

5th Sunday of Lent	Gospel Acclamation
First Reading Jeremiah 31:31-34 Jeremiah tells us of God's continuing patience with us even when we are most stubborn.	If a man serves me, says the Lord, he must follow me; wherever I am my servant will be there too.
Responsorial Psalm 50:3-4, 12-15 A pure heart create for me, O God.	Gospel John 12:20-33 St John reveals to us Jesus' thoughts and apprehension about his coming suffering.
Second Reading Hebrews 5:7-9 It is through Jesus' obedient suffering that we can be saved.	

Service Times & Intentions

Saturday Vigil (St Michael's)	16 Mar	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	17 Mar	9.00am	Paul Francis Galvin RIP
Sunday (St Helen's)	17 Mar	11.00am	Margaret and Mint Burkinshaw RIP
Tuesday	19 Mar		
Wednesday (St Michael's)	20 Mar	11.00am	Funeral of Margaret Thornton
Thursday (St Michael's)	21 Mar	10.00am	Requiem Mass for Joey Brett
Friday	22 Mar		
Saturday Vigil (St Michael's)	23 Mar	5.30pm	Terence Mullins RIP
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	24 Mar	9.00am	Edward (Ted) O'Connor RIP
Sunday (St. Helen's)	24 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

PLEASE NOTE THERE ARE NO WEEKDAY MASSES FOR THE TIME BEING

Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Sunday 17th March 2024

Sunday Year B

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Weekday Cycle II

"Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour?"

Michael Heath is a British cartoonist. He's been working for many years and his cartoons have appeared in all sorts of publications. Any topic is a source of inspiration to him. It could be political, social comment or even religious. In one drawing Michael has Jesus standing with a crowd of people round: him, men, women and children. To one side of the picture there's a rather puzzled-looking disciple who is being accosted by a very self-important looking man who says to the disciple, "I wonder if it's possible to see him privately". He clearly thought he shouldn't be with the riffraff and deserved a one-to-one interview.

So many people wanted to see Jesus that he hardly had time to rest. Perhaps we could pick out a few episodes in the Gospel stories about some of the various people who wanted to see him. By that I mean the ones who valued him and not the religious leaders who hated him and wanted him dead.

There's the story of Bartimaeus who was blind and begging by the roadside. When he heard Jesus and the crowd go by, he yelled out "Son of David, have pity on me." He was so loud and insistent the crowd told him to shut up. He was embarrassing them. But he took no notice and shouted even louder. Jesus gave him back his sight and Bartimaeus became one of his disciples.

Then there was the woman in a crowd who quietly touched Jesus' clothes, knowing she would be cured of her illness. Another was the courteous Roman centurion who asked for just a word from Jesus to cure his servant. When Jesus went to the town of Tyre on the coast, he joined in a battle of wits with the Greek woman who pleaded for her daughter's health. Jesus said he couldn't give the children's bread to dogs. Quick as a flash, the woman replied that even dogs ate the crumbs from the master's table. And perhaps the boldest of all was the group who tried to get their paralysed neighbour into the house where Jesus was staying. The crowd blocked the doorway, so they decided to take the roof off and lower the man in via the direct route.

What all these people, and so many more, had in common was that they wanted Jesus to do something for them. But what about Jesus himself? Who looked after his needs? Today's Gospel reading is a bit strange; it's in two parts, which don't

seem to be connected, but it might give us a clue as to what Jesus is thinking. The Greeks who spoke to Philip were clearly very polite. Perhaps Philip wasn't used to such courtesy because he seemed not to know how to deal with them. He had to go and ask advice from Andrew and the two of them went to Jesus. We don't know whether Jesus even met the Greek visitors, because his reply is concentrated on the events that he knows are waiting for him and which trouble his soul.

Next Sunday is the start of Holy Week. We know this is the most solemn part of the Church's year. As the week unfolds, we find that Jesus, who has done so much good for everyone, is himself left almost friendless. In Gethsemane, when he is in agony, his closest apostles fall asleep and give him no comfort. He is betrayed by one of his own; the disciples run away when Jesus is arrested. Peter denies he even knows him. The crowd which cheered and waved palms when he entered Jerusalem now turns nasty when they find he's not going to drive the Romans out. Shouts of "Hosanna" become "Crucify him". Jesus is degraded and mocked by the soldiers. The religious leaders vent their hate on him and Rome condemns him unjustly. Jesus accepts all this suffering for our sake. As we heard in the reading from the letter to the Hebrews, "he became, for all who obey him, the source of eternal salvation".

Of course, we can't be physically with Jesus as we remember and re-enact the events of so long ago during Holy Week, but by opening our hearts as we proceed from Passion Sunday, through Holy Thursday and Good Friday, we can share in the joy of the risen Lord on Easter Day. If we let him, the Lord will write his law of love within our hearts.

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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 19th March 6.00pm, overnight repose in St Michael's, followed by funeral service on Wednesday 20th March at 11.00am.

Joe Brett RIP

Funeral arrangements for Fr Declan's brother are as follows: Wednesday, 20th March, 5.00pm, overnight repose in St. Michael's, Requiem Mass on Thursday 21st March at 10.00am.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HOYLAND AND DISTRICT Good Friday Service outside the Hoyland Common Co-op on Friday 29th March at 9.30am. Everyone is welcome.

Bonus Ball - Goldthorpe and Hoyland

The winning number was 43. The lucky winners were Pat O'Hanlon in Goldthorpe and M Harrison in Hoyland, each winning £25.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes:-Friday 28th June – 4th July 2024

Have you considered travelling on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes in this Year of Prayer? All are very welcome to join Bishop Ralph, clergy and parishioners from around the diocese on the 2024 Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. The organisers ask anyone who is interested to send their Booking Forms in as soon as possible so that plans can be made. Any outstanding information can follow later. Booking forms available to download at www.hallam-lourdes.com. Enquiries **01302 247910 or 07724 650066**. Fare **£879pp - 6 nights Full Board** (excl. Ins.) flying from Leeds Bradford Airport direct to Lourdes.

Hallam Support for LIFE Second Collection 16/17th 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. Today's second collection is in support 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.

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

Easter cards on sale at Goldthorpe

There are a few packs of religious Easter cards for sale in the room at the back of church. 10 cards for £2.50, proceeds to church funds.

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross continue in Goldthorpe during Lent: Wednesday 2pm at Sacred Heart Church, Friday 6pm Anglican Church of St John and St Mary Magdalene. All are welcome at either church.

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