

## 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### First Reading Isaiah 45:1. 4-6

We are all instruments of God, but not always willingly, so that we do not know the true meaning of our lives.

### Responsorial Psalm 95:1,3-5,7-10

Give the Lord glory and power.

### Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

Sometimes we only appreciate the power of God's word in the lives of others who receive it. This is why converts will always give hope to the Church.

## Gospel Acclamation

### Alleluia, alleluia!

Your word is truth, O Lord, consecrate us in the truth.

### Alleluia!

### Gospel Matthew 22:15-21

Don't be afraid of tough questions. Every question has an answer from God.

## Parish of Corpus Christi

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



**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr Declan Brett.

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Roman Catholic Diocese of Hallam Trust • Registered Charity Number 512021

Sunday 22nd October 2023

Sunday Year A

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekday Cycle II

*"A man's rank means nothing to you."*

## Service Times & Intentions

<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael's)	<b>21 Oct</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	Josie and Tony Wood, 62 <sup>nd</sup> Wedding Anniversary
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>22 Oct</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen's)	<b>22 Oct</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Patrick James O'Donovan RIP
Tuesday (St Helen's)	24 Oct	10.00am	Arron Bell RIP
Wednesday (St Michael's)	25 Oct	10.00am	Holy Souls
Thursday (St Helen's)	26 Oct	10.00am	Peace in the Family
Friday (Sacred Heart)	27 Oct	10.00am	
Saturday (St Michael's)	28 Oct	10.00am	Karen Barber RIP
<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael's)	<b>28 Oct</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	Deceased Members of Dainty and Davies Families
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>29 Oct</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (St. Helen's)	<b>29 Oct</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	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

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at Goldthorpe** every Thursday 7.00-8.00pm

One year ago, the Royal Mint was preparing to place the image of the new king of the United Kingdom, King Charles III, on the coinage of the realm. It is an old practice, but for the Jewish society of Jesus' time it was a rather disturbing practice. Torah, the law of Israel, says that you should not make the image of any living thing. Yet in today's Gospel the Pharisees are carrying coins with just such images. Christ asks them whose image the coins bear. Clearly they had to compromise, being under the rule of the Romans. Later rabbis made use of this fact. They remembered the creation account in the book of Genesis, where God made humankind in God's own image. In this sense a human being was like a coin. We all bear the mark of the image of God. So we are signs of a greater reality; and by being signs, we are also instruments of God's love.

A coin has little or no value in itself. It may be made of precious metal but its value is in the use. In a way, a coin is a gift that you are not supposed to keep. You can give it away or exchange it for something more useful, but to hold on to it is to be a hoarder, which was the great sin of the dragons in Anglo-Saxon mythology who fiercely guarded their hoards of treasure. We commit a greater sin than that if it is not money we hold on to but our own selves. The key theme in this Gospel passage is the need to give. Human beings cannot be happy without a capacity to give something of themselves. Pope St John Paul II made that a key to his teaching: that we should learn how to make a sincere gift of ourselves.

The difference between giving to God and giving to Caesar is to do with freedom. We give to Caesar because we are compelled to, but also because we think that our gifts give us some share in earthly power. With God there is no compulsion. God freely created us and offers a share in God's love, but we are never forced to take that gift. Likewise our gifts do not force God to love us. There is no need for that. God is love, and God's love is unending. Still, we will lose sight of that love if we do not learn to give ourselves up to that love.

King Cyrus of Persia, spoken of by Isaiah in today's first reading, brought the Jews back to Israel. It was the role of Cyrus in restoring Israel that first showed the Jews that their God was the God of the whole world. Cyrus was the instrument of God,

