

<p><b>3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time</b></p> <p><b>First Reading</b> Isaiah 9:1b-4 On the people who dwelt in a land of deep darkness light has shone; the Lord has multiplied the nation and increased its joy.</p> <p><b>Responsorial Psalm</b> 27(26):1,4,13-14 The Lord is my light and my salvation</p> <p><b>Second Reading</b> 1 Corins 1:10-13. 17 Paul's exhortation to the church in Corinth is, as usual, practical, addressing the divisions that have arisen in the community; as the Church is the Body of Christ, it cannot be divided.</p>	<p><b>Gospel Acclamation</b> <b>Alleluia, alleluia!</b> Jesus proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom and healed every affliction among the people. <b>Alleluia!</b></p> <p><b>Gospel</b> Matthew 4:12-23 With the arrest of John the Baptist, Jesus moves fully into his ministry and immediately calls his first two disciples. In doing so he is building his team and laying the foundations of the Church.</p>
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## Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Sunday Year A

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekday Cycle II

*"The people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light."*

### Service Times & Intentions

<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael's)	<b>24 Jan</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	Majella Gilbertson RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>25 Jan</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen's)	<b>25 Jan</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Andrew J Marren RIP
Tuesday (St Helen's)	27 Jan	10.00am	Holy Souls
Wednesday (St Michael's)	28 Jan	7.00pm	Rev. John Kelly
Thursday (St Helen's)	29 Jan	10.00am	
Friday (Sacred Heart)	30 Jan	10.00am	John Hamilton RIP
Saturday (St Michael's)	31 Jan	10.00am	Holy Souls
<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael's)	<b>31 Jan</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	Tony Wood RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>1 Feb</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (St. Helen's)	<b>1 Feb</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Andrew J Marren RIP

**Rosary** is at 1.30pm each Wednesday in Goldthorpe.

**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 December
18 <sup>th</sup> January	£495.08	£1814.96

People sometimes say, "I'm not religious, but I am *spiritual*." What do they mean? Sometimes it's a feeling of antipathy or non-connection with organised religion. Perhaps there's a sense that there's more to life than our mundane experience seems to be saying – and yet we might not be able to express what that "other" is. At its best, our searching brings us to a direct encounter with the "other", with the spiritual reality, with God.

Sometimes we may have encounters with the divine without fully recognising what is happening: a moment that feels special; perhaps when overwhelmed by beauty in nature; in comfortable silence with a partner or friend; being moved by the selfless actions of others. These times are special: they are *gift*. God is in those moments, even if we don't recognise his presence. These are moments of *contemplation*.

There is a rich Catholic tradition of contemplative prayer. There are many Religious Orders devoted to contemplation of God – but contemplative prayer is for all of us. We all want to be deeply prayerful and also to be active in our Gospel life.

Jesus was both active and contemplative in equal measure. Today he is teaching in the synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and affliction. He travels far and wide to the towns and villages, and wherever his ministry takes him. Then he retires to a remote place to pray and to contemplate the glory of his Father. In today's first reading, Isaiah proclaims, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." In the Gospel, Matthew echoes Isaiah's prophecy – but the Messiah, the Christ, is already present. The response to the psalm, with its focus on light, links the two readings: "The Lord is my light and salvation" – before moving into contemplative mode because the promised Light of the World has come. As a result, the psalmist has only one longing in his heart: "One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple."

The purpose of prophecy is to challenge, to encourage and to prompt to action. Therefore, gazing on the beauty of the Lord is reciprocal: we are in turn gazed upon by the Lord; his gaze is benign, loving and accepting. In gazing upon the Lord, and

with the Lord gazing on us, we are drawn into deeper communion with him. We are encouraged by Isaiah, and joyful that the Light, Christ, has come and is shining our midst.

There is a double challenge for us here: how can we gaze on the beauty of the Lord, contemplate his presence, then how can we allow our contemplation to bear fruit in gospel action? Firstly, the Catholic Christian tradition has a deep emphasis on contemplation. Every church has a crucifix, stations of the cross, statues and perhaps icons. Looking at them and allowing them to lead our thoughts and feelings towards prayer and devotion is contemplation. In exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament we gaze on the sacramental presence of the Lord where, in his risen body, he is under the appearance of bread. We can talk with him, listen spiritually to him, or simply gaze at him, hidden as he is.

Another form of contemplation is allowing our minds to roam free: we begin with a prayer, look at a sunset, go on a walk, light a candle or simply sit still, offering the moment to the Lord. It's not just us seeking him: he is actively seeking us, and in contemplating him we are also opening our heart and mind to him. Is this form of prayer associated only with the beauty of nature, with pleasant environments, with feeling good? If we are in the inner city, for example, or in an unattractive environment, are we still able to contemplate? Of course! Our focus changes. We might be looking at ugliness, squalor, painful situations, even tragedy – so we pause, pray, then contemplate where the Lord might be in this situation... Can I meet him here as truly as anywhere else? He isn't fussy. He will meet us wherever and wherever we are, regardless of our situation and however unworthy we might consider ourselves to be. Truly, the Light is here to shine in our darkness. Let us gaze on the beauty of the Lord.

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### **Prayers for the Sick**

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners, especially A Sick Person, 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 Hout, 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 souls of Michael Leeman and Anna Thompson, who both died recently.

The funeral of Anna Thompson will be at Sacred Heart, Goldthorpe, on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 2.30pm

The funeral of Michael Leeman will be at Sacred Heart, Goldthorpe, on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February at 12noon

### **Diocese of Leeds – Visit of Relics of St. Gerard Majella**

The Diocese of Leeds is hosting relics of St. Gerard Majella for a WEEK BEGINNING Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January. There will also be Veneration, mass, and blessing with the relics at the following venues:

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January – St. Austin`s, Wentworth Terrace, Wakefield at 7.00pm

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January – St. Anne`s Cathedral, Leeds at 5.50pm.

### **Children`s Liturgy at Goldthorpe, Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February.**

There will be Children`s Liturgy during 9.00am mass at Goldthorpe for any children who have NOT YET made their First Holy Communion. As usual, two groups: 3-5year olds with Amanda and 6-8year olds with Maureen. We are looking forward to thinking about The Beatitudes.

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

17.1.2026 No 4 M Brankin in Hoyland winning £25, no winner in Goldthorpe, so rollover next week.

10.1.2026 No 9 M McAllister in Hoyland winning £25, M Guilcher in Goldthorpe winning the roller of £50

Spare numbers are available in Hoyland and in Goldthorpe. Please see Pat Tomlinson in Hoyland or Fay in Goldthorpe if you would like a number. All money raised is for church funds and you also have a chance of winning!

### **Craft Group**

The Craft Group meet once a fortnight on Thursday morning in the Parish rooms at Wombwell from 10.00am until 12.30pm. The next meeting will be on the 29<sup>th</sup> January. All are welcome, and please feel free to come to knit, sew, crochet and natter, or just for a cuppa!

### **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

### **Parish Administrator**

Marion is looking to step down from her role as Parish Administrator in the near future. If there is anyone who would be interested in the role, please either speak with Fr Declan, or send an email to parishofcorpuschristi@gmail.com