

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading Proverbs 9:1-6
Wisdom, personified in the feminine, invites all to partake of a rich feast in a lavish or sacred setting which leads to a life of worth.

Responsorial Psalm 33:2-3,10-15
Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Second Reading Ephesians 5:15-20
A prudent Christian should model their life here and now on the life to come and not be tempted by worldly charms.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word was made flesh and lived among us; to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel John 6:51-58
Jesus promises eternal life to those who eat his body and drink his blood in the Eucharist.

Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Sunday 18th August 2024

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday Year B

Weekday Cycle II

"I am the living bread which has come down from heaven."

Service Times & Intentions

Saturday Vigil (St Michael's)	17 Aug	5.30pm	Anne and Ken Barry 50 th Wedding Anniversary
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	18 Aug	9.00am	Peter Galvin RIP
Sunday (St Helen's)	18 Aug	11.00am	People of the Parish
Tuesday (St Helen's)	20 Aug	10.00am	Leonard McBride RIP
Wednesday (St Michael's)	21 Aug	10.00am	Holy Souls
Thursday (St Helen's)	22 Aug	10.00am	Private Intention
Friday (Sacred Heart)	23 Aug	10.00am	In Reparation for Blasphemy Against Jesus
Saturday Vigil (St Michael's)	24 Aug	5.30pm	Biju Sebastian RIP
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	25 Aug	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sunday (St. Helen's)	25 Aug	11.00am	Andy Andrews RIP

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 is every **Wednesday** at 1.30pm.

Please note that the Marist Way meeting on 11th September is cancelled

"Choose a life. Choose a job. Choose a career. Choose a family." These are the opening words of the '90's novel, *Trainspotting*, by Irvine Welsh. Whilst a somewhat controversial storyline, the initial challenge to embrace a life of work and love is a reasonable aspiration and echoes the desires that have historically been associated with human nature. However, the monologue continues in detail to identify the lure of Western consumerism. It names and shames many of the things in our modern world that have distracted and devalued those elements of life that truly matter.

First and foremost, the storyline highlights that life is full of choices and to "choose a life" is a real challenge for everyone. However, without being explicit, it introduces further fundamental questions for consideration before one can embark on such a mammoth task. What do you understand by life? On what or whom do you centre your choices? Is this existence the sum total of life?

What appears to be an earthy novel is, in reality, a provocative and philosophical challenge to the people in our own times who are searching for or choosing a life. Choose a life. This quote could be the opening words and the challenge of all three passages of scripture in today's liturgy. These words suggest that we are offered several options and are given more than one opportunity for discernment and decision-making. What are the choices before us and their effects?

In the reading from the Book of Proverbs, "Woman Wisdom" – wisdom being feminine in the Hebrew language – metaphorically invites her hearers to a feast. It is no ordinary meal but a rich feast in which there will be meats, bread and wine. Leaving behind other occupations and accepting the invitation, we are told, will lead to life. The advice given by St Paul to the community in Ephesus delves into those occupations that might distract a believer from choosing life. He encourages them to make choices that are outwardly visible. They should be seen as people who, filled with the spirit, embody true life.

Having heard St John's account of Jesus describing himself, over the last few Sundays, as the Bread of Life, in this final instalment he reaches his crescendo. Jesus teaches that the only way to choose or to possess true life is by eating his

flesh and drinking his blood. To comprehend his message, we must understand that in speaking of flesh and blood, Jesus was not speaking of components of his body but rather he was speaking of his whole person. At the time of Jesus, blood symbolised life and was viewed as the principle of life – to bleed or lose blood was to lose your life. Jesus was therefore offering his whole person, his life, so that those who accepted him as food would have his life and therefore eternal life.

