

<p><b>21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b></p> <p><b>First Reading</b> Joshua 24:1-2. 15-18 The people chose to serve the Lord and recognised all that God had done for them.</p> <p><b>Responsorial Psalm</b> 33:2-3,16-23 Taste and see that the Lord is good.</p> <p><b>Second Reading</b> Ephesians 5:21-32 Christ is the head of the Church and each of us are faithful members of the one body.</p>	<p><b>Gospel Acclamation</b> <b>Alleluia, alleluia!</b> Your words are spirit, Lord and they are life: you have the message of eternal life. <b>Alleluia!</b></p> <p><b>Gospel</b> John 6:60-69 Jesus' teachings can be difficult to accept. Do we, like St Peter, recognise him as the Holy One of God?</p>
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Service Times & Intentions			
<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>24 Aug</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	Biju Sebastian RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>25 Aug</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen`s)	<b>25 Aug</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Andy Andrews RIP
Tuesday (St Helen`s)	27 Aug	10.00am	Holy Souls
Wednesday (St Michael`s)	28 Aug	10.00am	Rev Peter Laurence Kirkham RIP
Thursday (St Helen`s)	29 Aug	10.00am	Very Rev. Daniel Spaight RIP
Friday (Sacred Heart)	30 Aug	10.00am	Holy Souls
<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>31 Aug</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	John Cutts RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>1 Sep</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (St. Helen`s)	<b>1 Sep</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Nico Sikorski 3 <sup>rd</sup> Birthday

**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 11<sup>th</sup> September is cancelled

## Parish of Corpus Christi

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



**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr Declan Brett.  
23 Park Street, Wombwell Barnsley, S73 0HQ  
01226 752372  
email: parishofcorpuschristi@gmail.com  
Website: <https://corpuschristi.hallam-diocese.com>  
Facebook: Corpus Christi Dearne Valley

Parish Safeguarding Representative:  
Sheila Marren 07932 722188

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Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2024  
Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday Year B  
Weekday Cycle II

*"The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life."*

Most of us are familiar with the story of *The Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien. It is a fantasy tale about the great struggle between good and evil and the roles that different nations and characters play within this battle. In the early stages of the story the Fellowship of the Ring is first formed to carry out the task of destroying the One Ring to prevent it from being used for evil purposes. This is an extremely dangerous task, bordering on foolhardy, but the first to offer his support is Aragorn, the rightful king of Gondor. He says to Frodo, the diminutive hobbit tasked with carrying the ring: "If by my life or death I can protect you, I will. You have my sword." This starts a chain reaction of each member of the Fellowship stepping forward to pledge themselves to the cause of making sure that Frodo reaches Mordor to destroy the ring. It is Aragorn's pledge to abide by the fellowship and carry out the task that sets in motion the great adventure that follows.

We see a parallel of this pledge in today's Gospel. Jesus' teachings are hard and many of the disciples were not able to accept them. So, they left Jesus and returned to their former lives. The way of the cross and the narrow road were too difficult. But Peter, like Aragorn, is willing to accept the challenge and even more importantly, he is ready to accept the truth. The Twelve realised how difficult it was but were compelled to stay. Just like the Fellowship of the Ring knew that their mission was fraught with danger but were compelled to confront evil and do what was right. Peter says, "To whom shall we go?", because once we have the truth in our grasp how can we turn to anything else?

The twelve tribes of Israel came to the same conclusion back in Joshua's time. When he bluntly asks them to decide there and then if they are going to continue to serve the Lord, we see that they were not willing to abandon themselves to the ways of their surrounding culture. They chose to stay the course, to serve the Lord, and not forget what God had done for them. In the same way, the twelve apostles chose faithfulness and service in their time.

So, what does all this mean for us today? Well, each of us is confronted with a choice. Do we choose to follow God, or are we led along by the culture of our time

and place? Do we accept the hard teachings of Jesus, or do we take the easier road and walk away? Do we choose truth and goodness, or do we allow our hearts to succumb to the evil and darkness of this world? And we do not merely make this choice once in our lives. We make this choice day by day and moment by moment. We might respond by saying that Joshua is not standing in front of us now asking us to decide. But the call to serve the Lord is present in every generation. The Israelites were living in a foreign land with strange customs and competing gods. Is our culture and technology not similar in offering us counter-Christian views and constant distractions? It is up to each of us to make the active decision to put down our smartphone or turn off our television and direct our minds to God. This may be just a simple prayer, or some time contemplating nature or attending Mass, but let us not take these things for granted but strive to choose God every day.

Or we might also respond by saying that Jesus was talking to his disciples two thousand years ago, not directly to us today. But did Jesus not say that whatever you do for the least of these you do for me? By choosing to help the person in need we are choosing to follow the Master. This is not always easy or convenient, but it is the way of accompanying Jesus. Through our daily acts of love and kindness we are again choosing to serve the Lord. And to whom else would we go? Once we recognise Jesus as “the Holy One of God” we are united in our quest. And just like the Fellowship of the Ring, we remain steadfast in our service of the Lord and each other.

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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 Hoults, 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.

### **Day Pilgrimage to Walsingham, Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> 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

### **Advance Notice – Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> 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

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

The winning number was 49. The winners were A Palfreyman in Hoyland and P English in Goldthorpe, each winning £25.

### **Children's Liturgy Goldthorpe**

There will be Children's Liturgy during mass on Sunday 1st September, any child who has not yet made their First Holy Communion can join us. We will be in 2 groups: children aged 3-5 with Amanda in the Parish Room, and children aged 6-8 with Maureen in the Kitchen area. Parents of the younger children are very welcome to join the group too, this is the practice at St Marie's Cathedral.

Amanda and Maureen.

### **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 give your name, email or a contact number to Fr. Declan.

### **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. The Mission boxes in St Michael's look like a red brick wall! Please take one! Thank you for your support and for your continued prayers for missionaries around the world.

### **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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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
0 Mary, Mother of Perpetual Help	Pray for us