

## 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

Roman Catholic Diocese of Hallam Trust • Registered Charity Number 512021

Sunday 21st December 2025

Sunday Year A

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Weekday Cycle II

*"She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people."*

When we look at the crib this Christmas, we will of course be drawn to the figure of the baby Jesus. And then to Mary, the young woman who brought the Son of God into the world. In today's Gospel, though, Matthew places Joseph centre stage. He is the unlikely, largely unsung, hero of the story. The world is full of unsung heroes, there are many of you here today: people who quietly go on trying to do the right thing, often in very difficult times, trusting that "God is with us."

Joseph was given a terrible dilemma when he discovered that Mary was pregnant. In Deuteronomy, Jewish Law stipulated that if an engaged man found his future wife was pregnant, she should be returned to her father and stoned to death. This must have been a terrible situation for Joseph, a dark night of the soul, with lots of questions, doubt and uncertainty in his mind. Either he follows the Law and saves his reputation, or he spares Mary and suffers his own public humiliation and disgrace. Thinking nothing of his own reputation, he decides to disobey the Law in order to protect Mary. Matthew tells us that Joseph decides to divorce her quietly. He puts orthopraxis (doing the right thing) above orthodoxy (fulfilling the legalistic regulations of the Jewish Law). This act of selfless love for Mary takes place before he is visited by an angel, who tells him there is no need to be afraid and invites him to embrace God's plan for the future. Joseph, like us, is invited to step out into the unknown, to trust that, with God, all will be well.

Like Joseph, we often do not know or cannot see the wisdom of God's plan for us. We often doubt and struggle to believe, especially in difficult times in our lives. Joseph accepted Mary and her child despite the inevitable gossip and social shame that this involved. His was a heroic act of faith and a model for us here today; he replaces fear with faith and trust. The Christmas crib calls us to trust in God's plan for us, even when, like Joseph, we don't understand everything, and we don't know where it will all end up.

In our first reading today from Isaiah, we hear it prophesied that the child will be called Emmanuel, which means "God with us." The baby Jesus, lying in the manger, is proof that God is not a distant figure, but is right here in our midst, intimately

### 4th Sunday of Advent

#### First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-14  
The birth of Jesus is prophesied in the Old Testament: a child will be born to a young woman, and he will be called Emmanuel.

#### Responsorial Psalm

24(23):1-2,3-4b,5-6

Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.

#### Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7  
Paul tells us that Jesus is both a son of David and a Son of God. He is God incarnate, God made man.

### Gospel Acclamation

#### Alleluia, alleluia!

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel-which means, God with us.

#### Alleluia!

#### Gospel

Matthew 1:18-24  
Joseph decides to take Mary home as his wife and the angel tells him that Mary will give birth to a son through the action of the Holy Spirit, and he will be called Emmanuel – "God is with us".

### Service Times & Intentions

<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael's)	<b>20 Dec</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	Esther Nicholson RIP and David Mulvenna RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>21 Dec</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen's)	<b>21 Dec</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Audrey O'Neill RIP
Tuesday (St Helen's)	23 Dec	10.00am	Holy Souls
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>Christmas Vigil</b> (St Michael's)	<b>24 Dec</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	Robert Batty RIP
<b>Christmas Midnight Mass</b> (St Helen's)	<b>25 Dec</b>	<b>12.00am</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Christmas Day</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>25 Dec</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	Rosina Atkinson RIP
Friday (Sacred Heart)	26 Dec	10.00am	Holy Souls
Saturday (St Michael's)	27 Dec	11.00am	Christmas Wishes for Josie Wood
<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael's)	<b>27 Dec</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	Richard Booker RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>28 Dec</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (St. Helen's)	<b>28 Dec</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Barry Cooper 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
14 <sup>th</sup> December	£471.62	£1634.96

involved in your life and mine. The awesome power of God is hidden in the helplessness of a tiny baby. If we are honest, this is not normally who we think God is. Perhaps our image of God is an old man on a cloud, a Santa figure keeping records of who is "naughty or nice". Or, worse still, someone to fear; someone who is eager to judge us and punish us for our sins. But at Christmas we see God as he truly is. He becomes weak, poor and vulnerable in order that he might share himself and be loved by us. God takes on human flesh, hidden in the ordinary and the mundane surroundings of a stable. He chooses humanity and in so doing he tells us that God is good, the world is good, we are good. He gives us hope in a hurting world, promising to be by our side in good times and bad, in moments of joy and in times of pain and struggle.

Thanks in part to Joseph's trusting faith, we too can place our trust in a God who loves us, a God who chose human vulnerability and ordinariness in order to draw alongside us in *our* own vulnerability and in the day-to-day events of our lives. In these last few days of Advent, as we gaze at the crib, let us celebrate the heroism of Joseph, an ordinary man who made an extraordinary decision to put Love before the Law, and in so doing, enabled the Holy Family to be together on that dangerous journey to Bethlehem. Like him, we are called to be heroes and heroines in our own set of circumstances even if we can't fully understand everything that unfolds in our lives. This Christmas, let our fears subside, let us draw near to the crib and place our hope and trust in God's plan for us, knowing that whatever happens, God is always with us, our Emmanuel.

---

*Reflection by Redemptorists Publications. Used with permission*

### **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 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.

### **Requiescat in Pace**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Tony Lees who died recently. Please keep his family and friends in your prayers.

### **Christmas Nativity Raffle**

The final total raised for parish funds by the Christmas Nativity Raffle was £284.23. Thank you for supporting the raffle and thanks to the ladies from the Parish Craft Group who knitted the Nativity Sets. The winners were Judy in Hoyland, ticket no. 296-300, Marie-Louise in Goldthorpe, ticket 56-60. The winning ticket in Wombwell was yellow 346-350 and is yet to be claimed. Please check your tickets!

### **Christmas Mass Times**

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

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

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

### **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

### **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.

Fr Declan will be taking a break in the New Year, there will be no weekday masses for three weeks, following the Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> December mass in St Helen`s.

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

The Bonus Ball number was 59. The winner in Hoyland was M Harrison, winning £25. There was no winner in Goldthorpe, so next week will be a rollover.

### **St Wilfrid`s Centre – Director Vacancy**

St Wilfrid`s Centre is seeking a new Director. Please download the application pack from [www.stwilfridscentre.org](http://www.stwilfridscentre.org) or contact St. Wilfrid`s Centre on 0114 2555 720. Closing date is 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026

### **Goldthorpe Carol Service**

A huge thank you to those people who were involved in any way to make last Sunday`s Carol Service such a lovely event. The children sang beautifully and we all had a wonderful evening which definitely helped us to prepare for Christmas.

### **Used Stamps**

If you receive 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.

### **Crib Offerings**

This year`s Christmas Crib offerings will be for the Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust.