

<p><b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b></p> <p><b>First Reading</b> Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13 Those who look for God find him by acting with justice.</p> <p><b>Responsorial Psalm</b> 146(145):6c-10 Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.</p> <p><b>Second Reading</b> 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 God's true followers are often those people who are of little importance in the eyes of the world.</p>	<p><b>Gospel Acclamation</b> <b>Alleluia, alleluia!</b> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven. <b>Alleluia!</b></p> <p><b>Gospel</b> Matthew 5:1-12a The Beatitudes.</p>
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### Service Times & Intentions

<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>	Christine and Catherine Haigh RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen's)	<b>1 Feb</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	People of the Parish
Tuesday (St Helen's)	3 Feb	10.00am	Rev Daniel O'Neill RIP
Tuesday (Sacred Heart)	3 Feb	2.30pm	Funeral Service for Anna Thompson
Wednesday (St Michael's)	4 Feb	7.00pm	Bill Mays RIP
Thursday (Sacred Heart)	5 Feb	12 noon	Funeral Service for Michael Leeman
Friday (Sacred Heart)	6 Feb	10.00am	
Saturday (St Michael's)	7 Feb	10.00am	Kevin Topping 90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday
<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael's)	<b>7 Feb</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>8 Feb</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Christine and Catherine Haigh RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (St. Helen's)	<b>8 Feb</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Holy Souls

**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
25 <sup>th</sup> January	£492.51	£1814.96

## Parish of Corpus Christi

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



**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr Declan Brett.

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Roman Catholic Diocese of Hallam Trust • Registered Charity Number 512021

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026

Sunday Year A

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekday Cycle II

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

"In spite of everything, I still believe that people are really good at heart." These words, penned by fifteen-year-old Anne Frank while hiding from Nazi persecution, echo across generations as a quiet defiance against hatred. The diary of this young Jewish girl, born in the shadows of injustice, is a beacon of mercy. Her story is not only about the Holocaust, her family's escape to the Netherlands from Germany and their frightened hiding from betrayal, arrest and Hitler's concentration camps: it is about the human cost of prejudice. Her voice, silenced too soon in Bergen-Belsen, speaks for all who have suffered because of race, religion or identity. In her belief in human goodness, Anne models a mercy that refuses to be extinguished by fear.

Today, as we confront the wounds of racial injustice in our own time, Anne's mercy challenges us. It is not passive. It is not forgetful. It is a mercy that sees the image of God in every person, especially those whom the world has cast aside. Anne saw beyond war, beyond betrayal, even beyond the walls that separated her from the world. Though hunted and silenced, she refused to let hatred have the final word. In her gentle handwriting, mercy bloomed, not as softness, but as strength rooted in hope.

Jesus said, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy." Anne never knew freedom, yet she practised it in the deepest sense: through compassion, insight and forgiveness. Her diary reveals a soul who, even surrounded by fear, chose to nurture empathy rather than resentment.

In today's Gospel, Jesus climbs the mountain not to escape the world, but to reimagine it. The Beatitudes are not sentimental sayings: they are a radical blueprint for justice. In a world that glorifies wealth and power, Jesus blesses the humble and the overlooked. He raises the mourners, the meek, the peacemakers: those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. These are not passive virtues. They are the heartbeat of social justice.

To hunger for righteousness is to ache for a world where no child goes hungry, where dignity is not denied by race, poverty, or status. To be merciful is to stand with the oppressed, not from pity, but from solidarity. To be a peacemaker is to disrupt systems of violence with the courage of compassion. Jesus does not say, "Blessed are the successful," but "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness'

sake. " He declares this as the cost of discipleship: to speak truth when silence is safer, to act when apathy is easier. The Beatitudes are not a reward for the comfortable: they are a challenge to the Church. They call us to build the kingdom not in theory, but in practice: in policy, in protest, in presence.

In a world where judgement often shouts louder than love, Anne Frank's witness reminds us that mercy isn't passive: it's an act of holy defiance. To believe in human goodness, to forgive those who fail us, to cling to joy amidst sorrow, these are choices that reflect God's own heart.

Jesus once said, "as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me. Whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me." Racial justice begins with this vision: to see Christ in the faces of the marginalised, to listen, to repent and to act. Mercy is not a substitute for justice, it is its soul. Jesus' Beatitudes are not a recipe for happiness, but for joy, which is so much deeper and can exist even in the darkest, most traumatic surroundings. St Maximilian Kolbe was probably not happy as he starved to death in Auschwitz, but he was certainly joy-filled and close to the God who meant everything to him.

Let us be people who, like Anne Frank, believe in goodness even when it is hard to see. Let us be people who, like Christ, extend mercy that heals and transforms. For in doing so, we proclaim a Gospel that breaks chains and builds beloved community. Let us live the Beatitudes not as poetry, but as prophecy. For in doing so, we become the salt of the earth, the light of the world – and the hands of Christ in a world still aching for justice.

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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 Hoults, 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

### **Marist Way and Rosary at Goldthorpe**

The Rosary at Goldthorpe will be every **Wednesday** at 1.30pm. The Rosary will be combined with the Marist Way once a month. The next Marist Meeting with Rosary is on Wednesday February 11th.

### **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.

### **World Day of Prayer – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March**

There will be a World Day of Prayer at 2.00pm in Goldthorpe. The theme of this year's service, prepared by Nigerian women, is taken from Matthew 11: 28-30 'Come to me and I will give you rest'.

Anyone who would like to be involved in any way - readings, singing, preparing materials - is warmly invited to a meeting in the Parish Room at Goldthorpe at 2pm on Thursday 12 February. Thank you, Amanda Campbell

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

24.1.2026 No 29 E Cooper in Hoyland winning £25. T McCoy 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!

### **. 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

### **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](http://hallam-diocese.com)

### **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](mailto:parishofcorpuschristi@gmail.com)

### **Help with Counting**

The Parish has to have at least two people to help with counting the various collections each week. We are looking for volunteers, so if you would like to help for a couple of hours about once a month, please contact Marion in the parish office, speak with Fr. Declan or drop an email to the parish office.