a timeless truth about people – that they love stories, and a narrative can communicate a message far more powerfully than abstract thought. Jesus was a master storyteller and often used parables to teach people. On this occasion, like the prophet Isaiah in the first reading, he uses what is essential to people for their survival – the conditions for growing crops – to make his point. He knows that people aren’t always good listeners. He has to find a way to get across vital teaching.

What he is saying here is that it is not the quality of your basic material (the seeds), or the weather (whether it rains or not) that matters – it is where the seeds are planted that really counts. We often use metaphors about seeds in our everyday language – for example, we speak of sowing an idea, or sowing seeds of doubt – and here the seeds are what God offers us by way of faith. But what happens to that faith is down to where the seed is planted. The seed that falls by the path has no earth in which to grow – something falling by the wayside will not grow at all. Matthew records that Jesus explains that this is one that has turned away from God’s love.

There are other pitfalls ahead, Jesus explains, if the seed falls where there are patches of rock. As any gardener knows, if seed is to germinate, it needs good quality soil where the roots will take hold. This is akin to someone whose response

SUNDAY MORNING MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED AT ST MICHAEL`S FOR THE TIME BEING, UNTIL ST HELEN`S IS SAFE TO BE REOPENED

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

to God is superficial: they are full of good intentions, but if they encounter any problem, they are gone. The roots that are grown enable a plant to endure; but without roots, it will not last. Even more vivid is the account of the seed among the thorns: this is like someone entangled in what the world tempts us with. But a seed in rich soil will flourish, just as will a person who hears the word of God, listens and understands it.

We might have all kinds of technologies and more advanced thinking to help grow crops nowadays, but human nature hasn't changed. The analogy Jesus offers between the seed and the conditions in which it might thrive, or die, is just as valid now. God is the sower of the seed of faith, but it is down to us as to what happens next. We are the ground in which the seed will flourish or fail and it's up to us to see that our faith grows and develops. Of course there is help available if we seek it out, from our own prayers and those of others, as well as the support that the Church can give. But we have to be ready to focus on God and on caring for our faith. Becoming distracted by the temptations of the world, whether it's drink, drugs, possessions, or just too much focus on our own pleasure, will not help us grow in faith. And being too caught up in work, or our own anxieties – not trusting in God – will also cause us to lose heart and become separated from God.

So the key is: how do we ensure we become like rich soil, where our faith will bear fruit? A start is being here at Mass. Gardeners talk about cultivation: if we cultivate the habit of listening to God regularly through prayer, through attending Mass, and loving one another and those in need, then we will be enriched and faith will grow. Faith is not something that happens once and lasts for all time: it needs us to constantly be converted to God.

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Prayers for the Sick

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners. We remember especially Julia Hill, Christine and Bill Mays, Marie Bray (nee Walsh), Peter Gillott, Percy Winterton, Kath Hardy, Carole Dyson, Bernadette Hoults, 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.

Requiescat in Pace

We pray for the repose of the soul of Zbigniew Walerianowicz who died recently. Please keep his family and friends in your prayers.

Second Collection for Sea Sunday.

Thank you for your generous donations for last weekend. The sum of £191.74 was raised.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at Goldthorpe

Each Thursday evening at Sacred Heart in Goldthorpe, there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament between 7.00pm and 8.00pm. Everyone is welcome to come spend a little time in the presence of Our Blessed Lord.

Bonus Ball - Goldthorpe and Hoyland

The Bonus Ball last Saturday was number 14. The winner in Sacred Heart was Theresa Swindells, winning the £50 rollover. The Bonus Ball in Hoyland is suspended until the church can be reopened.

Little Bits of God – Guided Talks with Guest Speaker

This stunning mosaic artwork, displayed in the Lady Chapel of St Michael's Church, is now open to the public, 10.30am till 12.30pm Monday, Wednesday and Saturday and evening sessions 6pm till 8pm Wednesday and Friday.

In addition, Fleur Dorrell, who is the Catholic Scripture Engagement Manager will be offering guided tours of this unique artwork, sharing it's story from the beginning, and how it inspires us to deepen our faith and love of the Bible through the visual medium. The events are on Wednesday 19th July 2.30-4.00pm and on Thursday 20th July at 10.30am.

Please book in advance at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/667144576387>.

A further slideshow presentation is at 7.00pm on Wednesday 19th. No need to book. For more information about Little Bits of God Mosaic visit www.godwhospeaks.uk

Sunday Coffee Mornings after Mass in Goldthorpe

Please note that there will be a summer break for coffee mornings after this Sunday, recommencing on Sunday 3rd September. Thank you.

Mass Offerings

There are plenty of Masses available for your intentions, especially for weekday masses. Please use one of the specially printed envelopes from the back of church.

St Wilfrid's Centre Events

SHEFFIELD FOLK CHORALE CONCERT - Mother of God Church, 260 Abbeydale Rd, Sheffield, Monday 17th July 7.00pm

Tickets are £6, available from www.stwilfridscentre.org or telephone 0114 2555720

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