

5th Sunday of Easter	Gospel Acclamation
First Reading Acts 9:26-31 Saul preaches fearlessly in the name of the Lord on his return to Jerusalem.	Alleluia, alleluia! Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty.
Responsorial Psalm 21:26-28, 30-32 You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.	Alleluia!
Second Reading 1 John 3:18-24 Whoever keeps Christ's commandments lives in God and God lives in them.	Gospel John 15:1-8 Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty.

Service Times & Intentions

Saturday Vigil (St Michael's)	27 April	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	28 April	9.00am	Jack and Beatrice Barry RIP
Sunday (St Helen's)	28 April	11.00am	Andrew J Marren RIP
Tuesday (St Helen's)	30 April	10.00am	C J Thomas RIP
Wednesday (St Michael's)	1 May	10.00am	Margaret Thornton RIP
Wednesday (St Michael's)	1 May	4.00pm	Reception of Paul Goddard into church
Thursday (St Michael's)	2 May	10.30am	Requiem Mass for Paul Goddard
Friday (Sacred Heart)	3 May	10.00am	Shaun Barrett RIP
Saturday Vigil (St Michael's)	4 May	5.30pm	Bowden Holmes (age 2) Serious Operation
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	5 May	9.00am	Kitty Bainbridge RIP
Sunday (St. Helen's)	5 May	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.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at Goldthorpe each Thursday 7.00-8.00pm

The Rosary at Goldthorpe will be every **Wednesday** at 1.30pm.

Parish of Corpus Christi

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



PARISH PRIEST: Fr Declan Brett.

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Sunday 28th April 2024

Sunday Year B

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Weekday Cycle II

"It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples."

The world is full of gardeners and, just as with flowers and fruit, gardeners come in all shapes and sizes. We have the professionals who dedicate their lives to producing the best of blooms, new and old, and we have the city dwellers with nothing but window boxes and indoor plants who still manage to create havens of beauty and interest. Then there are those who grow plants commercially to feed the world's population.

Over the last hundred years we have seen the development of all sorts of chemical and mechanical aids to enhance productivity. This was followed by the rather terrifying discovery that many of these aids were having a destructive effect on the environment and the birds and bees that were nature's system of support for growth. Some of the food being produced, at its best, could be lacking in nutrients. At its worst, it could prove toxic. The movement now, sometimes called the slow movement, is looking to find ways of working with nature rather than against it. Nature is to be regarded as our bosom friend rather than as an enemy that must be subdued. This approach will take time and we don't know whether we have that luxury. Our earlier ideas of progress are resulting in rapid climate changes and the consequent transformation of the planet into a desert, which of course will not bear fruit. How shall we enable our earth to bear fruit that will last?

Jesus is very fond of the image of the vine. He also uses other pastoral images: the flowers of the field, ears of corn and seed that is sown, but he likens the kingdom of heaven to a vineyard on more than one occasion and stresses our responsibility for helping the vines to flourish. In today's reading he goes even further and speaks of himself as the vine of which we are the branches. He then uses images from the practices of cultivating a vine to deepen our understanding of how we may become his disciples. The images he uses apply equally to vine cultivation today as in the time of Jesus. You can't leave a vine to its own devices. It will just sprawl all over the place and produce leaves rather than fruit. To counteract this tendency the vine grower severely prunes each vine during the winter months.

Jesus says we are pruned by his words. It is through listening to him that we stay on the right course and produce fruit. If we don't do this, if we don't remain attached to him, then we are like dead branches that are good for nothing but to be thrown away. There is no easy choice: we either submit to being pruned, that is, to be formed and developed by his teaching, or we are thrown on the fire. Jesus will go on to say that this is the mystery of his love, the Father's love for him and his love for us. Bound to him through this love we can survive the troubles earthly life brings us and be able in our turn to bear the love that will last.

We sometimes think of our lives as purely enclosed by our individual occupations and relationships. Our responsibilities end at the garden gate. The state of our present world urges us to extend that viewpoint so that we ask more wide-reaching questions. Is there anything I can do in my life that will make this world a better place to live in? The image of the vine as expressed by Jesus may help us to find a way of responding to this challenge. As Jesus sees it, we can only bear fruit if we are in union with him. We celebrate that union in the Eucharist, where his word also helps us to see our way more clearly. The fruit we then bear is not restricted to being kind to our family and friends but to seeing how our stewardship of the world may best be achieved. If this is done by working with nature rather than against it, it is also achieved by working with the many others who are working with the same intent, even if their values and motivation may, in other ways, differ from ours.

The fruit we are trying to bear is literally a fruit that will last and is grown, not through exploitation, but through cooperation and shared goodwill – and as the civil rights anthem once encouraged us, “we shall overcome someday!”

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Prayers for the Sick

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners. We remember especially George Burnitt, Jan Dexter, Anne Callaghan, Owen Jenkinson, Tony Wood, Mary Smith, Julia Hill, Christine and Bill Mays, Percy Winterton, Carole Dyson, Bernadette Hault, 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.

Paul Goddard RIP

Paul will be received in St Michael's church on Wednesday, 1st May at 4.00pm, followed by requiem on Thursday 2nd May at 10.30am

Priest's Training Fund

This weekend, there will be a second collection for the Priest's Training Fund (PTF) which is aimed at supporting those who offer themselves for the priesthood within our Diocese. If you use offertory envelopes, you will find an envelope in the back especially for this collection.

Annual Mission Appeal for the Missionary Society of St Paul (MSP)

Thank you for warmly welcoming Fr. Emmanuel last weekend. Following his appeal, you raised a very generous **£583.26**

Bonus Ball - Goldthorpe and Hoyland

The winning number was 32. The winner in Goldthorpe was M Bennett, winning £25. P Tomlinson was Hoyland's winner receiving the £50 rollover.

Marist Pilgrimage to Walsingham

A date for our diaries! The annual Marist Pilgrimage to Walsingham will take place on Saturday 6 July. Details of prices and pick-up points for the coach will follow later in May.

First Holy Communion 2024

The First Communion Masses will take place on 18th and 19th May. Help is needed with Tea and Coffee after Mass on 18th May. 2 or 3 volunteers to help with serving, setting up tables and washing up please.

The following weekend is the First Holy Communion Mass and Celebration Party at 5.30pm at St Michael's church. Baking is needed for the party - Sweet cakes, Buns, Tray Bakes. Donations of Cakes/Buns can be dropped off at 4pm on Saturday 25^h May.

There is a list for Volunteers at the back of each Church. Any help gratefully appreciated. Many Hands Make Light Work!

Corpus Christi Parish - Family Fun Day, Saturday 15th June 1-4pm.

St Michael's Church Hall. Wombwell

Please join us for lots of fun and games. Donations of wine, whisky, beer, shampoo, as long as it's a bottle! Please bring to Church on the weekend of 1st June.

Donations of small packets of sweets/chocolates (**individually wrapped**) Please bring to Church on the weekend of 8th June.

Do you have or know anyone with a popcorn or candyfloss machine to have a stall at our Fun Day in June? Are you a performer, singer, dancer, musician or part of a group? Would you like to be part of our Family Fun Day?

Asking for volunteer for stall holding, setting up, clearing up after event, baking. BUT most importantly we are asking you all to come along and join in the fun! All proceeds to Corpus Christi Parish funds.

There is a list for volunteers at the back of each Church. Any help gratefully appreciated. Please contact Liz 07877030827 or Amanda 07505408870 if you can help in any way. **Thank you.**

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
O Mary, Mother of Perpetual Help	Pray for us