but he did not know that. We may not do the great things that Cyrus did, but the small things we do have more meaning than anything he did. That is because we know that our lives are shaped by God. Every encounter, every word we say, everything we do, is under God's providence. We are all instruments of God's purpose. This does not mean that we are free from sin, and it certainly does not mean that our sins do not matter. What it does mean is that if we see mercy, then our sin can add to the glory of God, by showing the limitless power of God's mercy. If we refuse mercy then we become like Cyrus, unconscious instruments of God. We still serve God but unwillingly, and out of this can grow resentment and anger. Unlike the coin that Christ held in his hand, there is no limit to the value that we can have in God's eyes. The coin has a fixed value, but we are like a coin that God can use again and again. If we do it willingly, then we do it as God's friends. That is the meaning of the virtue of charity, which is fundamentally friendship with God. Friends are happy to be of use to one another. This does not mean that we always know what God is doing with our lives. We might think that God has no use for us at all. Yet sometimes it is when we don't seem to be doing much, feeling that we are just treading water, that God is most subtly effective. It is only looking back that we see how much God was doing through us.

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### **Prayers for the Sick**

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners. We remember especially Olimpia Popovici, Msgr. Peter Kirkham, Ethel O'Connor, Julia Hill, Christine and Bill Mays, Marie Bray (nee Walsh), 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.

### **Holy Souls**

November will soon be upon us, the month when we pray especially for those who have died. If you would like a mass for your loved ones who are no longer with us, the Holy Souls lists and envelopes are now available from church. Masses for the Holy Souls will then be said throughout the coming year.

### **Mission Sunday 22nd October – Second Collection**

This weekend, please support Missio in helping missionaries to work alongside communities throughout the world that are poor or in need. Remember, if you have a Red Mission Box, now is the time to empty it. For more information, visit the website at [missio.org.uk](http://missio.org.uk).

### **Gift Aid**

If you are a UK Tax Payer please consider Gift Aiding your offerings to Corpus Christi Parish. For the previous Tax Year 2022-23, the Parish received **£9132** from the Government as part of the Gift Aid scheme, which is a tremendous boost to Parish finances. We are also allowed to include any loose offerings in the Gift Aid scheme so even the smallest offering can add up over the year. A big thank to all who contribute in whatever way they can.

### **Holy Communion Programme 2024**

This year's programme will begin on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm in St Michael's Church Hall. If you are not already registered, please contact the Parish Office and we will contact you.

### **Bonus Ball - Goldthorpe and Hoyland**

The winning number was 48. The winners were G Burnitt in Goldthorpe and M Barker in Hoyland, each winning £25.

### **Craft Group Animals and Dolls**

The Corpus Christi Craft Group have been busy knitting beautiful animals and dolls to raise funds for the Parish. The animals are £20 and the dolls are £15 and can be adapted to your preferences or colours. Please ensure you order before the end of October if you want them as Christmas presents. There is an order list and also photos of some of the items at the back of church. For further information please contact Anne Barry at [anniebarry83@gmail.com](mailto:anniebarry83@gmail.com).

**The Craft Group** meet once a fortnight on Thursday morning in the Parish room at St Michael's from 10.00am until 12.30pm, the next meeting is on 2nd November. All are welcome, please feel free to come to knit, sew, crochet, learn new skills and enjoy a natter with a cup of tea or coffee.

### **Winter Coats Appeal**

The Salvation Army Goldthorpe are collecting children's and adults winter coats to give away to anyone who needs one as the weather gets colder. If you can help, please drop coats off at the Salvation Army, Straight Lane, Goldthorpe, on Monday or Friday mornings, but NOT into the Donations box outside the building. Thank you.

### **Dearne Churches Together Family Fun Day Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> Nov**

Taking place between 10.00am- noon in Goldthorpe Pentecostal Community Church, Market Street, Crafts and activities for all the family exploring Heroes of Faith. Free entry and free refreshments but please book places to help with catering numbers. Tel Julie on 07729 421405 or email: [julie@gpcchurch.co.uk](mailto:julie@gpcchurch.co.uk)

### **Synod Catch-Up Co-Responsibility in Mission**

An opportunity to come together online to meet, pray, and share at the end of the first session of the Synod. It will give us the opportunity to reflect on the theme of Co-responsibility in Mission here in the Diocese of Hallam.

Date and time: Friday 3 November 2023 5:00 PM Online  
Please book on the diocesan Eventbrite page using the QR Code



### **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