

3rd Sunday of Lent

First Reading Exodus 20:1-17
The Law is given to the people through Moses, teaching them how to live their lives and how to treat one another.

Responsorial Psalm 18:8-11
You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:22-25
The Risen Christ reveals the wisdom of God, a wisdom that is beyond anything we can imagine.

Gospel Acclamation

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord,
whoever believes in me will never die.

Gospel John 2:13-25
Jesus drives the money-changers out of the Temple and proclaims that he will make all things new.

Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Sunday 3rd March 2024

Sunday Year B

Third Sunday of Lent

Weekday Cycle II

"Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market."

Service Times & Intentions

Saturday Vigil (St Michael's)	2 Mar	5.30pm	Jack and Vera O'Connell RIP
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	3 Mar	9.00am	Margaret Bennett RIP
Sunday (St Helen's)	3 Mar	11.00am	People of the Parish
Tuesday (St Helen's)	5 Mar	10.00am	
Wednesday (St Michael's)	6 Mar	10.00am	
Thursday (St Helen's)	7 Mar	10.00am	
Friday (Sacred Heart)	8 Mar	10.00am	
Saturday Vigil (St Michael's)	9 Mar	5.30pm	Bridget Wallden-Jones RIP
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	10 Mar	9.00am	Margaret Bennett RIP
Sunday (St. Helen's)	10 Mar	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 7.00-8.00pm

Everywhere we go, we are bombarded with messages to buy. Advertising hoardings loom over our streets, at bus stops and train stations. Adverts pop up on our computer screens, as we scroll through our phones or as we stare at the television. Hawkers loiter outside major tourist attractions like the Eiffel Tower. Museums and art galleries have their shops.

We have been conditioned to consume. An experience often only seems valuable if we have a souvenir to help us to remember it. Our worth is too often measured in the possessions that we have accumulated, regardless of the consequences to our earth, or to those who are exploited in the manufacturing, sale or purchase of these goods.

Those who have the power continue to prop up a system that benefits a few. There is no escape for most of us, who are trapped in this cycle as we try to navigate our way through life as best we can.

This is not a new phenomenon as we can see in today's Gospel.

Even the Temple has been turned into a place of commerce. Animals are being sold for sacrifice. Money changers are welcoming pilgrims from all over the place and changing their money so that they can buy what they need to worship.

And yet, Jesus drives all of these people out of the Temple. Why? Does he feel that people should not be able to get what they need to offer the appropriate sacrifice? Surely not.

Here in the Temple, we have a captive audience. People who need certain items, and people who can provide them. The situation is ripe for exploitation. There is nothing to stop the moneychangers and the pigeon-sellers from charging whatever they want, no matter what the people can afford. For pilgrims and other worshippers to give glory to God, they must take part in this system that is designed to take advantage of them. Instead of helping people to draw closer to God, the merchants' motive was personal profit and gain.

Not only this, but the area where the traders had set up was the place set aside for Gentiles (non-Jews) to pray. How could they concentrate on their prayer and worship while surrounded by the hubbub of this marketplace?

This is what Jesus is taking a stand against. He could not allow the exploitation of those who were trying to draw closer to God. He could not accept the hollow gestures, the lip service to religion being offered by those benefiting from this exploitation. He could not have earthly priorities preventing all people from coming to know God.

Instead, he turns the tables, prophesies the destruction of the sanctuary and proclaims that he will raise it all up again in three days.

So what does this mean for us today?

We know that when Jesus spoke of raising up the sanctuary after three days, he was talking of himself. Through the resurrection he has made all things new.

And yet, our world is still filled with exploitation. We still see people who put profit before other people and before their relationship with God. We might not be able to fully break down the systems that enable this, but perhaps we can each try to turn the tables in our own small way.

By living a life where we do not seek our own glory, but the glory of God; by standing up and speaking out when we see greed and unjust practices; by not seeking our own benefit or recognition, but by working together with others for the good of all; by stepping away from the endless need to consume; by stopping, being present and appreciating what we already have; by enabling others to draw closer to God, rather than putting barriers in their way.

As Saint Paul says, the crucified Christ is the wisdom of God. A wisdom which is beyond our imagining. It follows then, that all that we are encouraged to hold dear by the world around us – money, wealth, status – becomes unimportant. True wealth is found in our relationships with others, with Creation, and with God, rather than in chasing the next new purchase.

So let us not pay lip service in our worship of God or make hollow gestures. Let us try not to seek our own gain, but to support others in their journey towards God. And let us follow Christ in our lives, seeking always to turn the tables of exploitation and injustice so that all may glorify God by their lives and actions.

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Prayers for the Sick

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners. We remember especially Margaret Howitt, Owen Jenkinson, Tony Wood, Mary Smith, Fr Carl Schaefer, Paul Goddard, Julia Hill, Christine and Bill Mays, 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, Matthew Deakin, Margaret Booker, Michael Foy, Shirley Broadhead, Norah Preuss.

Requiescant in Pace

We pray for the soul of Joe, brother of Fr. Declan, who died suddenly last week. Please keep Fr Declan and all Joe's family and friends in your prayers.

We remember also Ijeoma Maureen Nwakamma, sister of Hallam Diocese Seminarian, Christian Nwakamma, Fr. Antony Hayne, retire priest of the Hallam Diocese, and Rev Canon Joseph Smith of the Leeds Diocese, who all died recently. Please keep their families and friends in your prayers.

Bonus Ball - Goldthorpe and Hoyland

The winning number was 28. The lucky winners were M Walton in Goldthorpe and M Smith in Hoyland, each winning £25.

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.

Red Mission Boxes

Please bring in your Red Mission Boxes at your earliest convenience. If you are a UK Taxpayer, please consider using Gift Aid and make sure your name is on the box that you leave, or empty your own box and bring to church, making sure your name is on your donation. This allows the Missio Co-ordinator to log your donation and therefore claim the Gift Aid. Thank you for your support and for your continued prayers for missionaries around the world.

CAFOD Family Fast Day Friday, 23rd February

Please return your donation envelopes as soon as possible so that CAFOD can quickly distribute your generous offerings. So far, you have raised an amazing £422.43. Please consider using the Gift Aid slip if you are a UK Taxpayer, thus enabling CAFOD to benefit further from your generous donations. Alternatively you can give online at cafod.org.uk

Hallam Bridge

There are a few copies of the latest edition 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