Choose life. Hidden beneath this Gospel challenge to choose life is all that we need to understand that which we are receiving in the Eucharist. In giving himself as the bread of heaven, Christ is offering his very self. He is offering the wholeness of his person; he is offering his life. In the sacrifice of the cross, that offering reached its fulfilment when he gave his life for us. Each time we gather for the Eucharist, the sacrifice of the Mass, we are celebrating and choosing the life of God in Christ, a life that has been made readily available to us, and that reaches beyond the here and now to eternity.

Today's scriptures delve deeper than Irvine Welsh's earthy challenge to "Choose life". They demand answers to those deeper questions. What do you understand by life? On what or whom do you centre your choices? Is this existence the sum total of life? They invite us to embrace wisdom and to accept the invitation to the eternal feast. They invite us to reach beyond the lures and attractions of this earthly life and personify the life of God. They invite us to receive the bread of life. Choose life. Choose Christ.

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Prayers for the Sick

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners. We remember especially Mary Brankin, Pat Doyle, George Burnitt, 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, Thomas Collins, Norma Marshall, Val Armstrong, Matthew Deakin, Margaret Booker, Michael Foy, Shirley Broadhead, Norah Preuss.

Bonus Ball - Goldthorpe and Hoyland

The winning number was 12. The winners were M McHugh in Hoyland and G Burnitt in Goldthorpe, each winning £25.

Day Pilgrimage to Walsingham, Thursday 12th September

Organised jointly with our friends from Cudworth, the coach will leave Wombwell at 7.30am and Goldthorpe at 7.45am. Prices are £25 Adult, £10 children. If you are interested, please sign the list at the back of each church. Payment by the weekend of 31st Aug/1st Sept, thank you.

Contacts: Amanda Campbell 07505 408870 and Pam Kershaw 07867 505966

Goldthorpe by the Sea

Monday 19th August, 11.00am -2.00pm Goldthorpe Pentecostal Community Church, Market Street

Sand and water play, seaside crafts, bouncy castle

Tickets £3 per person OR £10 for Family ticket - up to 5 people

Please book via Julie Turner 07729 421405 or email julie@gpcchurch.co.uk

Think Resilient! For young people aged 7-15

Wednesday 21st August 11.30am - 1.30pm

Goldthorpe Pentecostal Community Church, Market Street

Games and activities to help young people develop resilience in emotional well-being and mental health. Free entry, free refreshments.

Booking essential by 31st July. Contact Julie on 07729 421405

or julie@gpcchurch.co.uk

Summer Social at St Mary Magdalene, Cudworth. Sunday 25th August

We are warmly invited to join the Summer Social from 2.00-5.00pm at St Mary Magdalene, Prospect Street, Cudworth. Tickets are £2.50p, (pay on the day) Strawberry tea, Tombola, and possibly Bingo!

Advance Notice – Sunday 29th September

Shared Table of International Cuisine 1.00-3.00pm

A date for your calendar. On Michaelmas Day, the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels, it is hoped to arrange an event for the whole parish. You can bring your own favourite family meal, sweet or savoury to St Michael's Church hall. Tea, coffee and squash will be available and you can bring your own drinks too.

For more information please contact Liz Salmon 07877030827

Gift Aid

If you are a UK Tax Payer please consider Gift Aiding your offerings to Corpus Christi Parish. For the previous Tax Year 2023-24, the Parish received **£9554.83** from the Government as part of the Gift Aid scheme, which is a tremendous boost to Parish finances. We are also allowed to include any loose offerings in the Gift Aid scheme so even the smallest offering can add up over the year.

If you would like to begin Gift Aiding your offertory donations, there are 2 ways in which your offerings can be recorded for tax purposes, either by Standing Order to the Parish account or by using the offertory envelopes. Please just email or leave your contact number with Fr. Declan.

Car Park at St Michael's Church

In order to deter illegal parking on church land, a parking system is being introduced as from Sunday, 1st September. Don't worry, regular users of the church or hall will be put on a list so there will never be a charge. Infrequent users can put their car registration number on a tablet, there is one in the church and one in the hall, no fee will be taken. This only applies at St Michael's where there has been a parking problem for many years.

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