

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading Isaiah 55:6-9
God is nearby and can be found.

Responsorial Psalm 144:2-3,8-9, 17-18
The Lord is close to all who call him.

Second Reading Philippians 1:20-24,27
Christ is in our living and dying, present to us beyond the grave and for all eternity.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessings of the King who comes, in the name of the Lord! Peace be in heaven and glory in the highest heaven.
Alleluia!

Gospel 20:1-16
The landowner practised positive discrimination towards the latecomers and less able workers.

Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Sunday 24th September 2023

Sunday Year A

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekday Cycle II

"Why be envious because I am generous?"

Service Times & Intentions

Saturday Vigil (St Michael's)	23 Sept	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	24 Sept	9.00am	John Gilliver, on being recorded as an Acolyte
Sunday (St Helen's))	24 Sept	11.00am	Andrew J Marren RIP
Tuesday (St Helen's)	26 Sept	10.00am	
Wednesday (St Michael's)	27 Sept	10.00am	Christine and Catherine Haigh RIP
Thursday (St Helen's))	28 Sept	10.00am	
Friday (Sacred Heart)	29 Sept	10.00am	
Saturday (St Michael's)	30 Sept	10.00am	
Saturday Vigil (St Michael's)	30 Sept	5.30pm	Angela McNicholas RIP
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	1 Oct	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sunday (St. Helen's)	1 Oct	11.00am	Julia Kilroy 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

Maryna had travelled across Europe from Ukraine with her husband Vanko, escaping the shelling of their hometown and doing all that they could to ensure their children's safety. Before they left the country, they had their own home, were working and had earned enough money for Maryna to study psychology at the nearby university where she was a PhD student. In addition to their own three young children, when Maryna and Vanko left Ukraine, they took responsibility for two orphans, one of them profoundly disabled. On arrival in Britain, they were desperate for work. Vanko found work on a building site. Maryna worked as a cleaner but it was difficult to make ends meet. Eventually, she had three daily cleaning jobs in addition to looking after her family and, in her spare time, continuing her studies.

Today's Gospel is particularly relevant to the lives of many people who, in a desperate effort to survive, search for even the lowest paid jobs. Jesus doesn't describe the workers in the vineyard. Were they young, perhaps starting off their adult lives? Perhaps they were migrant workers, looking for new homes and livelihoods in a new country, possibly far away from the homes they had abandoned. Maybe they were the breadwinners for a growing family. We don't know. That they were looking for work for each day suggests that they were not wealthy and that life was hard. There's something else that we don't know about the workers – but we can guess. The first-called probably looked the strongest and best able to withstand the hot sun and heavy labour: they could accomplish the task ahead. The eleventh-hour stragglers probably included those who were weakest, less able and perhaps unfit for work. Were some of them elderly, sick or disabled? Were several so desperate to earn money that, despite poor health, they would try, day after day, to be summoned to work, returning home to collapse on their beds in exhaustion, perhaps without setting foot in the vineyard? How many repeatedly suffered disempowerment, rejection and inadequacy in their search for work and dignity? How much determination did it take to appear, just to be turned away – yet again? How often did they have the normality of a day's work?

The generous landowner recognised their difficulties and knew their dependence on whatever money he could pay them, and so he ensured that everyone could pay for food and shelter that day. Those who had worked the longest complained because they anticipated a bonus and didn't receive it. For sure, we all like our hard work to be recognised and appreciated, but perhaps those who had worked for only one hour had expected their entire family to go to bed hungry. Instead, the landowner guaranteed a full stomach.

Today's Gospel shows us a unique form of justice. Workers should be paid for their work. They need and deserve a decent standard of living for themselves and for their dependants. There are also people whose urgent needs require special sensitivity and generosity. Maryna and Vanko were doing everything that they could for the five children in their care. It was difficult to make a new life in a new land, but they tried. With help from outsiders, the future held some hope.

The owner of the vineyard showed compassion at a moment when it was needed but not expected. Had he made allowances for his unexpected generosity or did he not mind that he would be out of pocket that day? Was this a one-off act of kindness or just one in a series of acts of practical goodness? We don't know, but his is an example that has stood the test of time. What about the workers who complained that they had not received the expected bonus? They did not care if the latecomers would eat that day. The "haves" wanted more: the "have nots" were merely grateful that somebody had seen and responded to their needs.

It's difficult to tell others when we're desperate. We all have our pride. Frequently, those in most need are also silent in their suffering. It's easy to say that they should have asked for help, but sometimes that is more easily said than done. Can we be as open to others as was the landowner? Could we let Jesus use our lives and our actions to demonstrate kindness and justice? Can we be sensitive to people's unspoken desperation and respond with compassion, even at a cost to ourselves?

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Prayers for the Sick

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners. We remember especially Christine Wall, Ethel O'Connor, 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.

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

CAFOD Family Fast Day Appeal

Friday 6th October is this year's Harvest Appeal. Envelopes will be soon be available in church for your donations.

Bonus Ball - Goldthorpe and Hoyland

The Bonus Ball results will be announced in the next newsletter. Please see Pat Tomlinson if you are interested in joining the St. Helen's Bonus Ball

Little Bits of God

If you have not yet visited this stunning mosaic artwork, displayed in St Michael's Church, you have one more week.. 10.30am till 12.30pm Monday, Wednesday and Saturday and evening sessions 6pm till 8pm Wednesday and Friday.

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

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.