

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading Sirach 35:15b-17. 20-22b
God hears humble prayer.

Responsorial Psalm 34(33):2-3,17-18, 19,23
The lowly one called, and the Lord heard him.

Second Reading 2 Timothy 4:6-8. 16-18
God's faithfulness is keenly felt by those who devotedly witness to the kingdom.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself,
and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 18:9-14

Jesus tells a story of two very different approaches to prayer in the Temple: a Pharisee boasts while a tax collector begs for mercy.

Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Sunday 26th October 2025

Sunday Year C

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekday Cycle II

"The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus..." Luke 18:11

Service Times & Intentions

Saturday Vigil (St Michael's)	25 Oct	5.30pm	Deceased Members of the Dainty and Davies Families
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	26 Oct	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sunday (St Helen's)	26 Oct	11.00am	Andrew J Marren RIP
Monday (Sacred Heart)	27 Oct	4.00pm	Reception into church of Michael Bennett
Tuesday (Sacred Heart)	28 Oct	10.30am	Funeral mass for Michael Bennett
Wednesday (St Michael's)	29 Oct	7.00pm	For the Intentions of Charlotte
Thursday (Sacred Heart)	30 Oct	11.00am	Funeral mass for Rosina Atkinson
Friday (Sacred Heart)	31 Oct	10.00am	Holy Souls
Saturday Vigil (St Michael's)	1 Nov	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	2 Nov	9.00am	Maria and John Gilliver 40 th Wedding Anniversary
Sunday (St. Helen's)	2 Nov	11.00am	Helen and Paul Bennett Golden Wedding Anniversary

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 Tuesday 7.00-8.00pm.

Please note the change to Tuesdays instead of Thursdays.

Date	Parish Collection	Standing Orders for September
11/12 October	£459.10	£1764.96

Thomas was waiting to meet up with his old friends in the run up to Christmas. It had become a decades-long annual tradition as they had scattered to various cities since their time together at school. He was glad that they had kept in touch, even into their retirement years. Andrew, Michael and Jack arrived in the coffee shop within minutes of each other and it did not take long for stories to be told from the past year, peppered with laughter and the odd "remember when" from school days. Jack, however, seemed a little distant, laughing nervously and taking long, drastic detours in the conversation, much to the surprise of his pals. As the men relocated to a restaurant, Jack made his excuses and left the other three.

As they were trying and failing to choose what to eat, Michael broke the awkward silence: "Still hasn't got it sorted, has he?" Andrew let out a sigh and lamented, "We tried our best to tell him these last two years but it's obviously – literally – fallen on deaf ears." Thomas, red-faced, slammed his menu down, uttered something colourful and exclaimed, "The fool just won't accept he needs a hearing aid! All he's been doing is pretending it's not there. Jack's waiting until there's a gap in conversation to offer some random tale. I'm getting fed up with it. You might as well treat him like a budgie in a cage: put a mirror in front of him and he'll just talk away at that!"

In our Gospel today, Jesus paints a picture of stark contrast. A proud Pharisee stands tall and dismissive of his neighbours, including the tax collector, who is kneeling. One seems puffed up, the other almost shrinking. The Pharisee is presumably wishing to be elevated onto a plinth and the tax collector is perhaps hoping for the earth to swallow him up. We can deduce this from their words. The Pharisee is boastful and long-winded. The tax collector is brief, humble, to the point. The most telling detail is what we hear of the Pharisee immediately before he opens his mouth. In our translation we have him "standing by himself". Some authorities have pointed out that a more accurate way of putting it is that he addresses the prayer to himself. In other words, God is not at all involved in this conversation. The Pharisee is like a perfectly formed, self-contained loop. Even if we were to run with the translation we have been given, it is quite clear that this one is on his own. There

is no need of God. The Pharisee's only need for others is as people who will act as examples of moral imperfection who will, by comparison, make him appear more praiseworthy.

The tax collector, on the other hand, cannot even look to heaven. This very detail shows that the wretch knows God is there and, far from excluding God from the conversation, speaks from his heart. Describing himself as "a sinner", simply and without fanfare or excessive grovelling, he declares that he has not lived up to the ideals he holds.

Good people, given the chance, respond generously to situations of want. Outstretched hands cement community bonds in a reflection of God's nature. Jesus himself was sent into this world as God's gesture of love towards needy humanity.

