

3rd Sunday of Advent	Gospel Acclamation
<b>First Reading</b> Zephaniah 3:14-18 The day of the Lord's coming is a day of great rejoicing that will see evil expelled and the world renewed in the presence of the Lord.	<b>Alleluia, alleluia!</b> The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor. <b>Alleluia!</b>
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b> Isaiah: 12,2-6 Shout aloud and sing praise, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.	<b>Gospel</b> Luke 3:10-18 With hopeful expectation, John guides the people to prepare themselves by putting aside the passing world.
<b>Second Reading</b> Philippians 4:4-7 The early Christian Church is encouraged to live model lives as they immanently await with hope the Lord's return.	

### Service Times & Intentions

<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael's)	<b>14 Dec</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>15 Dec</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Mrs Margaret Bennett RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen's)	<b>15 Dec</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Brigid Kelly
Tuesday (St Helen's)	17 Dec	10.00am	Sue Smith RIP
Wednesday (St Michael's)	18 Dec	10.00am	Richard Kelly Illness
Thursday ( St Michael's)	19 Dec	9.30am	Funeral service for Tom Jones
Friday (Sacred Heart)	20 Dec	10.00am	Peter Brookes RIP
<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael's)	<b>21 Dec</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>22 Dec</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Luke Heavey RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (St. Helen's)	<b>22 Dec</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.  
**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at Goldthorpe** each Thursday 7.00-8.00pm.

### Marist Way and Rosary at Goldthorpe

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)



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Roman Catholic Diocese of Hallam Trust • Registered Charity Number 512021

Sunday 15th December 2024

Sunday Year C

Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

Weekday Cycle II

*And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?"*

At various times throughout our lives, we will put ourselves through experiences which could be classed as unpleasant or even painful.

From Weight Watchers to Slimming World: we stop eating fattening foods, cut down on the quantities we take, and even start eating foods which we might otherwise consider distasteful. From examinations to driving tests: these involve weeks of hard study, sleepless nights and long hours of practice, all in the hope of remembering and, on the day, practising what has been learnt.

Diets and examinations are but samples of the many unpleasant or painful experiences which we inflict on ourselves throughout our lives. The question is – Why? Why do we diet, why do we take exams, why do we do anything that causes pain or is unpleasant? The reason is, of course, so that we can eventually rejoice in the fact that we are slim and healthy or knowledgeable and qualified. We rejoice because we have achieved our aim; we have completed the process; we have attained our goal.

In the Old Testament times, there were many prophets in the generations preceding the birth of Jesus. These men predicted the future, often centred around the coming of a saviour. Many of the prophets described how people would feel and how they would react when this event took place. In the first reading from the prophet Zephaniah, we find an example of this prophecy. Zephaniah foresees a day of great rejoicing when people will rejoice with all their heart. However, people everywhere on earth, at the instant of the Saviour's birth – the day of rejoicing – didn't begin a festival of dancing and song. People who were unhappy or sick or poor didn't start dancing and shouting aloud.

The people of Israel went through a painful process. Just as the healthy body and the qualification only appear after undergoing the ordeal of a diet or an examination, so, with the time of joy, the time of the Saviour, the time of Jesus. A painful experience was necessary before the people could rejoice. In the Gospel we find that another prophet is not only foretelling the great day of rejoicing but also describing the process which must be undertaken before the day of rejoicing can take place. John the Baptist calls the people to change heart. He tells them that they must put right their wrongs so that those who are sad through poverty, injustice or persecution may also be able to rejoice.

It is this change of heart: the rectifying of wrongs, poverty, injustice and persecution which is the painful process, the challenge which is given by John the Baptist. This is the process which will enable all to rejoice, not just the rich and powerful but also the poor, the deprived and the persecuted.

Today, the third Sunday of Advent, is given the title “*gaudate*”, a Latin word which means “rejoice”. On this Sunday everyone is called to renew this process which enables everyone to rejoice, to be joyous. Today we recall and renew this process of preparation and in so doing we are renewing our commitment to the Christian life; a life which calls us to make hard decisions, decisions which can be painful. Throughout these final days before Christmas, therefore, let us remember that in our Christian lives this Advent, we are called to bring joy to those around us and especially to those for whom life is filled with sadness and pain.

“Let us therefore be people of joy this Advent in time for the birthday of our Saviour.”

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### **Prayers for the Sick**

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners. We remember especially George Beard, Stephen and Tracy Savage, Brian and Margaret Savage, Mary Brankin, Pat Doyle, Owen Jenkinson, Mary Smith, Christine and Bill Mays, Percy Winterton, Carole Dyson, Bernadette Houlton, Michael Bennett, Janette Barber, Paddy McNicholas, David Hardy, Tess Lynch, Hannah Prentiss, Thomas Collins, Norma Marshall, Val Armstrong, Margaret Booker, Norah Preuss.

### **Tom Jones**

Tom's funeral will take place on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am in St Michael's Church.

### **Barnsley Deanery Service of Reconciliation**

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 7.00pm**

You are all invited to the Reconciliation Service which this Advent will be at Blessed Sacrament, Matlock Road, Athersley S71 3SG.

There will also be extended Advent Confessions at St Marie's Cathedral, Sheffield, at the usual time of 11.30am, from Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>, and again on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>.

If you have been unable to get to a Christmas mass in the parish, there is a Christmas Day mass at 6.30pm at the Cathedral.

### **Carol Service at Goldthorpe, 6.30pm Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

The final practice before the Carol Service at Goldthorpe on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December will follow the 9.00am mass at Sacred Heart on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December. A big thank you to Mrs Kelly for allowing the school car park to be available for parking. It promises to be a wonderful evening for the whole parish!

### **Carols by Candlelight at St Michael's Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 6.00pm**

You are all invited to share in this wonderful celebration, together with the Salvation Army and their super brass band. The service will be followed by mince pies, tea and coffee. Please come along.

### **Opening of the Jubilee Year 2025—Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> December, 12.30pm**

The rite of the Opening of the Jubilee Year will take place on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> December, at which Bishop Ralph will preside. The celebration will start at the Sheffield Anglican Cathedral at 12.30pm, from which there will be a procession to St Marie's Cathedral for the opening Mass. All from across the Diocese are encouraged to come and celebrate the beginning of this special year, in which all are invited “to an intense experience of the love of God” and “a lively experience of grace and hope” (Francis, *Spes non confundit*, 6)!

### **Bishop Ralph's Hallam Bethlehem Fund**

We are supporting Bishop Ralph's Hallam Bethlehem Fund by inviting parishioners to sign a big Christmas card in each of our three churches and make a donation instead of sending individual cards. We raised £100 last year.

### **Christmas cards, calendars and diaries**

Now still available for sale from the back of church.

### **My Day by Day for Advent**

Also available are the My Day by Day Booklets, containing all the readings for Advent. There are both Adult and Junior versions. A voluntary donation of £1

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

The Bonus Ball was 18. The winners were J Andrews in Hoyland and J Whitfield in Goldthorpe, each winning £25.

### **Salvation Army Christmas Toy Appeal.**

The Salvation Army, Straight Lane, Goldthorpe, are appealing for new toys as Christmas gifts, particularly `traditional` toys (dolls, prams, teddies, etc) for children aged up to 3. Please drop off on Mondays noon-3.00pm or Fridays 10am-noon. Thank you.

### **Job Vacancies for Caretaker and for Cleaner**

Please see posters at the back of church for the two positions at St Thomas of Canterbury Primary School, Chancet Wood Drive, Sheffield, S8 7TR. Closing date 6. January 2025. Contact details are: Sarah Hinchliffe on 07989 109928