

## Parish of Corpus Christi

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



**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr Declan Brett.

23 Park Street, Wombwell Barnsley, S73 0HQ

01226 752372

email: parishofcorpuschristi@gmail.com

Website: <https://corpuschristi.hallam-diocese.com>

Facebook: Corpus Christi Dearne Valley

Parish Safeguarding Representatives:

Sheila Marren 07932 722188

Mary Obodo 07950 162668

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Sunday 30th November 2025

Sunday Year A

First Sunday of Advent

Weekday Cycle II

“Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.”

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

#### First Reading Isaiah 2:1-5

Isaiah presents Jerusalem as an inspiration to all nations, from which the word of the Lord will be proclaimed; the presence of the Lord will bring about peace.

#### Responsorial Psalm 122(121):1-2,4-5, 6-7,8-9

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

#### Second Reading Romans 13:11-14a

Paul advises us to wake up and to put on the Lord Jesus Christ, wearing the armour of light.

### Gospel Acclamation

#### Alleluia, alleluia!

Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.

#### Alleluia!

### Gospel Matthew 24:37-44

Jesus urges his disciples not to be complacent in their faith, but to be prepared for the return of the Son of Man.

### Service Times & Intentions

<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>29 Nov</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	Esther Nicholson RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>30 Nov</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen`s)	<b>30 Nov</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Dennis Damms RIP
Tuesday	2 Dec		NO MASS
Wednesday (St Michael`s)	3 Dec	7.00pm	Esther Nicholson RIP and David Mulvenna RIP
Thursday (St Helen`s)	4 Dec	10.00am	Deceased Members of the Foody Family
Friday (Sacred Heart)	5 Dec	10.00am	Dennis and Jessie Turner RIP
Saturday (St Michael`s)	6 Dec	11.00am	Holy Souls
<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael`s)	<b>6 Dec</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	Tony Wood RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>7 Dec</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Donald Campbell RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (St. Helen`s)	<b>7 Dec</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	People of the Parish

**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.

Date	Parish Collection	Standing Orders for October
23rd November	£543.44	£1862.91

Pete Seeger, born in the US in 1919, was one of the most prominent and influential folk musicians of the twentieth century. Due to his multi-national, multicultural and social background, he became a political and social activist, campaigning on issues which included antisemitism, racial discrimination and poverty. Inevitably, he was seen as controversial, with his lyrics provoking both strong opposition and strong support. Seeger composed “Where have all the flowers gone?”, campaigning for the environment. Perhaps his most memorable performances were focused on peace, especially his adaptation of the African-American spiritual classic, “Down by the riverside”, based on the reading from the prophet Isaiah which we have heard today. Seeger’s song begins, “I’m gonna lay down my sword and shield, down by the riverside” and it continues with the refrain “I ain’t going to study war no more”. This sentiment became an anthem in the US protests against the war in Vietnam. Isaiah’s vision of peace then still inspires today’s people now!

The new year of the Church begins today with a warning: be prepared, don’t be taken by surprise, be on the alert, because no one knows the day or the hour. Why does the Church give us this reading today?

The word “Advent” comes from the Lord’s Prayer: *Adveniat regnum tuum*, meaning “Thy kingdom come”. We need to be careful what we pray for. If, whenever we pray the Our Father, we are asking for the kingdom of God to come, it necessarily follows that we should be in a state of alertness, able to welcome him with joy when he returns. What does the coming of the kingdom mean? What will change when the Son of Man returns on clouds of glory? We return to Isaiah: all people will be drawn to the mountain of the Lord, that the Lord may teach us his ways, and we will walk in his path. The mountain, for us, is not a physical mountain, but symbolises our orientation towards God. Are we facing towards, or looking away from, the Lord? The consequences of this orientation will be peace, a God-given peace. Isaiah concludes with an exhortation: “Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord”. It is no coincidence that we respond to the reading from Isaiah with a joyful, processional psalm with the refrain: “Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.” So, along with

the warnings of Jesus that we should not be caught unprepared, is the glow of rejoicing: we wish for, we pray for and believe in the return of the Son of Man.

St Paul's take on preparedness is both an inspiration – putting on the armour of light – and an insight into the more sordid side of life at the time (which indeed is an aspect of every age): orgies, drunkenness, sexual immorality and sensuality, quarrelling and jealousy. His conclusion, however, is positive: it's not so much about putting *aside* sin but putting *on* the Lord Jesus Christ. This is much more radical than mere behavioural modification. It is allowing ourselves to be imbued by Christ, living in his Spirit, being in an open, loving relationship with him. Instead of treating the symptoms, we are addressing the cause at root level. It's not an easy task and we will never fully succeed – but its importance lies in our desire to put on Christ, despite our (sometimes poor) attempts. We keep before us the beautiful vision of Isaiah, a vision to which we are committed, a vision we wish to, and will, live.

