

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading Jeremiah 20:7-9

Despite the hardships of his calling, Jeremiah allows himself to be seduced by God.

Responsorial Psalm 62:2-6,8-9

For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God.

Second Reading Romans 12:1-2

Paul encourages the Christians of Rome to model their lives on Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 16:21-27

The paradox of the cross: this is the way to life.

Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Sunday 3rd September 2023

Sunday Year A

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekday Cycle II

"Anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it."

Service Times & Intentions

Saturday Vigil (St Michael`s)	2nd Sept	5.30pm	Shaun Barrett RIP
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	3 Sept	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sunday (St Helen`s))	3 Sept	11.00am	Nico Sikorski 2 nd Birthday
Tuesday (St Helen`s)	5 Sept	10.00am	Deceased members of the Callaghan Family
Wednesday (St Michael`s)	6 Sept	10.00am	Holy Souls
Thursday (St Helen`s))	7 Sept	10.00am	Michael Tomlinson RIP
Friday (Sacred Heart)	8 Sept	10.00am	
Saturday (St Michael`s)	9 Sept	10.00am	
Saturday Vigil (St Michael`s)	9 Sept	5.30pm	Albert and Edith Creswell RIP
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	10 Sept	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sunday (St. Helen`s)	10 Sept	11.00am	Alastair Robertson 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 "pig and chicken" principle has been quoted by people in many diverse fields of human endeavour, to encourage total dedication to a cause – whether it be Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison asking for commitment to his political agenda, or coach Mike Leach encouraging players to give 100 per cent for his American Football team. The principle is based on the fable of the pig and the chicken who were discussing the possibility of opening a restaurant. "We could call it: 'Bacon and Eggs'," says the chicken. "Each of us could make our own unique contribution to the menu." The pig considers it for a brief moment: "The problem with that," he says, "is that you'd only be involved, but I'd have to be totally committed."

Jesus says: "If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me." What he is asking for is more than simply being involved in his project, but total dedication, even to the point of self-sacrifice. It seems a strange strategy for attracting followers. And indeed, the Gospels tell us that many potential disciples did walk away from Jesus. He asks people not simply to make a one-off decision for him, but rather to walk the walk and not simply talk the talk. He is asking for genuine disciples, not fair-weather admirers. That initial decision for him has to be translated into lifelong and total dedication, even when the consequences are painful.

We see this dynamic played out in the life of the prophet Jeremiah in the first reading. The full reality of his decision to follow God's calling by becoming the Lord's prophet is starting to hit home for Jeremiah. His decision has led to humiliation, rejection, imprisonment, even danger of death. Costly discipleship indeed. And yet it almost seems as if Jeremiah has no choice – not because God has forced him, but rather because Jeremiah feels seduced by God, he can't forget the Lord. Even when he is sick of God and all the demands the Lord makes on him, there is nevertheless something so utterly attractive about God, something enthralling, a fire burning in his heart, as Jeremiah says, that he cannot resist.

Jesus states quite bluntly that following him will cost. Taking up the cross is not a one-off decision, but a way of life, a way of living life. As St Paul tells the Christians

in Rome, it involves changing our mind, putting on the mind of Christ, who came not to be served but to serve and to offer his life as a ransom for many. For Paul, it means changing our behaviour, and offering our bodies, our whole lives, as a sacrifice which is pleasing to God. Perhaps Peter tried to stop Jesus going to the cross not simply because he cared for Jesus, but because he guessed that where Jesus went, he would have to follow. Jesus' response to Peter is also an invitation to every would-be follower: "Get behind me." In other words, "Take your place as my disciple, my follower. Follow me on the road to the cross, and I promise you life, joy and fulfilment."

That might not sound very attractive. Certainly not easy. But Jesus affirms that it is worth it. Discipleship involves making hard decisions about our lifestyles, our values, perhaps the kind of jobs we will and will not do; or deciding to deal with people with gentleness, patience and forgiveness, when really we want to lash out and retaliate. It might mean not joining in with others at work when they're being racist, sexist, dishonest or crude. It might mean speaking the truth even when that makes life difficult for us. It means renouncing ourselves – forgetting ourselves and putting someone else first, putting God first.

However, a cross-shaped life is what leads to full life, eternal life. And as with Jeremiah, we can see that same pattern in our own lives. The things that are most worthwhile in our lives always cost: the huge efforts people make to be good parents to their children, or the dedication needed to make a marriage work. Consider the loyalty people show in friendships, or in caring for someone who is ill. Nothing worthwhile in life is achieved without effort, dedication and self-sacrifice. A cross-shaped life, Jesus tells us, is not just what makes this life worth living here and now; it is what makes us fit for eternal life.

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Prayers for the Sick

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners. We remember especially Phil Ward, Julia Hill, Christine and Bill Mays, Marie Bray (nee Walsh), Peter Gillott, 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.

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.

Music in Sacred Heart Goldthorpe

You may have noticed recently that Mass at Sacred Heart has had musical accompaniment, as a small group of parishioners at Goldthorpe have created a music group to restore music to Mass and practice some singing. If anyone would like to become further involved and/or contribute their own musical prowess, please speak to Joshua, Lee or Franklin after Mass for further information.

Bonus Ball - Goldthorpe and Hoyland

The Bonus Ball last Saturday was number 43. The winners were Pat O'Hanlon in Sacred Heart and M Harrison in St Helen's

Please see Pat Tomlinson in St Helen's, or George Burnitt in Sacred Heart, if you need to pay, or if you wish to join in with a chance to win £25.

Little Bits of God

If you have not yet visited this stunning mosaic artwork, displayed in St Michael's Church, you have until the end of September. 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.

An 'Evening of Culture' is being planned for Tuesday, 19th September at 7.00pm. It will include a talk by local sculptor, Richard Watts, and the writer Leonie Martin, who will read her own poem about the Little Bits of God Mosaic, which she was inspired to write after her visit to St Michael's.

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

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.

Flower Festival 9th - 10th September

Next weekend 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

Second Collection for CES 9/10th September

Next Sunday, 10th September is this year's Education Sunday, when Catholics are encouraged to reflect on the Church's enormous contribution in this country and pray for all those involved in Catholic education. There will be a second collection for this worthy cause.

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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