

<p style="text-align: center;">Holy Family</p> <p>First Reading Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3 The Lord promises Abraham and Sarah a son.</p> <p>Responsorial Psalm 104:1-2,3-4,5-6, 8-9 He, the Lord, is our God. He remembers his covenant for ever.</p> <p>Second Reading Hebrews 11:8,11-12, 17-19 It is through faith that Abraham receives the gift of his family.</p>	<p>Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia! At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son. Alleluia!</p> <p>Gospel Luke 2:22-40 The child Jesus is presented to the Lord in the Temple and blessed by Simeon and Anna.</p>
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Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Roman Catholic Diocese of Hallam Trust • Registered Charity Number 512021

Sunday 31st December 2023

Sunday Year B

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Weekday Cycle II

“The child’s mother and father stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him.”

Service Times & Intentions

Day	Date	Time	Intention
Saturday Vigil (St Michael`s)	30 Dec	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	31 Dec	9.00am	Christine and Catherine Haigh RIP
Sunday (St Helen`s)	31 Dec	11.00am	Barry Cooper RIP
Tuesday (St Helen`s)	2 Jan	10.00am	
Wednesday (St Michael`s)	3 Jan	10.00am	Holy Souls
Wednesday (Sacred Heart)	3 Jan	12.00pm	Funeral Service for Ethel O`Connor
Thursday (St Helen`s)	4 Jan	10.00am	Audrey O`Neill RIP
Friday (Sacred Heart)	5 Jan	10.00am	Ethel O`Connor RIP
Friday (St Michael`s)	5 Jan	1.50pm	Funeral Service for Thomas Pidgeon
Saturday Vigil (St Michael`s)	6 Jan	5.30pm	Shaun Barrett RIP
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	7 Jan	9.00am	Christine and Catherine Haigh RIP
Sunday (St. Helen`s)	7Jan	11.00am	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 each Thursday 7.00-8.00pmF

There is a programme on various national TV channels called, *Who do you think you are?*, which aims to help well-known personalities delve into their family backgrounds, highlighting the most interesting discoveries. In the British version of the programme, it has proved possible to trace more than one family back to medieval monarchs. More unusual episodes are when expectations are turned upside down. A black woman returning to the Caribbean was surprised to find a black ancestor who owned slaves rather than being a slave himself. Moreover, most of the local population were still named after him. An actress knew that her family was of Irish stock, and her anti-Catholic mother was of the firm belief that they were members of the Anglo-Irish gentry whose name they bore. However, the research team discovered that they were in fact descendants of Irish Catholic Travellers who had taken the name of their local gentry on emigrating to England, as they thought it would help more in their acceptance and settling down in their new home. The actress could not wait to inform her mother, whose reaction to the news was not recorded.

What would be the response if we asked the same question of Jesus and his family? St Mark and St Luke offer us family genealogies of Joseph, heredity deemed to come through the father even if he was not the biological parent. The genealogies are not the same. The evangelists have different intentions. St Mark wants to show how Jesus is descended from Abraham and David, thus continuing the line of the covenant God makes with God's chosen people. St Luke goes back to Adam because he is more interested in showing Jesus as the one who calls all humanity to salvation.

In their infancy narratives Matthew continues to give Joseph a more central role. He is the one who guides and protects Mary and her child, relying, like his forebear of the same name, on instructions given by angels in his dreams. Luke, perhaps because of his personal acquaintance, has Mary as his dominant person, recording the visit to her of the angel Gabriel, her visit to Elizabeth and the birth of her son in the stable. Both parents bring Jesus to the Temple and marvel at Simeon's

prophetic words, but it is to Mary that Simeon speaks personally, warning that a sword will pierce her soul. When both parents find the boy Jesus sitting in the Temple among the teachers, it is his mother who addresses him with their anxieties.

Joseph is absent from the public life of Jesus, leading commentators to presume his death. All the synoptic evangelists depict Mary as visiting Jesus with relatives – and he seems to give them the cold shoulder, pointing out that his true family are his followers. St John, however, portrays Mary in a very different role. She is the one who propels Jesus into his public life at the marriage feast of Cana. She stands at the foot of the cross at the end of her Son's life. Jesus gives Mary into the care of the beloved disciple, with whom, according to tradition, she will spend the rest of her days.

The Holy Family has commonly been used as an ideal example of the nuclear family. As we can see from the above examples from Scripture, this idea may mislead us. The Holy Family went through the same trials and misunderstandings that affect any family then and now. What is helpful for us is to see how they reacted in such demanding circumstances. Throughout their lives, their guiding star was a strong belief in, and dependence on, God, the reference point to whom they all turned.

Secondly, particularly in Mary and Joseph, we are given clear examples of parents who care. This care is shown in the way they fulfil the religious traditions on behalf of their son, keeping him out of harm's way and bringing him up in love and kindness. He in turn accepts their authority and guidance, only differing when it comes to the question of his ultimate calling. At that point we have a sense of Jesus educating his parents in the demands of the role that God has given him. In modern terms, they negotiate, both sides honestly expressing their concerns, and then continue in harmony.

For the contemporary reader there is inevitably a desire to know more. Later, legends grew up about Jesus displaying magical powers, but such instances say more about later generations' fascination with magic than about the intentions of the evangelists. The latter wish to show how all elements of the life of Jesus reveal him fulfilling the promises made to his people and extending those promises to the whole world. His family relations reveal that same truth, and we, in our turn, are called to try to express that truth in all aspects of our lives.

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Prayers for the Sick

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners. We remember especially Margaret Thornton, Ethel O'Connor, Julia Hill, Christine and Bill Mays, Marie Bray (nee Walsh), Percy Winterton, Carole Dyson, Bernadette Houl, 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.

Bonus Ball - Goldthorpe and Hoyland

The winning number was 44. The winners in Goldthorpe was M Archibald, winning £25. The winner in Hoyland will be announced next week.

Christmas Offerings

A big thank you from Fr Declan for your generosity, as well as all the cards, gifts and good wishes. A big thank you to all those who helped prepare our three churches for the Christmas period, and to those who give their time to the parish in so many ways, throughout the year.

Change to Mass

The Saturday morning mass at St Michael's has been discontinued. There has been no congregation at the mass for a few weeks and it is costly to heat the space for nothing.

Songs of Praise

On New Year's Eve at 1.15 pm on BBC1, 'Songs of Praise' will be from Sheffield City Hall. Several of our parishioners attended this event - see if you can spot them!

An invitation from Dearne Churches Together

On Monday 1st January 2024 there will be a New Year's Day party from 4.00pm hosted by Goldthorpe Pentecostal Community Church (next to the Post Office on Market Street). Food, Fellowship and Fun games! ALL ARE WELCOME!

Hallam Bridge

There are a few copies of the latest edition the 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

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