

## First Sunday of Advent

**First Reading** Isaiah:63:16-17,64:3-8  
The Prophet cries out for God to tear the heavens open and come down to save us.

**Responsorial Psalm** 79:2-3,15-16,18-19  
God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

**Second Reading** 1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
St Paul constantly thanks God for the graces his converts received in Corinth.

## Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and show us your saving help  
**Alleluia!**

**Gospel** Mark 13:33-37  
Jesus entrusts the Church, his followers, with our own special tasks as we live out our personal Christian vocations.

## Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

Sunday Year B  
Weekday Cycle II

*"Let your face shine on us and we shall be saved."*

## Service Times & Intentions

<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>2 Dec</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>3 Dec</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Miley and Paddy Connors RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen`s)	<b>3 Dec</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Elizabeth Annie O`Donovan RIP
Tuesday (St Helen`s)	5 Dec	10.00am	Dominic Kilroy RIP and his twin, Sister Vitalis celebrating her 90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday
Wednesday (St Michael`s)	6 Dec	10.00am	Holy Souls
Thursday (St Helen`s)	7 Dec	10.00am	Percy Winterton (Successful Operation)
Friday (Sacred Heart)	8 Dec	10.00am	Special Intention (LC)
Saturday (St Michael`s)	9 Dec	10.00am	Yorkshire Brethren
<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>9 Dec</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>10 Dec</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Bridget Burnitt RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (St. Helen`s)	<b>10 Dec</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Michael Tomlinson 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

"O that you would tear the heavens open and come down!" This desperate cry for help is heard wherever war, violence and the breakdown of order inflicts terror and suffering on innocent people. It is heard in the silent, sobbing pleas of millions in refugee camps; human beings surviving in terrible conditions. These are the people the Church asks us to remember and pray for today, Migrants' Sunday. The urgent appeal for God to sort out the mess of human affairs, "to tear the heavens and come down to save us", is the constant plea of the Old Testament prophets, the prophets to whom pay attention in Advent. This appeal comes from the Prophet Isaiah in our first reading: why doesn't God stop all this evil?

"Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways?" Isaiah goes on. "Return for the sake of your servants." Isaiah continues to cry out for the sake of all who are suffering; people close to us or maybe in our own family; neighbours and friends who sometimes have a secret anguish in their heart, like someone who has been hurt and damaged in childhood. "Return for the sake of your servants." Isaiah goes on. "Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways?" That is the cry of someone who longs to find the way forward. "You hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins." This is the cry of many a recidivist criminal who goes back to prison again and again, too weak to change. Or it can be the crushed and tearful prayer of an addict, someone addicted, perhaps, to gambling or drugs or alcohol.

"O that you would tear the heavens and come down!" But God has. Isaiah's prayer was heard. God did tear the heavens and come down. God was born of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He has not left us to stray from his ways: he came to be our Good Shepherd who seeks out the stray, saves the lost sheep, bandages the wounded, makes the weak strong; someone who doesn't just teach us, but who puts out his hand to save us.

St Paul was one of the first he saved. Converted by a blinding light Paul suddenly realised that Christ had set him free from his awful past. It no longer controlled him and he began living in a new way for Christ, saving others like himself. In the reading today, he exudes a strong confidence. Jesus Christ "will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God

by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ, and God is faithful.”

The last day is, of course, the day when he will return. Meanwhile, as Jesus says in the Gospel today, it is as though he has now gone abroad, leaving his servants in charge, each with their own tasks. To his servants, the Church, he gives the task of proclaiming the message of salvation, and for 2000 years, both the Church and individual Christians have been so doing, bringing hope and help to others. People do repent like Paul and change. Sometimes world leaders listen to the Pope. When they are deaf, he never stops calling to them, like Isaiah.

When it comes to individuals crying out for help, the Church, (our Christian communities and parishes) is there. By evangelisation we bring them salvation, as Paul did to those who were not Christians, or deepen the lives of those who are. And we also offer our love to help people, maybe at some personal cost, especially when they are falling apart or sick.

Pope Francis, in his call for Synodality, is asking us to increase the sense of community in our parishes, to watch out for people, to be aware when they need our help. The Collect, with which Mass began, is not empty words but a real prayer: “Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet Christ with righteous deeds... so that we may be worthy to possess the heavenly kingdom.” We mostly do this quietly on our own. But sometimes righteous deeds are better done with others in the Church working together. God has torn the heavens open and come down. He has not left us straying from his ways. Jesus Christ is our life, our way, our hope! Let us rise and follow him as we wait for his return!

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### **Prayers for the Sick**

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

### **Requiescat in Pace**

We pray for the soul of Mgr. Peter Kirkham who died recently. Requiem Mass will be in St. Joseph`s Church, Worksop on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 12 noon. Please keep his family and friends in your prayers.

### **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 13<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage 2024**

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

### **First Holy Communion Programme 2024**

The next meeting will be on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December from 6.00pm to 7.30pm in St Michael`s Church Hall and is for the children only.

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

The winning number was 49. The winner in Hoyland was A Palfreyman, winning £25. The winner in Goldthorpe was P English, winning the rollover of £50.

### **Children`s Liturgy at Goldthorpe**

We have our next Children`s Liturgy during mass on Sunday 3rd December. Any children who have not yet made their First Holy Communion are very welcome to come and join us. Thank you - Amanda Campbell and Ann Stones.

### **Christmas Card at Goldthorpe**

As last year, we are going to have a big Christmas card at church during Advent for people to sign rather than sending individual cards. There will be a Collection box with the card for donations in lieu of buying individual cards and we plan to support Bishop Ralph`s Bethlehem Fund.

### **Carol Singing in Goldthorpe Sunday 10th December**

There will be community carol singing at the Railway Embankment in Goldthorpe between 1.00pm and 3.00pm on Sunday 10th December. All are welcome.

### **Christmas Cards**

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

### **My Day by Day for Advent**

Now available for you in our three churches. There is also a Junior edition for children.

### **Hallam Bridge**

There are a few copies of Hallam Bridge, the news from Hallam Diocese, at the back of church. The file is available for everyone on the Diocese website:

[hallam-diocese.com](http://hallam-diocese.com)

### **Christmas Mass Times**

24 <sup>th</sup> December Vigil	St Michael`s	5.30pm
Midnight Mass	St Helen`s	12.00am
Christmas Day	Sacred Heart	10.00am

### **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
O Mary, Mother of Perpetual Help	Pray for us