

## Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Sunday Year C

Epiphany of the Lord

Weekday Cycle II

*"The sight of the star filled them with delight and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage."*

Robert Louis Stevenson, the famous Scottish writer, whom we probably know best from such of his books as *Treasure Island* and *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, spent a lot of time travelling, and that's possibly why he once said that "to travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive." I'm not sure how many people would agree with that. Imagine yourself in an airport lounge and you hear an announcement that your flight has been delayed for three or four hours, followed by, "and don't forget, to travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive." I expect you'd be tempted to mutter a few words or even hurl something at the loudspeaker. I would have thought that most of us travel with the idea of getting somewhere. After all, the fact that you're here at Mass today means you travelled from somewhere with the idea of coming here.

Of course, in the case of explorers, they're not necessarily sure of their destination but have something in mind that they're looking for; they're not going just for the journey. When Columbus set out in 1492, he was searching for a way to the Indies, but discovered a rather large continent on the way. In the nineteenth century, John Speke and Richard Burton travelled to Africa to find the source of the River Nile. These and so many other such journeys were hard and dangerous, but it was the determination of the travellers that kept them going and then their satisfaction when they had found what they were looking for. We might sum it up in the words of the Scottish singer and comedian Sir Harry Lauder from the early years of the last century. He had a song called "Keep right on to the end of the road" and the chorus goes like this – I won't sing it, I'd like to keep you here till the end of Mass, so I'll say it instead: "If you're tired and weary, still journey on, till you come to your happy abode. Where all you love and you're dreaming of will be there at the end of the road."

I think we can say with confidence that the Magi or wise men we've just heard about in the Gospel weren't singing that song on their journey, but they would have been motivated by a similar spirit, and like the explorers, with curiosity. The word *magi* is probably Persian and is associated with astrologers, astronomers and perhaps priests of Eastern religions. Only Matthew's Gospel tells the story of the Magi and it's just a bare account. All of us like stories and we like to flesh them out to help our imaginations,

## Epiphany of the Lord

### First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6  
The prophet is filled with joy as he sees all creation rejoicing in the glory of God.

### Responsorial Psalm

72(71):1-2,7-8, 10-13  
All the nations on earth shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

### Second Reading

Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6  
Paul tells us that through Jesus the Spirit of God has been given to the whole world.

## Gospel Acclamation

### Alleluia, alleluia!

We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship the Lord.

### Alleluia!

### Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12  
The wise men from the East come to worship the child who is king.

## Service Times & Intentions

<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>4 Jan</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	Fr. Declan and Parishioners
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>5 Jan</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen`s)	<b>5 Jan</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Audrey O`Neill RIP
Tuesday (St Helen`s)	7 Jan	10.00am	Anne Marie Brankin RIP
Wednesday (St Michael`s)	8 Jan		NO MASS
Thursday ( St Helen`s)	9 Jan		NO MASS
Friday (Sacred Heart)	10 Jan	10.00am	Holy Souls
<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>11 Jan</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>12 Jan</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Irvin and Stella Bennett RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (St. Helen`s)	<b>12Jan</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Rowland and Harriet Swallow 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.

and why not? Over the centuries we've become fascinated by the story; artists have painted numerous pictures; In the poem by T.S. Eliot, *The Journey of the Magi*, one of the wise men, now very old, retells his story. In 1951 Gian Carlo Menotti wrote an opera called *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, about the Magi taking shelter in the home of a poor family. It seems we need to turn these anonymous visitors from the East into real people. We assume there were three of them because of the three gifts and that they were kings; that's probably an echo of what we heard in the first reading from Isaiah, where "kings shall come to your dawning brightness". We've even given them names: Caspar, Baltazar and Melchior. And where would we be without the kings at the crib in the stable? Matthew tells us that they found Jesus in a house and he was possibly two years old by then. But such details don't matter. What does matter is that we're drawn into the delights of these events and in prayer come to understand their real meaning.

