

## 4th Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)

**First Reading** Joshua 5:9-12  
The Israelites celebrate their first Passover in the Promised Land.

**Responsorial Psalm** 34(33):2-3,4-5,6-7  
Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**Second Reading** 2 Corinthians 5:17-21  
God reconciled himself to us through Christ.

## Gospel Acclamation

**Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.**

I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him,  
"Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you".

**Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus**

**Gospel** Luke 15: 1-3. 11-32

The prodigal son returns home to his loving father.

## Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Sunday 30th March 2025

Sunday Year C

Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)

Weekday Cycle II

*"The tax collectors and sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus."*

"To err is human, to forgive, divine." So said the Catholic poet and philosopher Alexander Pope. He may have written over 300 years ago, but his ability to distil a great deal of wisdom into few words can speak to our generation in a powerful way. In these words Pope reflects upon the need for forgiveness and understanding in our dealings with others – seeing in them the good and the potential which is truly God given or, as he puts it, "divine". And how do we know this? because we know this is the way God deals with me and with you!

We are very familiar with this story, which is brought to us by the Gospel writer Saint Luke. The phrase "Prodigal Son" has even entered our common parlance; if someone has gone their own way but then returns to a group or a family we will sometimes say "the prodigal returns"... but there is always the outside chance that this is said more in scorn than in gratitude and concern! Here in this story the father is on the lookout for his son who has wandered away from him; he is concerned for him; he loves him and he is always seeking his good. Who knows, he might even have kept an eye on him from a distance just to make sure that he didn't get himself into any trouble which put him in danger! It is hard to know exactly what thoughts and worries were in the Father's heart, but many of us will know something of that "at a distance" care which we have to exercise for others.

The elder boy, the one who has always kept his head down and worked hard for his father, doing everything that was asked of him, is none too impressed when "this son of yours" (notice he does not say "my brother"! ) comes back and is feted with such lavish care and attention. "What about me?" you can hear him say. "Don't you recognize that I could have done exactly the same: claimed what was mine, and headed off to find myself on my own? I have had the concern and the constancy of a good and faithful child – but I feel as if it is all taken a little bit for granted and I've not been recognised for what I have done."

The story is a complex one, it circles around the themes of faithfulness and headstrongness – and so we need to remember the situation in which Jesus tells this tale. He encounters amongst the Pharisees and Scribes, those who were well-versed in the Jewish Law and customs, a certain stand-offish attitude when they see

## Service Times & Intentions

<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael's)	<b>29Mar</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	Lisy Shafi RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>30 Mar</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Beatrice Barry RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen's)	<b>30 Mar</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	People of the Parish
Tuesday (St Helen's)	1 Apr	10.00am	Leonard McBride RIP
Wednesday (St Michael's)	2 Apr	10.00am	Holy Souls
Thursday ( St Helen's)	3 Apr	10.00am	The Yorkshire Brethren Society
Friday (Sacred Heart)	4 Apr	10.00am	Holy Souls
<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael's)	5 Apr	<b>5.30pm</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	6 Apr	<b>9.00am</b>	Kitty Bainbridge RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (St. Helen's)	6 Apr	<b>11.00am</b>	Deceased Members of the Wildsmith Family

**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.

## COLLECTIONS

Date	Parish Collection	Standing Orders for February
22/23 Mar 2025	£570.60	£1594.96

that Jesus “welcomes sinners and eats with them”. Now there can be a tendency to think that all Pharisees and Scribes were – and are – bad people; not so. They had a love of God at the heart of what they were trying to do to the best of their ability, but Jesus wants them to see another angle to their faithfulness to God, an angle which will speak of understanding of peoples’ weaknesses and sin but the fact that the Father – his Father, God – is always wanting to draw people back into a relationship of love and of care and of real and true family where they will be safe and welcomed. Yes, they will have learned lessons on the way, they will have made their mistakes and taken their wrong turns (which one of us hasn’t?), but what will ultimately matter is that “your brother (your sister) here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found”. Thanks be to God for that!

The forty days of Lent are our opportunity to make a journey in our spiritual life – almost a retreat in everyday life as we accompany those who are preparing to be received into the Church at Easter. Baptism is our vocation to love, in imitation of the Lord Jesus, and on Holy Thursday evening when we gather for the Mass of the Lord’s Supper, we will see this lived out very visibly in the washing of the feet – and yet it is lived out every time we gather for Mass, when we hear the words of Jesus, “This is my body given for you, this is my blood poured out for you; do this in memory of me!”

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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.

### **Requiescat in Pace**

We pray for the repose of the soul of Jannice Hallam who died recently. Please keep her family and friends in your prayers.

### **Rosary and Stations of the Cross at Goldthorpe**

The Rosary at Goldthorpe will be every **Wednesday** at 1.30pm. During Lent, Stations of the Cross will follow the Rosary. All are welcome

We are also warmly invited to join in with Stations of the Cross at St. John and Mary Magdalene at 6.00pm every Friday from 7<sup>th</sup> March. Again, all are welcome.

### **We Dare to Say**

Continuing this resource based on the petitions of the Our Father during this Jubilee Year. Beginning Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March on rotation in each Church. 10am till 12 noon. Each session includes scripture, prayers and a reflection with questions, We Dare to Say Booklets are available at the back of Church. The remaining sessions are on 29<sup>th</sup> March at Goldthorpe, 5<sup>th</sup> April at Hoyland. All are very welcome.

### **Offertory Envelopes**

New Offertory envelopes starting on Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> April, are available for those who require them. If you haven’t used offertory envelopes before and wish to use them, please send an email, telephone or ask Fr Declan.

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

The Bonus Ball number for 22nd March was 26. The winners were P Tomlinson in Hoyland and P O`Hanlon in Goldthorpe, each winning £25.

### **CAFOD Family Fast Day, Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March**

Thank you for your donations, which are needed more than ever. Please return your envelopes if you have not already done so, and please consider using the Gift Aid slip if you are a UK Taxpayer, thus enabling CAFOD to benefit further from your generous donations.

### **Hallam Support for LIFE Second Collection 30<sup>th</sup> March**

This weekend there will be a second collection for LIFE. This day, Inaugurated by St. John Paul II, presents an opportunity to pray for the gift of life from conception to natural death and to raise awareness of the precious gift of life. You can find out more about LIFE at [lifecharity.org.uk](http://lifecharity.org.uk)

### **Agewell Trip to Halifax Piece Hall, Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April**

If you are interested in a half day trip to Halifax Piece Hall with the Agewell group, please contact Jeanne Hayworth on 01226 750136 for cost and departure times.

### **First Holy Communion Raffle**

To help raise funds towards this year’s programme, raffle tickets will be sold after mass from 16th March onwards. Tickets £1 a strip.

### **First Holy Communion Programme 2025**

The next meeting will be on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April from 6.00pm to 7.15pm in St Michael’s Church Hall and is for the children only.

### **Children`s Liturgy at Goldthorpe – Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April**

Taking place during the 9.00am mass. As usual, there will be two groups – 3-5 year olds with Amanda Campbell and 6-8 year olds with Ann Stones. Both leaders are DBS checked and follow the programme approved by the Diocese. Looking forward to seeing you. Amanda and Ann.

### **Happy Mother`s Day!**

Please feel free to take a bookmark for your much beloved Mother from the back of church