

Epiphany of the Lord

First Reading Isaiah 60:1-6
Arise, shine out Jerusalem, for your light has come.

Responsorial Psalm 71:1-2,7-8,10-11, 12-13
All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

Second Reading Ephesians 3:2-3.5-6
All people share in the promise and salvation of God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

We saw his star as it rose and have come to do the Lord homage.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 2:1-12
“And falling to their knees, they did him homage.”

Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Sunday 7th January 2024

Sunday Year B

Epiphany of the Lord

Weekday Cycle II

“We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.”

Service Times & Intentions

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)	7 Jan	11.00am	People of the Parish
Tuesday (St Helen`s)	9 Jan	10.00am	
Wednesday (St Michael`s)	10 Jan	10.00am	Durkan and Holmes Families
Thursday (St Helen`s)	11 Jan	10.00am	Audrey O`Neill RIP
Friday (Sacred Heart)	12 Jan	10.00am	Ethel O`Connor RIP
Saturday Vigil (St Michael`s)	13 Jan	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	14 Jan	9.00am	Irving and Stella Bennett RIP
Sunday (St. Helen`s)	14 Jan	11.00am	Mgr. Peter Kirkham 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

Twelfth Night is the night when people traditionally take down the Christmas trees and put away the time-honoured decorations for another year. It is a moment often tinged with sadness as families and visitors have now departed. Many decorations have stood the test of time and tell a story of a family, sometimes joyful, other times marked by tears. The missing Christmas cards record the stories of bereavement and lost friends. The Three Kings, who have been moving towards the crib, now take their proud place near Jesus, Mary and Joseph. This intimate scene is explained to children who wonder at the sight of the crib.

Caspar bears the gold for a king, Melchior the frankincense for a deity, Balthasar the myrrh whose scent is already leading us towards the tomb at Easter. In the well-known carol *We Three Kings* we sing,

“Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing,
Bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.”

Yet the cold of the tomb will give way to Christ's glorious rising from the dead.

In the Christmas story, we discover our identity as a people who follow Jesus and are his disciples. The beauty of the scene at the manger captures the hope of the Christ Child and the joy that is proclaimed each Christmas.

The Magi bearing their gifts have followed the star that appeared as a mysterious sign in the night sky. They travelled from the East over mountain and desert. In their longing to understand the meaning of this twinkling light, they persevered on their hard journey through very long, cold nights and short days. Tiredness and weariness must have been part of their wintry journey.

They enter the house of the Holy Family where they see the Child with his mother Mary and his protector Joseph. Their house has the welcome and warmth of a home that is full of love. They are offered hospitality in the Eastern custom. They bow low and offer their gifts to the innocent and fragile child who is utterly dependent on his mother and St Joseph. They pay homage to the new king. They

see both a baby and a king. There is a poverty in the simple scene but also a richness, because the presence of the Christ Child fills the whole room. They recognise him as their God.

T.S. Eliot writes in his poem *The Journey of the Magi* about their homeward journey:

“We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.
I should be glad of another death.”

They know that their world has been changed and they no longer fit into the world in the same way. They are not sure what this will mean for their future. They begin to find the meaning of the Messiah who will save his people in the Jewish scriptures. They know in their hearts that this is the child they have met. All people have been sent a redeemer who will free them from their sins. He has been born in poverty in Bethlehem and will proclaim the coming of God’s kingdom. The Magi learn that he will save all people by his death and resurrection and that they will have life in this world and eternal life in the next.

As we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, we affirm our belief in Jesus Christ, true God and true man, light of the nations. We confess our belief that he is the Saviour of all people. We unite as Christians of East and West in our belief that the message of Christ gives hope and joy to all who believe. We bow down and pay him homage.

We thank God for the faith that has been handed down to us, whether from grandparents, within families, by friends, or by helpful priests and religious. We name in prayer those people who have sustained us in our faith and helped us in the difficult times.

As we move into the new year, let us make our new resolutions, perhaps to read the scriptures daily, to pray the rosary, maybe to be generous in almsgiving. Let us choose to do something to deepen our faith and love this new year.

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Prayers for the Sick

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners. We remember especially Margaret Thornton, Julia Hill, Christine and Bill Mays, Marie Bray (nee Walsh), Percy Winterton, 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.

Bonus Ball - Goldthorpe and Hoyland

The winning number was 38. The winners were C Mays in Goldthorpe and K O’Neill in Hoyland each winning £25. The winner in Hoyland last week was J Andrews.

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

Tea and Coffee at Goldthorpe

We all enjoy the refreshments at Goldthorpe after mass on Sundays, and would like to invite more parishioners to be part of the Team providing these - on a Rota basis - from mid-January. The suggestion is 2 or 3 people taking on a month at a time.

Please speak to Margaret or Eddie Goddard, Maureen Greaves or Amanda Campbell if you would like to know more and to be involved. Thank you.

A Synodal Church in Mission in Hallam

Come and learn how to continue the synodal journey here in the diocese. A gathering for those who would like to embed the synodal way of working in their parish community over the next year.

Date and time: Saturday 20 January 2024 9:30-11:30am at the Hallam Pastoral Centre

Please book on the diocesan Eventbrite page using the QR Code



“Becoming Synodal.”

The Diocese is inviting every parish to a “retreat at home” on becoming synodal. This retreat is designed to introduce the practice of synodality, and uses the Diocesan syntheses report as a basis for prayerful reflection.

A taster session at the Pastoral Centre will be held for those who are interested in running the retreat in their parish community.

Date and time: Saturday 3 February 2024 10:00-12:00noon at the Hallam Pastoral Centre



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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