

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading Isaiah 56:1,6-7
The Lord will bring all peoples to his holy mountain

Responsorial Psalm 66:2-3,5-6,8
Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Second Reading Romans 11:13-15,29-32
God will show mercy to all humankind.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice, says the Lord, I know them and they follow me.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 15:21-28
Jesus responds to the great faith of a Canaanite woman.

Parish of Corpus Christi

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



PARISH PRIEST: Fr Declan Brett.

23 Park Street, Wombwell Barnsley, S73 0HQ
01226 752372

email: parishofcorpuschristi@gmail.com

Website: <https://corpuschristi.hallam-diocese.com>

Facebook: Corpus Christi Dearne Valley

Parish Safeguarding Representative:
Sheila Marren 07932 722188

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Sunday 20th August 2023

Sunday Year A

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekday Cycle II

"Even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table."

Service Times & Intentions

Saturday Vigil (St Michael's)	19 Aug	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	20 Aug	9.00am	Nick Goddard RIP
Sunday (St Helen's)	20 Aug	11.00am	Shaun Barrett RIP
Tuesday (St Helen's)	22 Aug	10.00am	Michael Tomlinson RIP
Wednesday (St Michael's)	23 Aug	10.00am	Private Intention (A.D.)
Thursday (St Helen's)	24 Aug	10.00am	Holy Souls
Friday (Sacred Heart)	25 Aug	10.00am	David Barry RIP and Maureen Turner RIP
Saturday (St Michael's)	26 Aug	10.00am	
Saturday Vigil (St Michael's)	26 Aug	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	27 Aug	9.00am	Kitty Bainbridge RIP
Sunday (St. Helen's)	27 Aug	11.00am	Andy Andrews 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

"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door." These words come from the poem "The New Colossus", written by American poet Emma Lazarus, inscribed on a bronze plaque inside the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty. It is the most well-known example of a country expressing a welcome to refugees to its shores. It would be rare to find its equivalent anywhere in the world today. It may not have inspired American practice for more than a couple of decades, but during those years many thousands flocked to American shores. Most were processed through the nearby Ellis Island, which had hospitals for checking out infectious diseases and different disabilities, not to refuse entry but to establish how best to care for the different conditions.

This would change by the 1920s when the economic recession and the growing influence of theories of eugenics turned this attitude of welcome round, only allowing in those who were fit and able to contribute in an obvious way to the further development of the American way of life. By the 1950s Ellis Island would be closed, and the symbol of the recent attitude towards refugees is the wall being constructed on the Mexican border.

The attitude of the people of Israel to outsiders in the Old Testament swings between two extremes. There is a fearfulness of the hostility of surrounding foes, but there is also an ongoing attraction to their gods and practices. The prophets in particular weigh against this temptation and threaten its perpetrators with exile and destruction. At the same time there is a growing sense of the universal power of their God and a sense that all peoples will be called to the recognition of God and ensuing salvation.

The playful argument between Jesus and the Canaanite woman reflects the different elements of this attitude. Jesus claims that his calling is only to the people of Israel but he is delighted when his opponent outwits him with her clever reasoning for an extension of his powers to a wider group of people. In the Gospels, Jesus seems to like such debates, especially with women. This is perhaps because

women were seen as outsiders, having less status in society. Jesus' attitude to women helps convey the message that the Gospel is for all. Whether it is the woman with a haemorrhage, the woman of Samaria at the well, Martha, or even Jesus' own mother at the marriage feast of Cana, they all stimulate a further revelation of Jesus' calling. And he is quite happy that in this dynamic he appears to be reluctant and they provide the spur.

How welcoming to the stranger are we? For many of us the stranger can be a source of fear and danger rather than the friend we have not yet met. Our society's attitude towards refugees and economic immigrants is all too often unwelcoming and even hostile. Within our church practices we also face a difficult conundrum in our response to those we see as outsiders. If God's salvation is open to all, why do we refuse outsiders full participation in the Eucharist? This could apply whether we are talking about those who may share elements of faith with us or those who are in irregular marriage or partnership relationships. Is there a way forward?

First of all, we can take heart from the fact that things are not as cut and dried as they might first appear. Many refugees and immigrants do eventually find entry and acceptance, even if that journey may be difficult and protracted. And in the Church it's possible for outsiders now to be offered full access to the Eucharist at times such as weddings or funerals, when the desire for unity on such occasions takes precedence over the unity we have still to reach. Following the lead of Jesus, our first step may be to have the conversation with those seeking a welcome. As we come to know them better we may find shared understanding. Secondly, we are called to look forward rather than always define ourselves by the past. How could things be different in a way that would reflect greater unity rather than disunity? Looking to the past may help inform our understanding, but we also need to face the future, even if it means a step into the unknown.

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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 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.

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.

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

Bonus Ball - Goldthorpe and Hoyland

The Bonus Ball last Saturday was number 44. The winner in Sacred Heart was M Archibald winning the rollover of £50! The Bonus Ball in Hoyland is suspended for the time being.

Little Bits of God

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

More volunteers to welcome visitors are required. Please add your name to the rota at the back of church.

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

Flower Festival 9th - 10th September

St Michael's Church are holding a Flower Festival with the theme 'Care for Creation'. If you are interested in having a display, please see Liz Salmon. Please see the poster at the back of church.

Safeguarding Representatives Required

The Parish is looking for a couple more Safeguarding Representatives, ideally so that there is one in each of our churches. If you are interested, please have a word with Fr. Declan, or contact Sheila Marren, who is currently our sole Safeguarding Representative. Her contact number is 07932 722188.

St Wilfrid's Centre Charity Auction 25th September

St Wilfrid's are constantly finding ways of fundraising for their vital work in helping the homeless, vulnerable and socially excluded. Their next big fund raising event is a Charity Auction. Please see the poster at the back of church for further details, or visit www.stwilfridscentre.org

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