

3rd Sunday of Advent First Reading Isaiah 35:1-6a. 10 The wilderness and the dry land will rejoice and blossom at the Lord's coming. Responsorial Psalm 146(145):6c-7,8-9a,9b-10 Come, Lord, and save us. Second Reading James 5:7-10 Be patient and do not grumble, for the Lord's coming is at hand.	Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he has sent me to give the good news to the poor. Alleluia! Gospel 11:2-11 Jesus is the one who brings true hope in the midst of our wilderness, bringing healing to all and proclaiming the kingdom, especially to the poor.
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Service Times & Intentions

Saturday Vigil (St Michael's)	13 Dec	5.30pm	Tess Lynch RIP
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	14 Dec	9.00am	Jane Thurston RIP
Sunday (St Helen's)	14 Dec	11.00am	People of the Parish
Tuesday (St Helen's)	16 Dec	10.00am	Holy Souls
Wednesday (St Michael's)	17 Dec	10.00am	Very Rev. Canon Patrick Hartnett RIP
Thursday (St Helen's)	18 Dec	10.00am	Holy Souls
Friday (Sacred Heart)	19 Dec	10.00am	Rev. Dan Harrison RIP
Saturday (St Michael's)	20 Dec	11.00am	Josephine Topps RIP
Saturday Vigil (St Michael's)	20 Dec	5.30pm	Esther Nicholson RIP and David Mulvenna RIP
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	21 Dec	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sunday (St. Helen's)	21 Dec	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.

Date	Parish Collection	Standing Orders for November
7 th December	£466.82	£1634.96

Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Roman Catholic Diocese of Hallam Trust • Registered Charity Number 512021

Sunday 14th December 2025

Sunday Year A

Third Sunday of Advent

Weekday Cycle II

"What did you go out into the wilderness to see?"

"You're very welcome," is a refrain uttered often by the wonderful volunteers who staff the stewards' desk at Farm Street Church in central London. Hospitality and welcome are such a valuable service, speaking of what the church strives to be: a place of acceptance where people find someone who connects with them, answers questions, steers them in the right direction and reveals the church as a living community of hope.

At this time of the year especially, people turn to the Church in one way or another for comfort, healing and above all, for hope amidst increasingly hard times. The readings of this Third Sunday of Advent are a gift to us: they proclaim hope amid deep distress, the paradox at the heart of faith. People need hope when unemployment and poverty hit home; when family and relationships are challenged to the limit; when loneliness is surrounded by everyone else looking for fun, especially as Christmas approaches.

The spirit of our culture is always to keep calm and carry on, but this is not the spirit of the Gospel. The Advent message is hope, and the Gospel this Gaudete Sunday invites us all to stop in the midst of the busy-ness and conflicting pre-Christmas emotions, and to listen to Jesus and to the witness of his messenger, the last of the great prophets, John the Baptist. John has pointed to the Saviour and now, even from his prison cell, he yearns to reveal who he truly is: someone who is not as we may have expected. Instead, our Saviour is a God who, in human form, will humble himself when he comes again. His power and glory will be displayed on the side of the weakest, as he himself is baptised by John, the one who is the very least in the kingdom.

We hear the gentle voice of this God getting louder and more persistent as we move through these Advent scriptures. Patience is the key. Putting aside grumbling – the rain will come in God's time. But the message is getting clearer, altogether more focused. We are summoned to prepare for the Lord to come into our wilderness again, to meet us where we are, and to ask ourselves what we expected out there in the desert? Did we expect to find wealth, status, a prophecy of a new golden age?

Is that what we want? Do we expect an immediate answer, remedy, reason for the struggles we're going through? Do we, here in our own contemporary desert, expect this instantly?

St Ignatius asks a similar question. What is my deepest desire, taking account of my life at this time, of what I perceive of the world in all its beauty, the creation of a loving God, and in all its struggles and sufferings, the presence of malignant evil as well as good, of the presence of sin, both individual and structural? Under which standard will I be? That of desiring the world to be a better place where God's kingdom will take root, or will I carry on as normal, feeling I should be served by this God, rather than being challenged to bring him to the world?

This God we worship will enter our world without being known, born homeless and hunted down from birth, a God who knows our frailty, who is made human in the world alongside our societies in all their brokenness. This time of year is a wonderful opportunity to invite someone you know, who needs to hear this message, to come to church at Christmas, to pause and take stock of what really matters in life, to rediscover hope and to know that we do not walk alone.

This Jubilee Year we have been celebrating being pilgrims journeying towards hope. The words of the prophet Isaiah echo down the ages as we cycle back to our eternal Advent, rekindling that eternal hope of salvation in our personal wilderness. "Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees," says Isaiah. "Say to those who have an anxious heart, 'Be strong, fear not!'" For, "the wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing".

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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 Hoult, Janette Barber, Paddy McNicholas, David Hardy, Hannah Prentiss, Thomas Collins, Norma Marshall, Val Armstrong, Margaret Booker, Norah Preuss.

Second Collection for Caritas, 7th December

Thank you for your generous donations. The total of £211.69 was raised by our parish.

Bonus Ball - Goldthorpe and Hoyland

The Bonus Ball number was 40. The winners were K Palfreyman in Hoyland and J Fleming in Goldthorpe, each winning £25.

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

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Vigil	5.30pm	St Michael`s
Midnight Mass	12.00am	St Helen`s
Christmas Day	10.00am	Sacred Heart

Deanery Reconciliation Service

This year`s Deanery Reconciliation Service will be held on Wednesday 17th December at 7.00pm in St Michael`s. Please note that the mass for that Wednesday has been moved to 10.00am in St Michael`s.

Carol Service at Goldthorpe – 5.00pm, Sunday 14th December

Practices for the Goldthorpe Carol Service will be held at Sacred Heart church weekly between now and Friday 12th 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 21st 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 winners will be announced next weekend. Thank you for supporting the raffle and thanks to the ladies from the Parish Craft Group who knitted the Nativity Sets.

First Holy Communion Programme 2025-26

The next meeting will be on Monday 15th December from 6.00pm to 7.15pm in St Michael`s Church Hall and is for children and parents.

Big Christmas Cards – Bishop Ralph`s Bethlehem Fund

Please consider signing the BIG card at the back of church to send a Christmas message to church friends and family. Any donations received in lieu of buying individual cards will be sent to support the work of the Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust

St Wilfrid`s Centre – Director Vacancy

St Wilfrid`s Centre is seeking a new Director. Please download the application pack from www.stwilfridscentre.org or contact St. Wilfrid`s Centre on 0114 2555 720. Closing date is 4th January 2026

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