

## 4th Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)

**First Reading** 2 Chrons 36:14-16. 19-23  
God's persistent love and mercy in the face of rejection are revealed.

### Responsorial Psalm 136

O let my tongue cleave to my mouth  
if I remember you not!

### Second Reading

 Ephesians 2:4-10

Through grace, not by our own efforts, we have been saved, so that we may live the good life God has always meant us to live.

## Gospel Acclamation

God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son;  
everyone who believes in him has eternal life.

### Gospel

 John 3:14-21

Christ is the light of the world, come not to condemn but to save, and those who live by the truth come into that light.

## Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Sunday 10th March 2024

Sunday Year B

Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)

Weekday Cycle II

—“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”

## Service Times & Intentions

<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>9 Mar</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	Bridget Wallden-Jones RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>10 Mar</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Margaret Bennett RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen`s)	<b>10 Mar</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	People of the Parish
Tuesday (St Helen`s)	12 Mar		THERE WILL BE NO WEEKDAY MASSES FOR THE TIME BEING
Wednesday	13 Mar		
Thursday	14 Mar		
Friday	15 Mar		
<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>16 Mar</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>17 Mar</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Paul Francis Galvin RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (St. Helen`s)	<b>17 Mar</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Margaret and Mint Burkinshaw 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

**\*PLEASE NOTE THERE ARE NO WEEKDAY MASSES FOR THE TIME BEING\***

There are many examples in literature of people who, through the course of the story, move from despair to hope, selfishness to generosity, darkness to light. Rarely do they do this entirely through their own efforts. Usually someone is rooting for them, encouraging them, or coaxing them towards something better. This persistent support empowers them, not only to do better for themselves, but also to do better for others.

In Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, Scrooge is shown a way of living that differs from his self-absorbed existence. He sees what might be if he let joy, light and generosity into his world. He responds, reluctantly at first, but later with uncurtailed joy. In Barbara Kingsolver's *Demon Copperhead*, several good people refuse to give up on a boy born into a life of poverty, neglect and addiction, where circumstances seem to make bad outcomes inevitable.

In many cases, the path is not straight. Life is messy, and ups may be followed by downs. Characters resist support. Or they accept support but nevertheless encounter hurdle after hurdle. As in real life, there may be no fairy-tale ending. But it is usually clear that goodness makes a difference, and that even one good person can transform how another experiences the world. Indeed, those involved in young people's services know that having "one good adult" is crucial in helping a young person to flourish. And surely this continues to apply in adulthood. Scrooge, after all, was no longer young when he accepted love from others in a way that enabled him to bring love into the world in turn.

In John's Gospel, it is Jesus who has the power to transform the lives of those he encounters. This applies in the sometimes abstract, theological sense of salvation and in the concrete sense of how people live their lives.

John describes how people "have shown they prefer darkness to light because their deeds were evil". They have avoided the light because they fear it will expose their wrong actions. In the first reading, we hear of "infidelity", "shameful practices", and the repeated resistance of the people when God sent "messenger after messenger" until it seemed "there was no further remedy".

But as Paul tells us in the second reading, God persisted. "God loved us with so much love that he was generous in his mercy." Even when we "were dead through our sins", God brought us to life with Christ. Paul is clear, however, that we are not saved by anything we alone have done. We are saved through grace and faith, gifts from God given in Christ Jesus. He is that one good person who empowers us "to live the good life". He is the one who John says was sent by God to save the world, empowering us to live by the truth "so that it may be plainly seen that what [we] do is done in God".

Living the life God intended is impossible if we go it alone. That is why we open our hearts to Jesus as the one who brings light, grace and faith into our lives. Spending time in prayer and reflection, pondering on the scriptures, and celebrating our faith in community can help us experience the transformative light of Christ. This light is not just for us as individuals, even if we experience it through deeply personal prayer. Our life in Christ is not simply an "inward" or "upward" spiritual exercise. Just as we see the power of one good person on many a character in literature – and as we may have experienced in our own lives – so we are called to reach into the world.

Each of us is just one person, but our influence can be transformative if we are the one who brightens another's day, offers a word of comfort, lifts another up, treats our environment and every person with the respect they deserve as part of God's creation. Our gestures do not need to be grand, although some of us may be in a position to do great things. Today, let us think of one way in which we might be one good person in the world.

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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.

### **Joan Margaret Thornton RIP**

Funeral arrangements are as follows: Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 6.00pm, overnight repose in St Michael's, followed by funeral service on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 11.00am.

### **Joey Brett RIP**

Funeral arrangements for Joey are as follows: Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> March, 5.00pm, overnight repose in St. Michael's, funeral service on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 10.00am.

### **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](http://hallam-diocese.com)

### **Hallam Support for LIFE second collection 16/17<sup>th</sup> March**

This day, Inaugurated by St. John Paul II, presents an opportunity to pray for the gift of life from conception to natural death and to raise awareness of the precious gift of life.

Only a few days ago it was announced that the government is planning to offer to parents who have lost a baby before 24 weeks of pregnancy a certificate in recognition of their loss. This is surely good news. How difficult to understand, then, that at the same time there are those who are pushing Parliament to allow abortions to be carried out later and later. LIFE spends much of its time helping women to avoid such a loss through abortion. LIFE also helps those who experience the loss of a baby in any circumstances to cope with their loss. The LIFE way is always a compassionate way grounded on the value of the unborn child and in solidarity with the pregnant woman.

### **CAFOD Family Fast Day Friday, 23rd February**

Please return your donation envelopes as soon as possible. So far, you have raised an amazing £512.43, of which £130 is Gift Aided. 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](http://cafod.org.uk)

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

The winning number was 6. The lucky winners were E Goddard in Goldthorpe and M Stephenson in Hoyland, each winning £25.

### **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.

### **Knights of St Columba Easter Egg Appeal.**

As in previous years, the Knights are asking for donations of Easter Eggs for children who have to spend Easter in Barnsley Hospital. If you can help, please leave your donations at the back of church. Thank you

### **Churches Together in Hoyland and District**

Good Friday Service outside the Hoyland Common Co-Op on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 9.30am. Everyone is welcome.

### **Offertory Envelopes**

New Offertory envelopes starting on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April will be available soon for those who require them. Your envelope number may be different this year. This is because the amount of envelopes we need to order has reduced.

If you haven't had envelopes before and wish to use them, please send an email, telephone, or simply pop a note in through the collection.

### **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.