

## 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

**First Reading** Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20, 30-31

The praises given to the woman here echo the praises given elsewhere in the scriptures to God. She reflects God's image and likeness.

**Responsorial Psalm** 127:1-5

O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

**Second Reading** 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Standing ready for God may refer to our death and judgement but also to openness to the ways in which God comes to us every day.

## Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Even if you have to die, says the Lord, keep faithful, and I will give you the crown of life.

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel** Matthew 25:14-30

The parable of the talents shows God as the generous giver of graces, but one who asks that we take seriously the gifts we have and use them with confidence.

## Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Sunday Year A

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekday Cycle II

*"For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away."*

## Service Times & Intentions

<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>18 Nov</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	Peter Gillott RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>19 Nov</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen`s))	<b>19 Nov</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Mary and John Coefield RIP
Tuesday (St Helen`s)	21 Nov	10.00am	Andrew Swallow RIP
Wednesday (St Michael`s )	22 Nov	10.00am	Shaun Barrett RIP
Thursday (St Helen`s))	23 Nov	10.00am	Eleanor and Jim Leach RIP
Friday (Sacred Heart)	24 Nov	10.00am	Marlene Gough RIP
Saturday (St Michael`s)	25 Nov	10.00am	Holy Souls
<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>25 Nov</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>26 Nov</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Special Intention (LC)
<b>Sunday</b> (St. Helen`s)	<b>26 Nov</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Phil Ward 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

*Britain's Got Talent* is one of the most popular TV shows on UK screens. People love to watch ordinary people like themselves with a gift for singing or dancing, or whatever it is, getting an opportunity to shine. There's the knuckle-biting moment when the judges get to say what they think, and there are many tears and disappointments as well as cheers and congratulations. Many of us would rather die than put ourselves through that kind of tension and public exposure – we couldn't bear the humiliation of failure. But often the judges are encouraging, even when they can't give an act their full approval. Every once in a while, there is an iconic moment when someone quite unexpectedly turns out to have star quality, like the first audition of singer Susan Boyle, who received a standing ovation for her performance of the song "I Dreamed a Dream".

God also dreams a dream, of each one of us becoming fully the person we were made to be. That dream and desire of God is revealed to us in the deepest desires that we have for ourselves. Every day we are faced with greater or smaller choices to grow or to stagnate, to flourish or to wither. We may not enjoy all the opportunities that others seem to have, but every conversation, every human encounter, presents us with a choice either to be more or to be less fully human. That choice is entirely ours.

Today's Gospel parable falls into two quite definite parts. Most people find the first part encouraging – we like the idea of the master giving talents to his servants and seeing what they can do with what they are given. We can resonate from our own experience with the idea of making something of what we have in our professional as well as our personal lives.

The second part of the parable is far more problematic. Who has never had a feeling of lack of confidence in themselves? We may remember with a shudder when we had to try something out for the first time or step up to a demand that was made of us. It's always worse if we have an audience, for that increases our fear of failure. Imposter syndrome is the name given to the fear many people have of

others finding out that, for all their apparent calm and competence, they actually haven't a clue what they are doing.

Jesus makes clear that failure is not the problem, and nor is lack of talent. Not all of us are made to be superstars. But the worst we can do is to mistrust God at work in ourselves. This ties God's hands, as it were, and makes it impossible for God's grace to flourish in us. It's a daily task to believe that what we have and who we are is enough. The more we believe this, the more capable we become of responding to the gift and grace that lies within every moment. Ours may be a "quiet" talent – the gift of being a good listener, for example, or the gift of always being ready with an appreciative or encouraging word. This will not bring us standing ovations or bouquets on the world stage, but it will be the fulfilment of God's dream for us. Confidence grows confidence, but mistrust grows mistrust. That is the meaning of the devastating punchline of Jesus' parable, and it is meant to shock us.

One of the great spiritual teachings of St Ignatius of Loyola is called the Examen. It's not so much an examination of conscience in the sense of recalling our daily faults. It's more an examination of consciousness, a learning to be aware of how God, on a daily basis, is at work in the world and in our own lives. We learn to see our day from God's point of view and come to realise how many opportunities we are given to respond to grace. The more attuned we become to the gentle touch of God throughout the day, the more our personal gifts and talents and God's invitations become clear. This is a free choice which we can take or leave, but if we take it, it leads to life more abundant. Who could say no to that?

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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 Hoults, 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.

### **Sick & Retired Clergy**

This 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.

### **Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage 2024**

Please find the details of next year's trip, and booking form at the back of church.

### **Advent Day of Reflection Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://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 32. The winners were M Bennett in Goldthorpe and P Tomlinson in Hoyland, each winning £25.

### **CAFOD Israel-Palestinian Crisis Appeal**

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at [cafod.org.uk/ipc](http://cafod.org.uk/ipc) or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers."

Through the Coppers for CAFOD jars in each church, the parish has been able to send **£100** towards urgent aid to the area.

### **Christmas Cards**

Christmas cards, diaries, calendars, advent calendars and children's books are now available in our three churches.

### **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