Yet facing our own neediness is not easy. It requires us to admit that we do not have it all together. When we continue to muddle on, avoiding the embarrassing task of asking for help, we run the risk of isolating ourselves from others. Moreover, we become like Jack, a self-contained unit, sticking out like a sore thumb and creating discord, not harmony with others. Jesus invites us to approach God in our need, admitting, perhaps, the humiliating truth that we are not the finished product. Jack's friends could only help him if he was willing to admit he needed it and was open to receive such help. In the same way, God wants to help us but can only do so if there is an opening for a response. Otherwise, our prayer can resemble the Pharisee's and Jack's attempts at conversation. We will only be talking at God, not inviting a response.

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Prayers for the Sick

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners. We remember especially Kath and Tony Lees, Kitty Hamstead, Marie Gilliver, Ian Coombs, John Bainbridge, Ann Stones, Carl Potter, 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, Janette Barber, Paddy McNicholas, David Hardy, Hannah Prentiss, Thomas Collins, Norma Marshall, Val Armstrong, Margaret Booker, Norah Preuss.

Requiescant in Pace

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Fran Nzyimi, Margaret Porter and Celia Atkinson. Please keep their families and friends in your prayers.

The funeral of Celia Atkinson will be on Friday, 7th November at 1.30pm in St Helen's.

Holy Souls

November will soon be upon us, the month when we pray especially for those who have died. If you would like a mass for your loved ones who are no longer with us, the Holy Souls lists and envelopes are now available from church. Masses for the Holy Souls will then be said throughout the coming year.

Coppers for CAFOD

Just a reminder about the jars in each church for your loose change. The money builds up and is sent to CAFOD when there is a DEC (Disasters Emergency Appeal). A new appeal has been launched this week, the Middle East Humanitarian Appeal. Please bear this in mind if you have a few pennies to spare, they soon build up to pounds.

Resumption of Weekday Masses

Wednesdays at St Michael's at **7.00pm**. Thursday mass will be at St Helen's and Friday mass will be at Sacred Heart, both at **10.00am**. For the time being, there is no Tuesday mass.

World Mission Sunday 19th October

Thank you for your generous donations. Please can the collection be made in St Helen's this week as it was omitted last weekend. Thank you.

Bonus Ball - Goldthorpe and Hoyland

The Bonus Ball number was 19. P Tomlinson was the winner in Hoyland, winning £25. In Goldthorpe the winner was T Swindells winning the rollover of £50!

Day Pilgrimage to Walsingham Monday 8 December

A Date for your Diaries! A coach is booked for a day pilgrimage to Walsingham on Monday 8th December - Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Prices will be £25 Adult, £10 child, usual pick up points in Wombwell and Goldthorpe. Look out for sign-up lists coming soon to the back of each church.

Dearne Churches Together – Lantern Workshop 29th October

As part of the Barnsley Council initiative 'Love where you live' there will be a willow and paper lantern-making workshop at Goldthorpe Pentecostal Community Church from 10am-1pm on Wednesday 29th October. The lanterns will be used as part of the 'Glowthorpe' lantern procession at Dearne Playhouse on Tuesday 25 November. Places are limited, to book please contact Julie Turner on 07729 421405 or email kjulie@gpcchurch.org.uk

Mass of Thanksgiving for All Volunteers

Bishop Ralph will be the principle celebrant at the mass at Immaculate Conception, Rotherham S65 3BA on Saturday 15th November at 11am. The National Jubilee Icon will be on display, refreshments will be served after Mass.

Agewell Table Top Sale Wednesday 26th November 1-3pm

To take place in St Michael's Church Hall. Tables £10 each. Please contact Jeanne Hayworth on 0751 8486822

Introduction to Lectio Divina - St Francis Church, Crosspool.

This will be held on Saturday 1st Nov from 10-3 at St Francis RC Church, Crosspool, Sheffield S10 5SD. To be led by Deacon Stephen Parker. Bring a packed lunch, but tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. For more details contact Deacon Stephen on email gurric@sky.com

Advent Retreat 2025 for Young People 15+

Please see the poster at the back of church or email youth@hallam-diocese.com

Service of Love and Prayers for Survivors of Abuse

The revised date has now been announced. The service will take place on Wednesday 26th November at 7.00pm in St Theresa's Parish Hall, 311 St. Mary's Road, Sheffield, S2 1EA

The Hallam Bridge – The Monthly Diocesan Newsletter

There are a few copies at the back of church. Did you know that nearly three years ago the Hallam Bridge was launched? A copy is emailed to every parish in the diocese each month. Why don't you subscribe to receive it directly into your inbox and share it with your family and friends? Do so using this link <https://hallam-diocese.com/bridge/> Would you be willing to keep us up to date with what's going on in your parish by emailing articles to communications@hallam-diocese.com