

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading 1 Kings 3:5. 7-12
Wisdom is a gift to be sought after

Responsorial Psalm 118:57,72,76-77,127-130
Lord, how I love your law!

Second Reading Romans 8:28-30
We are chosen to be “true images” of Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 13:44-52
Jesus’ parables give a picture of the true nature of the kingdom of heaven.

Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Sunday 30th July 2023

Sunday Year A

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekday Cycle II

“The kingdom of heaven is like...”

Inhabitants of areas around the Indian Ocean have dived for pearls for almost four thousand years. Experienced divers are able to free-dive to depths well beyond the safe limits for normal scuba divers. In Japan, for more than one thousand years, many of these divers have been women, known as *ama* or “sea women”. These women, who also dive for food, are revered even today for their courage and perseverance, though their numbers are declining. However, in most cultures diving for pearls has often been the work of poor people, and sadly the financial rewards of their efforts usually went to those who were already well off. Looking for pearls is a dangerous task, though if someone is lucky enough to find one that is valuable and be able to keep it, the effects could be life-changing.

We speak of people who possess the gift of wisdom as being able to offer “pearls of wisdom”. King Solomon in our first reading today, though young, in asking the Lord for a “heart to understand how to discern between good and evil”, is rewarded by God with “a heart wise and shrewd” as none before him or after him will possess. God had a purpose for Solomon: he was chosen by God to lead the people of Israel. Our second reading today reminds us that God also has a unique purpose for each one of us. This purpose is that we are chosen to become “true images” of Christ, and children of God.

Each of us is uniquely called to be a son or daughter of God our Father, and we are invited to live out our Christian vocation as brothers and sisters in Christ. In comparing the kingdom of heaven to a treasure hidden in a field, or a pearl of great price, Jesus reminds us that the kingdom of heaven is both something to be sought after and something that requires wisdom and perseverance to attain. As with those who dive for pearls, those of us in search of the kingdom of heaven may find that we have to plumb depths within ourselves in search of courage, faith and a future with God as our Lord and guide. We may be called to sacrifice the lesser “treasure” or “pearls” in our lives so that we can rejoice in the greater gifts that Christ offers. Like those who sift the haul that is brought ashore by fishers or divers, our lives, our hearts and minds can be full of many things, but not all of them will

Service Times & Intentions

Saturday Vigil (St Michael`s)	29 July	5.30pm	Karen Barber RIP, Barber, Holmes, Hyland, Davis and Hague Families RIP
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	30 July	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sunday (ST MICHAEL`S)	30 July	11.00am	Michael Tomlinson RIP
Tuesday (ST Michael`s)	1 Aug	10.00am	
Wednesday (St Michael`s)	2 Aug	10.00am	
Thursday (St Michael`s)	3 Aug	10.00am	Yorkshire Brethren
Friday (Sacred Heart)	4 Aug	10.00am	
Saturday (St Michael`s)	5 Aug	10.00am	
Saturday Vigil (St Michael`s)	5 Aug	5.30pm	Shaun Barrett RIP
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	6 Aug	9.00am	
Sunday (ST MICHAEL`S)	6 Aug	11.00am	People of the Parish

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

lead us forward as we search for God in our lives. In fact, some of them may even be an obstacle for us in our journey towards peace, love and joy.

We might say that it requires “the wisdom of Solomon” to be able to see what is of real value in our lives. We need to seek the treasure that leads us to love God and to love one another. Jesus has promised us the kingdom of God; this is his promise to those who are poor, to those who are merciful, to peacemakers, to those who seek justice for others. In these words of Christ, we have the signposts that point us in the direction of the “treasure” of the kingdom of heaven. These are the kingdom values, and we may need to “sell” or let go of less valuable things that lay claim to our time and our way of life if we want to truly possess God’s kingdom.

Called, as we are, to be “true images” of Christ for our world, we need to choose wisely and seek the “real” treasure, which is Christ. We can, like Solomon, in prayer ask for understanding and a greater ability to judge wisely. Such gifts will engender in us a greater love and compassion for those around us. For when we understand more deeply, we can love more generously and forgive more readily.

We could wisely spend some time this week looking at what we most treasure, what is our “pearl of great price”. Let us also find time this week to appreciate and give thanks for the treasures of our faith and our family, as well as the many gifts that God has given to each one of us.

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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 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.

Requiescat in Pace

We pray for the repose of the soul of Rosemary Trask, mother of Fr Martin Trask, who died recently. Please keep her family and friends in your prayers.

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 2. There was no winner in Sacred Heart so next week will be a rollover of £50. The Bonus Ball in Hoyland is suspended until the church can be reopened.

Little Bits of God

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.

For more information about Little Bits of God Mosaic visit www.godwhospeaks.uk

Hallam Bridge

There are a few copies of Hallam Bridge, the news from Hallam Diocese, at the back of church, featuring the Little Bits of God mosaic at St. Michael's.

The file is available for everyone on the Diocese website: hallam-diocese.com
You can also subscribe to it here <https://hallam-diocese.com/bridge/> and you will receive an electronic copy as soon as it is released

Sunday Coffee Mornings and Children`s Liturgy in Goldthorpe

Please note that there will be a summer break for both the Children`s Liturgy and the coffee mornings, 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

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
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