

4th Sunday of Advent	Gospel Acclamation
First Reading Micah 5:1-4 Jesus, born in Bethlehem (the “House of Bread”) was to become the Bread of Life for all humankind.	Alleluia, alleluia! Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word. Alleluia!
Responsorial Psalm 79-80 Bring us back, O God; let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.	Gospel Luke 1:39-45 Mary, carrying Jesus in her womb and in her heart, visits her cousin Elizabeth. We too are called to bring Christ to all we encounter and, in the same way, all those we meet bring Christ to us.
Second Reading Hebrews 10:5-10 Christ is here to replace the Law’s sacrifices and holocausts with a simple trust in the Father. God prefers our trust and our service to our unthinking actions and “sacrificial offerings”.	

Service Times & Intentions

Saturday Vigil (St Michael’s)	21 Dec	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	22 Dec	9.00am	Luke Heavey RIP
Sunday (St Helen’s)	22 Dec	11.00am	Margaret and Mint Burkinshaw RIP
Tuesday Christmas Vigil (St Michael’s)	24 Dec	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Tuesday Midnight Mass (St Helen’s)	24 Dec	12.00am	Audrey O’Neill RIP
Wednesday Christmas Day (Sacred Heart))	25 Dec	10.00am	Maureen and Dennis Walton RIP
Thursday (St Helen’s)	26 Dec	NO MASS	
Friday (Sacred Heart)	27 Dec	NO MASS	
Saturday Vigil (St Michael’s)	28 Dec	5.30pm	Julia and David Hill RIP
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	29 Dec	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sunday (St. Helen’s)	29 Dec	11.00am	Fr Denis Norman 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.

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 22nd December 2024
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday Year C
Weekday Cycle II

“Blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.”

I’m sure many of us will have enjoyed opening doors on an Advent calendar when we were young, as each day brought us closer to Christmas. However, this Christmas Eve, the Holy or Jubilee Door in Saint Peter's in Rome, normally closed to pilgrims, will be ceremoniously opened by Pope Francis to start the Jubilee Year of Hope. The tradition of opening a Holy Door, both in St Peter’s and in other significant churches, dates to the fifteenth century, with the door resealed with bricks and mortar at the end of each Jubilee year.

Traditionally the Pope had opened the door by tapping the mortar with a silver hammer, but after debris had fallen on Pope Paul VI, workers now remove the concrete before the ceremony so that the Pope must merely push on the door with his hands. In Catholic tradition this Holy Door represents the possibility of a hopeful new future with Christ, who tells us: “search and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you”. In the words of Pope Francis: “anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons, and instils hope.” Sometimes we find it hard to open our door to Christ. As with the Holy Door in Rome during non-Jubilee years, we may have sealed it up with bricks and mortar. But Jubilee is a time when hope springs eternal. We have everything to gain and nothing to lose by opening the door to Christ this Advent.

In today’s gospel, when Elizabeth opens the door of her home to Mary, the child she was carrying in her womb leapt with joy. This is the message of Christmas: Jesus comes and opens the door to God’s promise of hope and joy. And this is not a door to a palace or the dwellings of the rich and powerful. The readings today tell us that the obscure town of Bethlehem, which means the “House of Bread”, is to become the birthplace of the man who will become the Bread of Life for all humankind. An elderly, barren, Elizabeth is about to give birth to the great prophet, John the Baptist. And a young teenage virgin would soon become the mother of the Messiah. Notice how God chooses ordinary people in ordinary places – people like you and me. He blesses the obscure, the poor and the downtrodden. Elizabeth recognises this when she tells Mary that she is “blessed”. God holds out that same

blessing to all of us too – wherever we live or whatever our personal circumstances or difficulties.

As Pope Francis walks through the Holy Door this Christmas Eve, take a moment to join him and gaze into the Christmas crib. See for yourself the hope and joy of Christmas – God completely hidden and yet completely revealed. The awesome power of God hidden in the powerlessness of a tiny baby. God becomes weak and vulnerable in order that he might share himself and be loved by us. In Jesus we put a face to a name, we see who God really is and we love him – not a distant, remote figure in the highest heavens, but a defenceless baby born into poverty, sharing a stable with farmyard animals. Jesus will be called Emmanuel, which means “God is with us”. God has entered the messiness of human life and said “yes” to our flesh and blood world. From now on Christ will always be by our side and glimpsed in all we meet. And, like Mary, we are called to bring Christ to all we encounter, and in the same way all those we meet bring Christ to us.

Perhaps there's no room in our inn for God? But God comes anyway and tells us it's never too late to start again. The crib is a place of great hope: where crooked paths are made straight, where messy lives are untangled, weary hearts refreshed, fears for the future dispelled and tired hopes replaced with new beginnings. So, leave your worries at the stable door, enter and draw close to the manger and let the baby Jesus into your heart. Let him stir your soul with the hope of new life. God is good, the world is good, you are good, and all will be well. Rejoice and believe in the promise of Christmas!

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Prayers for the Sick

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners. We remember especially Audrey Wood, Paula and Jimmy Stewart, Justin Philip Collins, 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 Hoults, Michael Bennett, Janette Barber, Paddy McNicholas, David Hardy, Tess Lynch, Hannah Prentiss, Thomas Collins, Norma Marshall, Val Armstrong, Margaret Booker, Norah Preuss.

Christmas Mass Times

Tuesday, 24 th December, Christmas Vigil	5.30pm	St Michael's, Wombwell
Midnight Mass	12.00am	St Helen's, Hoyland
Wednesday, 25 th December, Christmas Day	10.00am	Sacred Heart, Goldthorpe

Please note there will not be mass on 26th and 27th December.

Christmas Day Mass, St. Marie's Cathedral.

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.

Christmas Offerings, Many Thanks.

Your offerings over the three Christmas masses are traditionally for the parish priest.

Extended Advent Confessions at St Marie's Cathedral

There will be extended Advent Confessions at St Marie's Cathedral, Sheffield, at the usual time of 11.30am, on Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th.

Carols by Candlelight at St Michael's, Sunday 22nd 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 28th December 12.30pm

The rite of the Opening of the Jubilee Year will take place on Saturday 28th 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)!

Bonus Ball - Goldthorpe and Hoyland

The Bonus Ball was 3. The winners were D Carlin in Hoyland and T McCoy 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