

Second Sunday of Advent

First Reading Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
We hear a call to “prepare a way for the Lord”.

Responsorial Psalm 84:9-10,11-12, 13-14
Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

Second Reading 2 Peter 3:8-14
Peter suggests there will be a new creation “where righteousness will be at home”.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 1:1-8
John the Baptist baptises in water, anticipating the coming of the Messiah, who will baptise with the Holy Spirit.

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
Website: <https://corpuschristi.hallam-diocese.com>
Facebook: Corpus Christi Dearne Valley

Parish Safeguarding Representative:
Sheila Marren 07932 722188

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Sunday 10th December 2023
Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday Year B
Weekday Cycle II

“He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.”

Service Times & Intentions

Saturday Vigil (St Michael`s)	9 Dec	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	10 Dec	9.00am	Bridget Burnitt RIP
Sunday (St Helen`s))	10 Dec	11.00am	Michael Tomlinson RIP
Tuesday (St Helen`s)	12 Dec	10.00am	Ralph Blackburn RIP
Wednesday (St Michael`s)	13 Dec	10.00am	
Thursday (St Helen`s))	14 Dec	10.00am	Phil Ward RIP
Friday (Sacred Heart)	15 Dec	10.00am	Holy Souls
Saturday (St Michael`s)	16 Dec	10.00am	
Saturday Vigil (St Michael`s)	16 Dec	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	17 Dec	9.00am	Margaret Bennett RIP
Sunday (St. Helen`s)	17 Dec	11.00am	Andrew J Marren 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

Many of us have a family member or a good friend whom we love dearly, but who is also annoying. Marie's sister, Joanna, was like that. Joanna was active in the environmental movement and often made bold pronouncements and judgements about people or about lifestyle choices.

She would call round to visit Marie and warn that her life was out of balance. She told Marie that she was so focused on her job in finances that she was neglecting ageing relatives, forgetting the names of nieces and nephews because she saw them so little, and not keeping in close contact with old friends. She challenged Marie to reduce the time she spent on her computer and engage more with people around her. Joanna also encouraged her sister to take more interest in issues of justice, peace and ecology that might contribute towards the common good.

There came a point when Marie found herself acknowledging a hard truth: that her life was indeed out of balance. She had been stung by Joanna's criticism and started to admit that she should review her priorities in life: the way she spent her time, her failure to nurture relationships with her family and local community, and the ways in which life seemed to be flying by without identifiable achievements. Her sister's annoying persistence caused Marie to take stock and reflect.

We are now in Advent, in the time of the Church's year when we meet another person who may really irritate us: John the Baptist. When it comes to people's lists of favourite saints, he probably would not top anyone's. He's an unsettling Old Testament type of prophet who comes on the scene proclaiming, according to the Gospel, a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Yet – the Church says that we need to hear John's message. The season of Advent is not the season of Christmas. Before we rush to the joy of Christmas, before we receive the great mystery of God with us, we must prepare. We should set aside time to examine our spiritual lives, look with honesty at ways in which our lives are out of balance, reassess self-destructive behaviours, and try to bring about more harmony in ourselves, in the community and in the world.

Don't dismiss John because he lives in the wilderness, clothed with camel's skin and living on locusts and wild honey. Despite his weirdness, large numbers were

drawn to him and were transformed by his message. They understood that he spoke truth, although his message was uncompromising and undiluted. He calls us to try to do better in life – to move on from sinfulness and selfishness to a life of care, compassion, love and joy, and to make steps to forgive others.

Jesus is stronger than John, and he also brings a more powerful baptism. Jesus will baptise his followers with the Holy Spirit, so that they will be equipped to bring about the peace and justice for which humanity has waited so long. This is a momentous message.

What kinds of changes should we seek in Advent? Advent is a time to prepare not only materially but also spiritually for the coming of the Lord. It is a time to step outside our busy lives, our tasks and appointments, and recognise God's loving presence in all humanity and in the natural world.

Take time today to look up into the sky and be aware of breathing, taking in the fresh God-given air that keeps us alive. Be more sensitive to the people around us and how they enrich our life. And can we be of service to people who are sick or in trouble or worried about facing Christmas on a low income? Can we give time to people – perhaps someone in our family - who might be depressed or who may not have many friends?

In Advent, we hear John's message as an invitation to spiritual reflection. Just as we might clean our house in preparation for a special guest, so the Church asks us to take stock of ourselves and to be at our best when the special day arrives. Perhaps other people have already pointed out deficiencies in our lives. The promise and the hope, however, are that we can do something about it. We can change, and we can find a rhythm of life that makes time for wholeness and harmony.

John tells us that Jesus baptises with the Holy Spirit. What does this mean for us?

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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.

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 13th 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 11th 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 40. The winners were K Palfreyman in Hoyland and John Fleming in Goldthorpe, each winning £25.

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.

Christmas Cards

Christmas cards are still available in our three churches.

My Day by Day for Advent

Available for you free in our three churches. You can make a small donation if you wish. 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

Christmas Mass Times		
24 th 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

0 Mary, Mother of Perpetual Help	Pray for us
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