On a *practical* level, what can we do? Firstly, of course, we stay in touch with the Lord, in our prayers, in being an active member of the Christian community, the Body of Christ. Related to this is thinking about people we admire; who is the most loving person we know? The most generous? The most patient? The most inspiring? The most prayerful? The gentlest? The most unselfish? These people are our role models: we wish to be like them in their special giftedness. We can set practical goals: today, I am going to be gentler and I will reflect at the end of the day as to how I succeeded – and so on from day to day. In this way we are putting on the armour of light, we are putting on the Lord Jesus Christ. In short, we are being prepared!

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### **Prayers for the Sick**

We pray for our sick and/or household parishioners, especially Yueh Li-Wu, Sean Fay, Kath and Tony Lees, Kitty Hamstead, Maria 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, 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 Owen Jenkinson who died recently, also Bill Hall, former altar server in Goldthorpe. Bill will be received into Blessed Sacrament Church, Athersley at 4.00pm on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December, with the funeral on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 10.45am. Please keep their families and friends in your prayers.

### **Christmas Items for Sale**

Christmas Cards, Calendars, Advent Calendars and Diaries are now in church, all at reasonable prices. There are also "My Day by Day" for Advent, priced at £1, or .50p for the Junior editions.

### **Dedication of Sanctuary Lamps**

If you would like to dedicate a sanctuary lamp for a loved one, please see Fr Declan. This month dedication in St. Michael's is for Barry Pierrepont.

### **Second Collection for Caritas, 7<sup>th</sup> December**

Next weekend we have the annual collection for Caritas. Caritas Diocese of Hallam (formerly known as Hallam Caring Services) is part of the worldwide network of organisations in the Catholic Church putting into action the social teaching of the Church to reach out to those in need and to build a world based on justice and love.

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

The Bonus Ball number was 35. There was no winner in Hoyland, so next week will be a rollover of £50. The winner in Goldthorpe was E Dyson, winning the rollover of £50

### **Day Pilgrimage to Walsingham Monday 8 December**

The coach is now booked for our day Pilgrimage to Walsingham on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Prices are £25 Adult and £10 Child, usual pick-up points in Wombwell and Goldthorpe. Please see the Sign-up List at the back of each church and add your name to secure a place. Payment must be made by this weekend.

### **Carol Service at Goldthorpe – 3.00pm, Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

Practices for the Goldthorpe Carol Service will be held at Sacred Heart church weekly between now and Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December, led by our organist Joshua. Fridays at 5pm, & Sundays after mass (10.15am onwards), approx 1 hr practice. We will be learning some new carols as well as practising some old favourites, so do please come along if you would like to Have a Sing - everyone is welcome.

### **Christmas Carol Service at St Michael's, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 6pm**

Come and celebrate the birth of Christ in St Michael's with well-loved carols, accompanied by the Salvation Army Band.

### **Christmas Nativity Raffle**

The Craft Group have been busy knitting three Nativity sets, to be raffled for church funds. Tickets are on sale from the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent for two weekends. The draw will be on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, £1 per strip.

### **Children's Liturgy at Goldthorpe Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December**

Welcome to any children who have not yet made their First Holy Communion. Two groups, 3-5 years and 6-8 years, with Amanda and Maureen.

### **Changes to Masses**

On Tuesdays, starting on 9th December, there will be 10.00am mass at Hoyland, and also, on Saturday mornings, 11.00am mass in St. Michael's.

### **Dearne Churches Together, Stations to the Cradle, Saturday 13th December 11.00am-2.00pm**

Rediscover the Christmas Story with Dearne Churches Together! To be held in Goldthorpe at the Railway Embankment (opposite Texaco Garage on Barnsley Road) and the Salvation Army (Straight Lane). Meet Mary, Joseph, the Innkeeper, Shepherds, Wise Men AND real donkeys! Free festive food is also included. To book places Please Contact Julie Turner on 07729 421405 or email: [julie@gpcchurch.co.uk](mailto:julie@gpcchurch.co.uk)

### **Wombwell Winter Wellbeing Event**

Next Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December between 10.30am-1.00pm in St Michael's Church Hall, the Wombwell Ward Alliance and South Area Team will be offering advice and information on how to stay warm and well this winter. Food and drinks are available, slippers and winter warm packs (limited supply). Further information from Clare Archer email [ClareArcher2@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:ClareArcher2@barnsley.gov.uk)