

## 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

**First Reading** Malachi 1:14 – 2:2. 8-10  
Religious leaders are warned that they have caused many to “stray” and “stumble” because of their teaching and actions.

**Responsorial Psalm** 130  
Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord.

**Second Reading** 1 Thess 2:7-9. 13  
God’s message is a “living power” among communities of Christians.

## Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life.  
**Alleluia!**

**Gospel** Matthew 23:1-12  
The failures of the scribes and Pharisees are identified, and Jesus suggests that his followers seek a path of humility and service.

## Parish of Corpus Christi

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



**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr Declan Brett.

23 Park Street, Wombwell Barnsley, S73 0HQ  
01226 752372

email: [parishofcorpuschristi@gmail.com](mailto:parishofcorpuschristi@gmail.com)

Website: <https://corpuschristi.hallam-diocese.com>

Facebook: Corpus Christi Dearne Valley

Parish Safeguarding Representative:  
Sheila Marren 07932 722188

Roman Catholic Diocese of Hallam Trust • Registered Charity Number 512021

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Sunday Year A

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekday Cycle II

*“The greatest among you must be your servant.”*

## Service Times & Intentions

<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>4 Nov</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	Shaun Barrett RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>5 Nov</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Private Intention
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen`s))	<b>5 Nov</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	People of the Parish
Tuesday (St Helen`s)	7 Nov	10.00am	McHale Family
Wednesday (St Michael`s)	8 Nov	10.00am	Shaun Barrett RIP
Thursday (St Helen`s))	9 Nov	10.00am	Brian McAllister RIP
Friday (Sacred Heart)	10 Nov	10.00am	Bridget Burnitt RIP
Saturday (St Michael`s)	11 Nov	10.00am	Margaret Barrett RIP
<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>11 Nov</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	Sheila Durkan RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>12 Nov</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Deceased Members of the Boyle and Jones Families
<b>Sunday</b> (St. Helen`s)	<b>12 Nov</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	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 7.00-8.00pm

It was the mid 1960s, and a young woman waited nervously at Archbishop’s House, Westminster, to meet with Cardinal John Heenan. Edwina Gateley had recently returned to Britain from teaching in Uganda and felt a calling to start a volunteer missionary group that would send other lay people overseas to work as missionaries. At that time it was only religious congregations that did this. When she was called in she felt a little intimidated, but she shared her idea. The cardinal listened with interest but was cautious. He warned her gently that she had no authority to start a new movement for laity in the Church, and she left feeling dejected. At that time passive obedience and reception of the sacraments were accepted by most lay people as what being part of the Church was all about.

Edwina returned to Africa, but the dream would not die. Within a few years she was back in London, and the Missionaries of Africa provided accommodation for training courses to start in 1969. The Volunteer Missionary Movement, or VMM, was founded. The cardinal did eventually bless the work and the VMM emerged as a vibrant new church movement. More than 2,500 lay volunteers since then have been on cross-cultural mission in Africa, Latin America and Asia, supporting poor communities and sharing their skills. “We who have received the love of Christ through the Spirit cannot contain it,” Edwina wrote, “it must reach out to others, spilling out and touching the world in which we live.”

Today’s Gospel tells us that authorities – including religious authorities – must be respected but also challenged when their practice is out of line with their teaching. Jesus particularly warns religious leaders that being conscientious and meticulous about trivial things may prevent them from allowing God’s love to flow out of their lives in gracious acts and deeds, and hinder them from recognising that everyone has a valuable contribution to make to their communities. Yet the failure of others is not what is most important. Jesus is concerned that his disciples look at themselves and ask about their own failures. He holds up the scribes and Pharisees as a kind of mirror in which they may see their own weaknesses. The kingdom that Jesus announces points them to something greater than themselves, and greater than structures that have been built by humans. The kingdom refers to

the rule of God in hearts and relationships. Equality and loving relationships characterise the new age that Jesus has initiated among us.

Jesus points out that all people are called to be listeners to God's message. That listening is something that we are to do together, regardless of status. The way of living offered by Jesus has nothing to do with arrogance and power. Rather, it is about partnership, servanthood and humility.

So there's a warning here to beware of hierarchies of power which can hamper work to bring about God's kingdom. And it isn't just addressed to those at the top. Some people prefer only to follow orders, waiting for instructions rather than taking responsibility. When this happens in church structures and communities, the individuals and churches may be less likely to fulfil their God-given potential. Humility is important too. It helps us to be aware of God at all times, in all places, at the centre of all things. It is so easy in our society to make ourselves gods of the tiny kingdoms we occupy and to be enamoured of fancy titles. We climb very small ladders and then assume that we have risen to the heights of our humanity. Those whose lives are lived without listening to their hearts and consciences, and those who make gods out of themselves, their work, their status, their money, never find the God of the universe, who waits quietly within for us to exhaust our compulsive race to nowhere.

Jesus teaches us that serving others and the wider world is the highest vocation, and humility is the greatest virtue. When we listen to God, we are all equal – everybody has the gift of the Holy Spirit, and all are able to tune into that Spirit. When we are bruised, when our fire sputters out, when our lives are battered by situations of oppression and exclusion, we can, in the words of Edwina Gateley, be inspired by the Spirit of God to "reach out to others... touching the world in which we live".

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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 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.

### **Holy Souls**

November is 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.

### **First Holy Communion Programme 2023/4**

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.

### **Needy Parishes**

This weekend there will be a collection for those parishes that need a little extra help. If you use offertory envelopes there should be a pink one for Needy Parishes. Otherwise, please use the 2<sup>nd</sup> collection baskets for your donations.

### **Mission Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Second Collection**

Since last week's newsletter, additional donations have been received, so the total sent to MISSION was £286.97. Thank you for your support.

### **Hallam Bridge**

There are a few copies of Hallam Bridge, the news from Hallam Diocese, at the back of church.

The file will be available for everyone on the Diocese website: [hallam-diocese.com](http://hallam-diocese.com)

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

For the second week in a row, the winning number was 6! The winners were Eddie Goddard in Goldthorpe and M Stephenson in Hoyland, each, winning £25.

### **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 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Wombwell Community Lunch Club.**

As the weather turns colder, why not consider joining Wombwell Community Lunch Club each Thursday at 12noon in St. Michael's Church Hall? It's an opportunity for people of different ages and backgrounds to come together for a meal. Lunch is only £5 and consists of a hot meal and a pudding. The meal is followed by a raffle and bingo.

For more information and bookings, please contact Barbara on 07742 548985

### **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