On this Solemnity of the Epiphany, Matthew tells us through the story of the Magi that Jesus' birth is not just about a little boy in a poor town in an insignificant country but something that has eternal and universal meaning. In time he will draw all people to himself. In our Jubilee year, the Magi are the true "Pilgrims of Hope". and they remind us that we are too. And we could pray for people we meet who are still travelling without knowing why or who are quite lost, that they could join our pilgrimage, where all we love and are dreaming of "will be there at the end of the road."

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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 Hault, Michael Bennett, Janette Barber, Paddy McNicholas, David Hardy, Tess Lynch, Hannah Prentiss, Thomas Collins, Norma Marshall, Val Armstrong, Margaret Booker, Norah Preuss.

### **Requiescat in Pace**

We pray for the repose of the soul of Arcadia Noble who died recently, aged 99. The funeral will be held on Wednesday January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 12.15pm in St Helen's Church.

### **Change to Masses next week.**

Please note there will be no mass next Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January or Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>

### **Christmas Offerings**

Thank you for your generous offerings which are for our parish priest, Fr. Declan.

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

The Bonus Ball number for 21<sup>st</sup> December was no. 8. Linda Redfern was the winner in Hoyland, winning £25. There was no winner in Goldthorpe.

Last week's number was 55. There was no winner in Hoyland, therefore, there will be a rollover of £25 next week. In Goldthorpe, there was also no winner so next week's will be a rollover of £75!

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

There will be Children's Liturgy during mass on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January. Any child who has not yet made their First Holy Communion is very welcome to join us. There are two groups, 3-5 year olds with Amanda and 6-8 with Maureen. We look forward to seeing you in 2025!

### **Hallam Bridge**

There are a few copies of the latest edition Hallam Bridge, the news from Hallam Diocese, at the back of church. The file will be available for everyone on the Diocese website: [hallam-diocese.com](http://hallam-diocese.com)

### **Pilgrim Passport**

Please take a copy of the Pilgrim Passport available for everyone at the back of church. All the events to celebrate the Jubilee Year are listed within, the Jubilee Prayer and all the information you need to make the most of this special year.

### **Jubilee Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> - June 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025**

Bishop Ralph invites you to join him on the Jubilee Year 2025 Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Booking forms available to download at [www.hallam-lourdes.com](http://www.hallam-lourdes.com). Enquiries 01302 247910 or email [lourdesoffice@hallam-diocese.com](mailto:lourdesoffice@hallam-diocese.com). Fare £899pp - 6 nights' Full Board (excl. Ins) flying from Leeds Bradford Airport direct to Lourdes. This year we hope to welcome pilgrims from every parish in the diocese. All are very welcome to join us - pilgrims who need help due to medical issues/ mobility, volunteer helpers, doctors, nurses, clergy, and general pilgrims.

### **Craft Group**

The Craft Group meet once a fortnight on Thursday morning in the Parish rooms at Wombwell from 10.00am until 12.30pm. The next meeting will be on the 9th January..

All are welcome, and please feel free to come to knit, sew, crochet and natter, or just for a cuppa!

### **Wombwell Community Lunch Club.**

As the weather turns colder, why not consider joining The Lunch Club each Thursday at 12noon in St. Michael's Church Hall? The Lunch Club recommences on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> January. It's an opportunity for people of different ages and backgrounds to come together for a meal. Lunch is only £5 and consists of a hot meal and a pudding. The meal is followed by a raffle and bingo. The next

For more information and bookings, please contact Barbara on 07742 548985

### **Agewell Wombwell**

Agewell meet alternate Wednesdays in St Michael's Church Hall and are looking for new members. It's an opportunity to meet people, have a cuppa in a warm environment, be entertained by interesting guest Speakers and enjoy day trips throughout the year. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January, when it will be 'welcome back and sherry!' If you are interested in joining the Agewell group or have any questions, contact Geraldine Pickles 01226 750136 or 07518 486822