

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel Acclamation

First Reading Wisdom 6:12-16
Wisdom, God's loving purpose for us, is waiting for us to find her.

Responsorial Psalm 62:2-8
For you my soul is thirsting, O God my God.

Second Reading 1 Thess 4:13-18
Paul gives us reasons to hope. If we die in Jesus, God will bring us with him to stay with him for ever.

Alleluia, alleluia!
Stay awake and stand ready, because you do not know the hour when the Son of Man is coming.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 25:1-13
Jesus warns us to stay awake, ready for the bridegroom to come, ready for the wedding feast of heaven.

Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Sunday 12th November 2023

Sunday Year A

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Remembrance Sunday. Weekday Cycle II

"Stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour."

Service Times & Intentions

Saturday Vigil (St Michael's)	11 Nov	5.30pm	Sheila Durkan RIP
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	12 Nov	9.00am	Private Intention
Sunday (St Helen's))	12 Nov	11.00am	People of the Parish
Tuesday (St Helen's)	14 Nov	10.00am	Carl Pierrepont, Get well wishes
Wednesday (St Michael's)	15 Nov	10.00am	Wendy Taylor RIP
Thursday (St Helen's))	16 Nov	10.00am	Kenneth and Marjorie Saville RIP
Friday (Sacred Heart)	17 Nov	10.00am	John and Mary Jones RIP
Saturday (St Michael's)	18 Nov	10.00am	Holy Souls
Saturday Vigil (St Michael's)	18 Nov	5.30pm	Peter Gillott RIP
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	19 Nov	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sunday (St. Helen's)	19 Nov	11.00am	Mary and John Coefield 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

Weather forecasting is becoming an ever more exact science. All around the world, scientific instruments record the changing data, temperatures and air pressure, wind strengths and directions, ocean currents and jet stream. Satellite pictures enable us to see the weather as it develops and make predictions about whether or not it will rain tomorrow. All this data is collected and over the years patterns can be recognised which add to the certainty with which the forecasts are presented. At the same time, volcanologists keep an eye on active volcanoes, and seismologists record the evidence of shifting tectonic plates which can cause earthquakes. We try to be at least one step ahead of nature in our efforts to protect life against the possibility of natural disaster and to discover the best conditions in which to provide food for the earth's population. But despite our best efforts, we are still surprised by floods and earthquakes, hurricanes and tornadoes. Life on earth is very fragile. We still do not know the day or the hour when disaster might strike.

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus uses the marriage practices of his time and place to teach a more serious lesson. This time our reason for staying awake and on the watch is not merely about the weather, but about our future destiny in the kingdom of God. We have been invited to the wedding feast of Christ to his bride, the Church. As members of the Church, we are all, as it were, bridesmaids waiting for the Lord to come to take us to his house. In many traditional rituals it is still an important event when the bridegroom takes his bride from her home to his. It requires some ceremony, perhaps a procession with torches. At our baptism, we were presented with a burning candle which was entrusted to us to be kept burning brightly so that we will be ready to welcome our Lord when he comes. In the early Church there was an expectation that Christ would come again very soon to take his bride to himself. As time went by, the expectation diminished and people grew tired with waiting. In some cases, the light was flickering and dying. People needed to be encouraged to stay awake, to be on the watch, to keep the flame of their faith

alive.

The one good thing that can come out of a natural disaster is the way in which the international community responds. Governments and non-governmental organisations race to bring aid to people in distress. Appeals are made, especially in wealthy nations, and volunteers rush to help those affected. Food and clothing, water and medical supplies, are flown in, and the devastating effects are minimised as much as possible. But it is never enough. We should be better prepared. We should take better precautions. We should be better at coordinating a response.

The greatest disaster, of course, for us as believers, is the loss of eternal life. If we should be better prepared for natural disasters, if we should be able to read the signs of our times better in political and natural events, how much more should we be prepared for the Lord's coming at the end of time? How can we keep our lights burning, the flames of our baptismal candles alight?

At our baptism, the flame of our faith was entrusted to our parents and godparents with the words: "Parents and godparents, this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly. These children of yours have been enlightened by Christ. They are to walk always as children of the light. May they keep the flame of faith alive in their hearts. When the Lord comes, may they go out to meet him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom." As we grow, we take on this responsibility for ourselves. It's up to us to keep the flame burning brightly. But we are not on our own. We are members of the community of faith. Already we are united with the saints as we wait for the Lord to come. We encourage one another with the example of our faith. Husbands and wives, parents and children, brothers and sisters, friends and neighbours, we don't wait for disaster to strike. We love one another and care for the whole world together in our everyday life, strengthened by the love of Jesus which we share in the Eucharist and all the sacraments. Together we are the bride of Christ, waiting for our Lord to come.

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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.

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.

Needy Parishes

Thank you for your generous donations last weekend. The sum of £236.40 has been raised.

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.

Sick & Retired Clergy

Next weekend there will be a second collection for the Sick & Retired clergy to help ensure all of our sick and retired priests are cared for at their time of need, after years of service to God and their parishioners.

Advent Day of Reflection Saturday 2nd December

This will take place 10am-4pm at the Hallam Pastoral Centre, (St Charles Street, Sheffield S9 3WU), to be led by Fr Peter Scally SJ, who leads the Catholic Chaplaincy at the University of Manchester. You will need to bring a packed lunch. To book a free place visit: www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/hallam-formation-and-mission-46212155433

Planning a visit to Walsingham?

If you are thinking of visiting Walsingham in November or December there is 25% off all the Shrine accommodation at Elmham House from Sunday 5 Nov to Friday 22 Dec. <https://walsingham.org.uk/accommodation/>

Bonus Ball - Goldthorpe and Hoyland

The winning number was 43. The winners were P O'Hanlon in Goldthorpe and M Harrison in Hoyland, each winning £25.

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

Wombwell Community Lunch Club.

As the weather turns colder, why not consider joining The 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