

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading Exodus 22:20-26

The Lord will hear the cry of those who call out to him, for he is full of compassion.

Responsorial Psalm 17:2-4,47,51

I love you, Lord, my strength.

Second Reading 1 Thess 1:5-10

The people who broke with idolatry and converted to God now follow the risen Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our hearts, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 22:34-40

The greatest commandments are to love God and to love our neighbour.

Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Sunday 29th October 2023

Sunday Year A

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekday Cycle II

"Which is the greatest commandment?"

Service Times & Intentions

Saturday Vigil (St Michael`s)	28 Oct	5.30pm	Deceased Members of Dainty and Davies Families
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	29 Oct	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sunday (St Helen`s))	29 Oct	11.00am	Andrew J Marren RIP
Tuesday (St Helen`s)	31 Oct	10.00am	Holy Souls
Tuesday All Saints Day Vigil (St Michael`s)	31 Oct	7.00pm	People of the Parish
Wed All Saints Day (Sacred Heart)	1 Nov	9.00am	
Wed All Saints Day (St Helen`s)	1 Nov	11.00am	All Priests
Thursday (St Helen`s))	2 Nov	10.00am	Phil Ward RIP
Friday (Sacred Heart)	3 Nov	10.00am	Olimpia Popovici RIP
Saturday (St Michael`s)	4 Nov	10.00am	Yorkshire Brethren
Saturday Vigil (St Michael`s)	4 Nov	5.30pm	Shaun Barrett RIP
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	5 Nov	9.00am	Private Intention
Sunday (St. Helen`s)	5 Nov	11.00am	People of the Parish

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-

Among the unexpected television hits of recent times have been baking competition shows. Who would have known that watching other people trying to produce delicious cakes or tasty pies would draw such large numbers of viewers? As the bakers try their best to impress the judges, they use plenty of imaginative flair. But that isn't enough. Cooking works if you abide by some basic rules too: you need to get the temperature right and you need to cook your bake for a certain amount of time. Too low or too high a temperature will spoil your cake. Keep it in the oven too long and it will go wrong too. The judges will complain that the cake has a soggy bottom or the pastry is rock hard. So the bakers can adapt recipes and bring their special skills and gifts to the competition, but there are basic rules that the judges want to see are not broken. Something similar is going on when we attempt to follow Jesus. We can find all sorts of different ways to live our lives as Christians, whether we are married or single, living in a lay community or in a religious house, whether we opt to work in a caring role, such as being a nurse or a teacher, or if we're in business or being an artist or a musician. But whatever we choose to do, and however we live, some things are fundamental: being a Christian is about loving and serving God and our neighbour. Reading the Gospels, it's clear that the Pharisees took inordinate pleasure in trying to catch Jesus out. They were forever asking him questions, disapproving when he cured people on the sabbath, and trying to spot him advocating breaking their laws.

The question that we heard today, asked in Matthew's Gospel, appears to be one of the most straightforward ones: which is the greatest commandment? Jesus' answer, to emphasise that the first commandment given to Moses is the greatest one, is swiftly followed by the commandment to love one's neighbour as oneself. This is why the Christian life involves such focus on compassion and mercy: we are commanded by God to care for those who are vulnerable, such as those mentioned in today's reading from Exodus. But in focusing on others, we also need to be mindful of ourselves: the respect and dignity we afford others should be afforded to ourselves as well. The problem for many people today is not that they

struggle to love others but that they lack self-esteem and self-worth. They do not consider themselves to be people that God loves.

The Pharisees are rather like bakers who spend all their time focusing on the fine detail of a recipe. Rather than getting temperature and timing right, the cooks fret about the appearance and decoration mentioned in the recipe. Should the icing sugar be a particular brand? Does it matter if the silver and gold balls are replaced by silver ones only? Will the judges like it if I make a coffee-flavoured filling or should I stick to the traditional chocolate? It's minutiae and appearance that have taken over, rather than the essentials, just as has happened with the Pharisees. Elsewhere in the Gospels we read that the Pharisees were horrified when Jesus cured people's ailments on the sabbath, as the sabbath was supposed to be a day of rest and nothing, not even curing someone, should take place. They are so bound up in the small print that they fail to notice that in curing people, Jesus was attending to what were the leading priorities – loving God and one's neighbour. If we become bogged down in what we might call the "small print" of our faith – when to fast, whether to cross ourselves, when to genuflect – we are at risk of overlooking the two greatest commandments of loving God and one's neighbour. And these two commandments are essential: Christianity is an active faith, involving following Jesus. We cannot just sit back in an armchair and observe the world. We have to participate in love, whether that is caring for vulnerable people, as described in the Exodus reading, or putting aside idols, as St Paul advised the Thessalonians, and truly converting to God, becoming God's servants in our love and service. Loving God and our neighbour are central to Christian beliefs and God's commandments because these give our lives true meaning: they are the purposes for which we were made.

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Prayers for the Sick

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners. We remember especially 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.

Requiescat in Pace

We pray for the repose of the soul of Olimpia Popovici, who died recently. Please keep her family and friends in your prayers

CAFOD Family Fast Day Appeal Friday 6th October

You raised a fantastic £517.43, of which £90 is Gift Aided. Thank you for your generosity.

Mission Sunday 22nd October – Second Collection

The Parish raised £244.37. Thank you for your support.

Needy Parishes

Next weekend there will be a collection for those parishes that need a little extra help.

All Saints Day, Wednesday 1st November

Masses will be as follows:- Vigil Mass Tuesday 31st October 7.00pm St Michael's
Wednesday 1st November 9.00am Sacred Heart and 11.00am St Helen's

Bonus Ball - Goldthorpe and Hoyland

The winning number was 6. The winners were Eddie Goddard in Goldthorpe and M Stephenson in Hoyland, each, winning £25.

Craft Group

The Craft Group meet once a fortnight on Thursdays in the Parish room at St Michael's from 10.00am until 12.30pm, the next meeting is 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.

Holy Souls

November is almost 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.

Dearne Churches Together Family Fun Day, Wednesday 1st 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

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



First Holy Communion Programme 2023/4

This year's programme will begin on Monday 13th 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.

Marist Way and Rosary at Goldthorpe

The Rosary at Goldthorpe will be every **Wednesday** at 1.30pm. The Rosary will be combined with the Marist Way once a month. The next Marist Meeting with Rosary is on Wednesday November 8th.