

1st Sunday of Lent

First Reading Genesis 9:8-15
God establishes a covenant with Noah, his descendants and every living creature. God sets a bow in the clouds as a sign of the covenant.

Responsorial Psalm 24:4-9
Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.

Second Reading 1 Peter 3:18-22
Peter gives hope to his listeners. As we prepare to renew our baptismal vows at Easter, we are called to repent, to change and to believe in the Gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 1:12-15
Jesus stays in the desert for forty days. He emerges to tell the crowds that the kingdom of God is close at hand.

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 18th February 2024

Sunday Year B

First Sunday of Lent

Weekday Cycle II

"Repent and believe the Gospel."

Service Times & Intentions

Saturday Vigil (St Michael's)	17 Feb	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	18 Feb	9.00am	Michael Eaton RIP
Sunday (St Helen's)	18 Feb	11.00am	Audrey O'Neill RIP
Tuesday (St Helen's)	20 Feb	10.00am	Marie Bray RIP
Wednesday (St Michael's)	21 Feb	12 noon	Requiem Mass for Terry Mullins
Thursday (St Helen's)	22 Feb	10.00am	Mrs C Mintenco RIP
Friday (Sacred Heart)	23 Feb	10.00am	John Dugdale RIP
Saturday Vigil (St Michael's)	24 Feb	5.30pm	Peter Durkan RIP
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	25 Feb	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sunday (St. Helen's)	25 Feb	11.00am	Kath Hardy 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 7.00-8.00pm

"People always say that I didn't give up my seat because I was tired, but that isn't true. I was not tired physically, or no more tired than I usually was at the end of a working day. I was not old, although some people have an image of me as being old then. I was forty-two. No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in."

It was in December 1955 that Rosa Parks, an African American woman, was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white person. Her fight against racial injustice began early in her life. "Back then," she said in an interview, "we didn't have any civil rights. It was just a matter of survival, of existing from one day to the next." As a child she had seen the Ku Klux Klan riding by, and she had been afraid that her house would be burnt down. She decided that it was important for her to get involved and to challenge the authorities that introduced racial segregation. Her actions resulted initially in the Montgomery bus boycott and eventually in a legal ruling that segregation on public transport was unconstitutional. Her determination not to be seen as a second-class citizen brought about massive change in society. It was not without personal cost, though, as she was arrested and lost her job. In an interview in 1992 she said, *"I had not planned to get arrested. I had plenty to do without having to end up in jail. But when I had to face that decision, I didn't hesitate to do so because I felt that we had endured that too long. The more we gave in, the more we complied with that kind of treatment, the more oppressive it became."*

Today we hear of the time that Jesus spent in the desert, after being baptised. We learn that he goes on to Galilee and calls on the people to repent and believe in the gospel.

There is a strong theme of repentance in today's readings, as well as a sense of the opportunity of a fresh start. In the first reading, we hear that when the flood is over, God creates a covenant with Noah, his descendants and all living creatures. In the second reading, Peter reminds his listeners that they are changed through baptism. In both the first and second readings there is a turning around that brings

comfort and encouragement – a turning towards God and away from the things that keep us from God.

Another theme here is relationship. We are creatures in relationship with our neighbours and with all living creatures, as well as with God. We hear today how Jesus tells the crowds that the kingdom of God is close at hand. The kingdom is good news for all, especially those who are poor or disadvantaged, oppressed or enslaved. It is freedom – not to hurt, but to heal, not to divide, but to bring together.

The crowds listening to Jesus are invited to change direction – to create better relationships with each other, with God and with their neighbour. The kingdom is one of justice and of peace. Injustice keeps us all apart from one another; it divides and polarises us.

Sometimes it feels as if Lent could be a rather gloomy season, but it is also a time of blessing. It gives us time to reflect and it is a great opportunity to commit to change, to take a new direction in our lives, to make a fresh start. As Sr Laurentia Johns OSB writes, “From wherever we may have wandered through neglect, poor choices, stress, busyness, God never tires of calling us back.” In order to commit to change and to seek a different direction, we first need to be aware of what needs to change. What is pulling us in the wrong direction, and how can we turn around?

It is not that we will never make mistakes or choose the wrong path. But as Pope Benedict XVI reminds us, “Holiness does not consist in never having erred or sinned. Holiness increases the capacity for conversion, for repentance, for willingness to start again...”

Because we are creatures in relationship, this conversion – this need for change – is not just an individual matter. Like Rosa Parks, if we open our eyes we can see the need for change at a community level. Where do we see poverty and injustice? Where do we hear words of hatred and condemnation towards those who are different? What is happening to the beautiful world full of exquisite living creatures that God created? It is time to raise our voices in witness to the truth of the Gospel, even at personal cost. The kingdom is at hand.

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Prayers for the Sick

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners. We remember especially Tony Wood, Mary Smith, Fr Carl Schaefer, Paul Goddard, Margaret Thornton, Julia Hill, Christine and Bill Mays, Percy Winterton, Carole Dyson, Bernadette Houlton, 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.

Terry Mullins RIP

The funeral service for Terry Mullins will be on Wednesday 21st February in St Michael's Church. Please note there is no 10.00am Mass that morning.

First Holy Communion Programme 2024

The next meeting will be on Monday 26th February from 6.00pm to 7.30pm in St Michael's Church Hall and is for the children only.

The Mass of Reconciliation is on Saturday 2nd March in St Michael's Church.

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross continues throughout Lent on Wednesdays at Goldthorpe at 2pm (after Rosary). All welcome.

There will also be Stations of the Cross at the Anglican church of St John and St Mary Magdalene, Lockwood Road, Goldthorpe, at 6.00pm each Friday evening during Lent. All are welcome.

CAFOD Family Fast Day Friday, 23rd February

This year's Lenten Family Fast Day will next Friday. Envelopes are available for your donations. Please consider using the Gift Aid slip if you are a UK Taxpayer, thus enabling CAFOD to benefit further from your generous donations.

`My Day by Day` Lent 2024

These popular little booklets are available for you from the back of church. There is also a version for children. They are free for each household but if you wish to make a small donation please do so by using the Repository boxes in church.

Bonus Ball - Goldthorpe and Hoyland

The winning number was 34. The winners were D Grocock in Goldthorpe and P Tomlinson in Hoyland, each winning £25.

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World Day of Prayer – Friday 1st March

This year's service has been prepared by the women of Palestine, the theme is “I beg you, bear with one another in love”. The local service for Goldthorpe will be held at St Peter's Church Barnburgh, 2pm on Friday 1st March. Anyone who would like to be involved with the readings at the service is invited to attend a first meeting at Barnburgh Church Hall at 2pm on Friday 16th February.

(The Hall is behind and to the left of church.)

Sr Etheldreda

We wish Sr Etheldreda a wonderful 90th birthday, which was on the 12th February. God bless you, Sr. Ethel.

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