

<p>23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time</p> <p>First Reading Ezekiel 33:7-9 We can save one another's lives of faith.</p> <p>Responsorial Psalm 94:1-2,6-9 O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.</p> <p>Second Reading Romans: 13:8-10 Love is the answer to everything.</p>	<p>Gospel Acclamation</p> <p>Alleluia, alleluia! Your word is truth, O Lord, consecrate us in the truth.</p> <p>Alleluia!</p> <p>Gospel Matthew 18:15-20 Jesus teaches us to try to resolve our differences, knowing that he is always among us.</p>
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Service Times & Intentions

Saturday Vigil (St Michael's)	9 Sept	5.30pm	Albert and Edith Cresswell RIP
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	10 Sept	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sunday (St Helen's)	10 Sept	11.00am	Alastair Robertson RIP
Tuesday (St Helen's)	12 Sept	10.00am	NO MASS
Wednesday (St Michael's)	13 Sept	10.00am	NO MASS
Thursday (St Helen's)	14 Sept	10.00am	O'Neill Family
Friday (Sacred Heart)	15 Sept	10.00am	Ann Thorpe RIP
Saturday (St Michael's)	16 Sept	10.00am	Holy Souls
Saturday Vigil (St Michael's)	16 Sept	5.30pm	Nora and Terry Fox RIP
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	17 Sept	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sunday (St. Helen's)	17 Sept	11.00am	Andrew J Marren 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

- PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO ROSARY ON 20th SEPTEMBER
- PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO MASS ON 12th AND 13th SEPTEMBER

Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Sunday 10th September 2023

Sunday Year A

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekday Cycle II

"Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour."

A story is told about a Roman nobleman who died, leaving enormous debts that he had successfully concealed during his lifetime. When the estate was put up for auction, Caesar Augustus instructed his agent to buy the man's pillow. When some expressed surprise at the order, he explained, "That pillow must be particularly conducive to sleep, if its late owner, in spite of all his debts, could sleep on it."

While this little story might make us laugh, being in debt is a serious affair. It creates stress and leaves many people feeling vulnerable and afraid. Few of us with any sense of responsibility would be able to sleep well at night if we were in serious financial debt. We might also find it emotionally and spiritually difficult if we owe a debt of forgiveness and healing to another person. Our three readings today speak in some way about being in debt to, or having responsibility for, our brothers and sisters.

Ezekiel, in today's first reading, gives us the typical image of an Old Testament prophet and preacher. He warns his listeners about sin and judgement, and brings their attention to the wickedness around them. Throughout the Old Testament we can see many times that the prophets offer harsh judgements against the people of Israel as they stray from the path God has laid out for them. In essence, what the God of Israel wants is for all to be saved and return to the path of goodness and right.

In the second reading, Paul says, in his letter to the Romans, that love is the only debt worth incurring. It is the only thing that "cannot hurt your neighbour". This is a recurring theme with Paul: elsewhere, in his letter to the Galatians, Paul writes, "the whole of the Law is summarised in a single command: Love your neighbour as yourself." We can hear the same theme in Ephesians: "follow Christ by loving as he loved you".

Matthew speaks in today's Gospel of how we might win back our brother or sister, should there be a conflict between us. Matthew is offering us a path to reconciliation and healing. In reality, we will all, at one time or another, be in disagreement with others, and possibly with family members. Matthew offers us an opportunity to find

a different and better way of healing and forgiveness.

The threat the prophet Ezekiel speaks of is not external. It is internal. This call to healing and forgiveness is a personal call to each one of us. It is an invitation to look inwards and to seek what separates us from the love of God and our neighbour. Likewise, when Paul invites us to take on the “debt of mutual love”, we might ask: how can we do this? The answer could be found in the first letter of St Paul to the Christians at Corinth. Here Paul advises them that “Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people’s sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes. Love does not come to an end.”

Such an attitude of love is surely the backdrop to approaching those who hurt or wrong us. If we live from these principles of love, we will desire not only our own healing, but also a restoration of our relationship with our brother or sister. In seeking to live out the message of our readings today, we might ask ourselves: what do we do when we see someone straying from the path of faith? Do we shrug our shoulders and say, “That’s their choice”, or do we try to win them back with love and understanding? Equally, what do we do when we are hurt by someone close to us? Do we ruminate on the hurt done to us, or do we seek to win back those who have hurt us by adopting a loving approach? As “love is the one thing that cannot hurt [our] neighbour,” let us try to be more loving and to offer words of love and healing to those we meet this week.

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Prayers for the Sick

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners. We remember especially Ethel O`Connor, Julia Hill, Christine and Bill Mays, Marie Bray (nee Walsh), Peter Gillott, Percy Winterton, Kath Hardy, Carole Dyson, Bernadette Hoult, 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 Phil Ward who died recently. Funeral arrangements at St Helen`s will be announced next week. Please keep his 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.

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

Photographs from Marist Pilgrimage, 1st July 2023

Keith Osborn, the photographer from the Marist pilgrimage, is working on putting the photos into little booklets for us and Amanda Campbell hopes to have them at mass for the weekend of 23/24 September.

Bonus Ball - Goldthorpe and Hoyland

The Bonus Ball last Saturday was number 16. The winners were R Whitfield in Sacred Heart and M McAllister in St Helen`s, each winning £25. There are spare numbers in St Helen`s. Please see Pat Tomlinson if you are interested in joining.

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

Second Collection for CES 9/10th September

This 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.

Second Collection Home Mission Sunday 16/17th September

Each year we celebrate Home Mission Sunday, when the Bishops invite parishes to pray for the mission of the Church in England and Wales. There will be a second collection next weekend to support the work of evangelisation

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