

The Baptism of the Lord

First Reading

Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7
The prophet announces the servant of the Lord – chosen, gentle and faithful – who brings justice to the nations and healing to the oppressed.

Responsorial Psalm

29:1-2,3-4,9-10
The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Second Reading

Acts 10:34-38
Peter proclaims that God's love includes all peoples and that Jesus, anointed with the Holy Spirit, brought healing and goodness to the world.

Service Times & Intentions

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)	11 Jan	11.00am	Audrey O'Neill RIP
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)	17 Jan	5.30pm	Private Intention for Michelle and Andrew Wood
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	18 Jan	9.00am	John Hamilton RIP
Sunday (St. Helen's)	18 Jan	11.00am	People of the Parish

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 th December	£471.62	£1634.96
21 st December	£538.89	
28 th December	£409.23	Standing Orders for December
4 th January	£542.41	£1814.96

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens were opened and the voice of the Father thundered:
'This is my beloved Son; listen to him'.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 3:13-17
Jesus is baptised by John and is revealed as the Son of God, the beloved, on whom the Spirit rests.

Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Sunday 11th January 2026

The Baptism of the Lord.

Sunday Year A

Weekday Cycle II

"This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him."

At a graduation ceremony, a father in the audience stands, visibly emotional, as his child walks across the stage to receive their degree. As the applause rings out, he turns to those near him and says with pride, "That's my child." It's a small sentence, but it carries the weight of years of sacrifice, hope, encouragement – and love. To be named in love is one of the most powerful experiences a human being can have. It's a moment of deep affirmation, of being seen and valued. Whether it comes from a parent, a mentor or a friend, being named and claimed in love tells us: "You matter. You belong."

But not everyone hears those words in life. Many people move through their days wondering if they are seen or valued at all. For them, words of affirmation are not just welcome; they are deeply healing. And so, when we hear the Father's voice over Jesus in today's Gospel – "This is my Son, the Beloved" – we are not only witnessing something about Jesus; we are being reminded of the power of being named and loved. Matthew's Gospel tells us that Jesus comes to John at the Jordan, asking to be baptised. John hesitates – he knows Jesus has no sin to repent of – but Jesus insists. "Leave it like this for the time being," he says, "it is fitting that we should do this to fulfil all righteousness."

Jesus enters the water to identify with us in our humanity. By choosing to be baptised alongside ordinary people, Jesus chooses to stand *with* us, not *above* us. He steps into the muddy waters of the Jordan to show that no part of human life is beneath the presence of God. In choosing to stand with sinners, Jesus sets the tone for his entire ministry: he will always be found among the broken, the searching and the lost.

As Jesus comes up from the water, the heavens open. The Spirit descends upon him, and the voice of the Father declares: "This is my beloved Son..". This is a moment of revelation. It tells us who Jesus is – the Son of God – and what he has come to do.

The other readings reinforce this identity and mission and what links these passages together is the gentleness of the mission of the one who comes to serve. Jesus does

not begin with spectacle. He begins with service. He does not assert power; he expresses compassion. The Spirit empowers him, not to dominate, but to heal. The Father's love is not just affirmation: it is a sending forth. The baptism is the beginning of Jesus' mission, not the end of a private revelation.

Through our own baptism, we are joined to Christ. We, too, are anointed with the Spirit. And the voice from heaven speaks to us as well: "You are my beloved." That voice is not a one-time event. It is the foundation of our identity as Christians, and that is our deepest identity. As the American poet Maya Angelou said, "Don't you know who I am? I'm a child of God!"

But baptism also comes with responsibility. Like Jesus, we are called not simply to believe, but to live the Gospel – to go about "doing good". The servant in Isaiah brings justice not through shouting, but by lifting the crushed and freeing those who are bound captive. That is our calling too.

In a world where many feel unseen or forgotten, our task is to embody God's gentleness and mercy. And how do we help others know they are beloved? Sometimes, the most Christ-like thing we can do is simply to notice someone, to affirm their dignity, to include them, or to speak a word of encouragement. In this way, we are sent to love, to heal, to welcome and to serve. The Spirit that descended on Jesus at his baptism is the same Spirit that lives in us and sends us forth.

As we begin a new year, this feast invites us to begin again from the waters of our baptism. To remember that we are God's beloved children. And to live in such a way that others might know, through us, that they are loved too.

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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 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 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.

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.

Bonus Ball - Goldthorpe and Hoyland

The bonus ball for last weekend was 4. The winner in Hoyland was M Brankin. There was no winner in Goldthorpe so next week will be a rollover.

Weekday Masses

Please note there are no weekday masses next week whilst Fr Declan is away.

Xaverian MissionaryAppeal

This weekend we welcome Fr Patrick Duffy, who will be making an appeal on behalf of the Xaverian Missionaries.

First Holy Communion Programme 2025-26

The next event in the preparation will be on Saturday 17th January. This will be the Reconciliation, from 4.00pm, followed by the Saturday evening mass at 5.30pm at St Michael's church.

Big Christmas Card at Goldthorpe

A Big Thank You to everybody who signed the Big Christmas card at Goldthorpe and donated so generously to support the work of the Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust (Bishop Ralph's Bethlehem Fund), your donations totalled £63.00.

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

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 15th January. All are welcome, and please feel free to come to knit, sew, crochet and natter, or just for a cuppa!

Christmas Nativity Raffle – Unclaimed Number.

Please check any ticket you may have as there is still one prize to claim. The winning ticket in Wombwell was yellow 346-350.

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