

<p>2nd Sunday after the Nativity</p> <p>First Reading Sirach 24:1-2.8-12 Ben Sirach was a scribe in the Jewish Temple, who makes abstract ideas easier to understand by describing Wisdom as a person.</p> <p>Responsorial Psalm 147:12-13,14-15, 19-20 The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.</p> <p>Second Reading Ephesians 1:3-6.15-18 St Paul reminds us of the glories that the Lord calls us to share.</p>	<p>Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia! Glory to you, O Christ, proclaimed among the nations. Glory to you, O Christ, believed in throughout the world. Alleluia!</p> <p>Gospel John 1:1-18 St John tells us of the wonders of Jesus as Lord of all Creation.</p>
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Service Times & Intentions

Saturday Vigil (St Michael's)	3 Jan	5.30pm	Helena Ward RIP
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	4 Jan	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sunday (St Helen's)	4 Jan	11.00am	Barry Philip and Christine Cooper RIP
Monday Epiphany of the Lord (St Michael's)	5 Jan	7.00pm	People of the Parish
Tuesday (St Helen's)		NO MASS	
Wednesday (St Michael's)		NO MASS	
Thursday (St Helen's)		NO MASS	
Friday (Sacred Heart)		NO MASS	
Saturday (St Michael's)		NO MASS	
Saturday Vigil (St Michael's)	10 Jan	5.30pm	Tony Lees RIP
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	11 Jan	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sunday (St. Helen's)	11Jan	11.00am	Audrey O'Neill 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 Tuesday 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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Sunday 4th January 2026

Sunday Year A

Second Sunday after the Nativity.

Weekday Cycle II

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5)

Have you ever thought that the time of the year and the place we live influence how we celebrate the Church's seasons, how we pray, what we sing and so on? Christmas is a good example. Now, we don't know the actual time of the year that Jesus was born but the early Church thought it was 25 December. Pope Julius I confirmed it in the year 336, and, apart from some TV channels that start showing Christmas movies in June, we're not likely to change it. Pope Julius lived in Rome, which is in the Northern Hemisphere where the December days are shorter, nights are longer and, the more northerly you go in Europe and Asia, the colder the winters become. This affects how we celebrate Christmas. In the north, snow scenes are everywhere. A carol sings about the bleak mid-winter, where earth is hard as iron and water like a stone, a description which doesn't fit Bethlehem, with its December average low temperature of 8°C. And, while Good King Wenceslas and his page trudge through the snowy wastes, good Christians in the Southern Hemisphere might celebrate the Feast of Stephen at the pool or on the beach in the blazing sun. We can learn a great deal by looking at the Christmas cards from various countries. Santa Claus is everywhere in what we might call the non-religious cards. In South Africa, Santa sits under a baobab tree, a tree which looks as if it's planted upside down with its roots in the air. It's decorated with baubles and a giraffe walks by. In the USA, Santa's suit might be the Stars and Stripes and he waves the flag. In Australia, Santa rides his surfboard while Rudolf makes sandcastles on the beach. One charming religious card made by children in Australia is a silhouette of a Nativity scene where the star over the stable is replaced by the four stars of the Southern Cross. Bethlehem is now truly in Oz.

But wherever we are, the Christmas celebrations do come to an end. I don't mean that as a killjoy but rather as a live-joy. The delights of Christmas can help us look deeper to find, as St Richard of Chichester wrote in his prayer, the deep joy of knowing our Lord more clearly, loving him more dearly and following him more nearly. In today's Gospel St John sums up the most profound thoughts in only a few words. In one sentence he writes of Jesus, "All things came to be through him and without

him nothing came to be.” That sentence echoes through the whole of creation. It’s true that Jesus was born at a certain time in history, but the tiny baby in the crib isn’t the *result of* creation but the *reason for* creation itself. In short, without Jesus Christ there would be no creation.

At Easter we’ll rejoice that the baby who warmed our hearts this Christmas becomes a man who dies to take away the sin of the world by rising from that death to glory. When I put the grains of incense into the Easter Candle, I’ll repeat the prayer which echoes what St John told us: “Christ yesterday and today; the Beginning and the End; the Alpha and the Omega. All time belongs to him, and all the ages. To him be glory and power through every age and forever. Amen.” And in a few minutes, when we say the Creed, we’ll declare that this is indeed what we believe. It too echoes the same profound declaration of St John, “I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ... Through him all things were made.”

And this same Lord will soon come to us in this Mass. In the words of St Francis of Assisi, “O sublime humility! O humble sublimity! The Lord of the universe, God and the Son of God, so humbles himself that for our salvation he hides himself under an ordinary piece of bread... Hold back nothing of yourselves for yourselves, that he who gives himself totally to you may receive you totally.”

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Prayers for the Sick

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners, especially Audrey Salmon, Yueh Li-Wu, Kath 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 Mays, Percy Winterton, Carole Dyson, Bernadette Houlton, Janette Barber, Paddy McNicholas, David Hardy, Hannah Prentiss, Thomas Collins, Norma Marshall, Val Armstrong, Margaret Booker, Norah Preuss.

Requiescat in Pace

Please pray for the repose of the soul of William Jeffrey (Bill) Mays who died recently. The requiem mass will take place on Wednesday 14th January at 1.30pm at Sacred Heart, Goldthorpe. Please keep his family and friends in your prayers.

Christmas Offerings

Your offerings at Christmas masses are for our parish priest. Thank you.

A big thank you from Fr Declan for your generosity, as well as all the cards, gifts and good wishes. A big thank you to all those who helped prepare our three churches for the Christmas period, and to those who give their time to the parish in so many ways, throughout the year.

Please note there are no weekday masses next week, apart from the vigil mass of the Epiphany.

Feast of the Epiphany

The Feast of the Epiphany is on Tuesday 6th January. There will be a vigil mass on Monday 5th January in St Michael’s at 7.00pm.

Bonus Ball - Goldthorpe and Hoyland

21st December bonus ball number was 47. There were no winners in either Hoyland or Goldthorpe.

28th December bonus ball was no. 21. The winner in Hoyland was E Coefield, winning the rollover of £50. The winner in Goldthorpe was I Stones, winning the rollover there of £75!

Children’s Liturgy at Goldthorpe

There will be NO Children’s liturgy at Goldthorpe during January. We will begin again for 2026 during 9.00am mass on Sunday 1st February with the usual two groups aged 3-5 and 6-8. Any child who has not yet made their First Holy Communion is very welcome to join us. Thank you, Maureen and Amanda.

Used Stamps

If you have received Christmas cards in the post, please consider donating used stamps into the box or envelope at the back of each church marked for the Royal National Institute for the Blind. From time to time these stamps are posted on to the RNIB who can use them in their fundraising. Thank you.

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? 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.

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. If you are interested in joining the Agewell group or have any questions, contact Geraldine Pickles 01226 750136 or 07518 486822