

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**First Reading** Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
God will raise a prophet among you who will speak with the Lord's word.

**Responsorial Psalm** 94:1-2, 6-9  
O that today you would listen to his voice!  
Harden not your hearts.

**Second Reading** 1 Corinthians 7:32-35  
Paul invites people to fulfil their role for which the Lord has called them, free from worry.

## Gospel Acclamation

### Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children.

### Alleluia!

## Gospel

Mark 1:21-28  
The crowd recognises Jesus as a prophet who offers a teaching that is new, which he speaks with authority.

## Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Sunday Year B

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekday Cycle II

*"He taught them with authority."*

## Service Times & Intentions

<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>27 Jan</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>28 Jan</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Barrett and Priestley Families
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen`s)	<b>28 Jan</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Andrew J Marren RIP
Tuesday (St Helen`s)	30 Jan	10.00am	Mrs Kathleen Mintenko Illness
Wednesday (St Michael`s)	31 Jan	10.00am	Judith Blackhurst Get Well Intentions
Thursday (St Helen`s)	1 Feb	10.00am	Kath Hardy RIP
Friday (Sacred Heart)	2 Feb	10.00am	Mr & Mrs Ben Curran RIP
<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>3 Feb</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>4 Feb</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	For the Intentions of Fr Shryane
<b>Sunday</b> (St. Helen`s)	<b>4 Feb</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Fr Denis Norman 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** each Thursday 7.00-8.00pmF

One of the surprising gaps in the Gospels is any description of what Jesus actually looked like. If you had known someone who had been in the synagogue in Capernaum and had heard that Jesus had healed the possessed man, you would have wanted to know what this Jesus was like. Would you have wanted to know how tall he was, the colour of his hair, what he was wearing? But your friend who was a witness tells you something else — he taught with authority. This impression seems to block out everything else.

The lack of description in the Gospels of what Jesus looked like is a gap that can inspire creativity. The absence of a description can lead to a generous range of images as different communities recognise Jesus as one of their own. Today we mark Racial Justice Sunday, and the diversity of ways of seeing Jesus can not only give us insights into who Jesus was but also remind each one of us to see the presence of Jesus in both friend and stranger.

Jesus is seen as offering something new, something different to the scribes.

Just as the Gospel writers do not tell us what Jesus looked like, neither does Mark actually tell us what Jesus taught at this time. In the opening chapters of Mark's Gospel, the only teaching is: "The time has come and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News." In keeping with the style of these initial chapters, where Mark moves quickly from place to place, it is short and to the point. Jesus is like a commander issuing instructions; the commands must be clear and brief so that they are understood and received — and that is what gives him authority.

Jesus' authority seems therefore to be based on the brevity of what he says — and on the meaning being clear. The people recognise him as a prophet who, as Moses says in the first reading, speaks the words of God.

That we are still listening to Paul's letters today tells us that the people of Corinth also recognised that Paul taught with authority and wished to pass on that teaching. Unlike the succinctness of Jesus in Mark's account, Paul has more to say — developing his argument over longer sections. The danger is that we can miss the

essence of what Paul is saying by being caught up in the way he is saying it. To contemporary ears, Paul may be presenting a series of stereotypes of men and women, but this may miss his main point. As it was true in 1st century Corinth so it is today that people lead busy lives and yes, we need to make time to listen to the Lord, but not so that we neglect the needs of others. Be holy but also be real.

Returning to the Gospel, in Mark's account words are not enough. What gives Jesus' teaching true authority is not only what he says but also what he does. When Jesus speaks to the possessed man, he is direct and to the point: "Be quiet! Come out of him!"

The possessed man responds to his command and is healed. This action causes the people to repeat that Jesus' teaching has authority.

In today's Gospel Jesus perhaps provides a model for leadership and gaining the respect of those whom we serve. At its heart is integrity between the person, what they say and how they say it, and their actions. To have authority is to have a match between who we are, what we say and what we do. In the opening chapter of Mark, it is not as though Jesus is saying easy things to people – "Repent and believe" and "Be quiet!" – but his authority means that they are able to listen and hear what they need to hear.

If we had been present in the synagogue in Capernaum, would we have been open to Jesus' new teaching and have recognised his authority? We would have needed to follow the advice of the psalm response: to be ready to open our hearts and listen to the voice of the Lord speaking to us today.

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### **Prayers for the Sick**

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners. We remember especially Mary Smith, Fr Carl Schaefer, Paul Goddard, Margaret Thornton, Julia Hill, Christine and Bill Mays, Percy Winterton, Carole Dyson, Bernadette Hault, Michael Bennett, Janette Barber, Paddy McNicholas, David Hardy, Tess Lynch, Justin Phillip Collins, Hannah Prentiss, Pat Hermitage, Thomas Collins, Norma Marshall, Val Armstrong, Matthew Deakin, Margaret Booker, Michael Foy, Shirley Broadhead, Norah Preuss.

### **Requiescant in Pace**

We pray for the repose of the soul of Marie Bray (nee Walsh), Peter Gilmartin and Terry Mullins who all died recently. Please keep their families and friends in your prayers.

### **Marist Way and Rosary at Goldthorpe Rosary at Goldthorpe**

The Rosary at Goldthorpe is each **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 7<sup>th</sup> February.

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

The winning number was 42. The winners were C Jones in Goldthorpe and L & M Redfern in Hoyland each winning £25.

Spare numbers are available in Hoyland. Please see Pat Tomlinson if you would like a number and give yourself a chance to win £25!

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

We have our next Children's Liturgy during mass on Sunday 4th February. Any children who have not yet made their First Holy Communion are very welcome to come and join us. Thank you - Maureen Greaves and Amanda Campbell

### **Catholic Association for Racial Justice Second Collection 28<sup>th</sup> Jan**

In our task, as disciples of Christ, our responsibility is to make sure people are treated with dignity at work and are not exploited. Migrant communities and those suffering from racial abuse are particularly vulnerable to being drawn into unjust working conditions and labour exploitation. Funds raised from this week's second collection will be used for promoting racial justice in England and Wales. You can find more about their good works by visiting <https://www.carj.org.uk>

### **Mass Offerings**

Please be aware that there is a backlog of Mass requests for the weekend Masses in our three churches and whilst every effort is made to accommodate your wishes it is not always possible for your Mass request to be on your chosen day. Your request will be honoured but it may be on a later date. Please consider weekday Masses as well as weekend Masses for your requests. Thank you for your patience.

### **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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