

<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	<b>Gospel Acclamation</b>
<b>First Reading</b> 1 Samuel 16:1b,6-7,10-13a The prophet Samuel anointed David as King of Israel, after which the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him.	<b>Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.</b> I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. <b>Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.</b>
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b> 23(22):1-3a,3-4,5,6 The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.	<b>Gospel</b> John 9:1-41 Christ invites us to see the light.
<b>Second Reading</b> Ephesians 5:8-14 Paul contrasts past “darkness” with current “light in the Lord,” urging believers to live as children of light and produce goodness, righteousness and truth.	

## Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Sunday 15th March 2026  
Fourth Sunday of Lent

Sunday Year A  
Weekday Cycle II

*“I am the light of the world.” John 9:5*

### Service Times & Intentions

<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael's)	<b>14 Mar</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	Anne Watts RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>15 Mar</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen's)	<b>15 Mar</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Our Grandmother Ela RIP
Tuesday (St Helen's)	17 Mar	10.00am	Holy Souls
Wednesday (St Michael's)	18 Mar	7.00pm	
Thursday (St Helen's)	19 Mar	10.00am	
Friday (St Michael's)	20 Mar	12 noon	Funeral of Jean-Pierre Kantungeko
Saturday (St Michael's)	21 Mar	11.00am	Holy Souls
<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael's)	<b>21 Mar</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>22 Mar</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Beatrice Barry RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (St. Helen's)	<b>22 Mar</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Brian McAllister 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 February
8 <sup>th</sup> March	£332.63	£1639.96

The Jesuit priest and theologian Fr Anthony de Mello said that spirituality means waking up. He said, “Most people, even though they don’t know it, are asleep. They’re born asleep, they live asleep, they marry in their sleep, they breed children in their sleep, they die in their sleep, without ever waking up. They never understand the loveliness and the beauty of this thing that we call human existence.”

This is a controversial statement designed to make us think, perhaps to shake us out of our complacency, to wake us up to the reality that Jesus offers us when he says he is the light of the world. In today’s Gospel, when Jesus cures the blind man, he heals him physically and then wakes him spiritually. He challenges us to ask in what ways we are blind. Do we need to have our eyes opened, to wake up and see the Christ light? The Bible is an invitation to a new way of seeing. An encounter with Christ is always an invitation to see things differently. For some of us, this can involve “unlearning” many things we may have previously understood or been taught.

At the heart of John’s Gospel is the story of a blind man who receives his sight, and of Pharisees who think they can see, but are blind. People at that time, including the disciples, believed that the blind man was blind because of his sin or the sin of his parents. Because of this he is seen as rejected by God. He is in a darkness so deep, there is no light, no hope and no God.

Interestingly, the man does not even ask Jesus for healing. It is just offered and given. Jesus gives him his sight, and his world changes: he now knows that he is not condemned by God. Jesus shows him who he is, and he in turn recognises the glory of God in Jesus. He moves from a position of guilty hopelessness to a confident believer. He faces some harsh questioning and criticism from the Pharisees but gives as good as he gets, so much so that the Pharisees complain, “would you teach us?” Now, he’s not just a believer, he’s a follower – and he knows that his mission is to reveal the glory he has seen to all those he encounters. Notice that belief in and love of Jesus come after the fact, after the healing. We can all take heart from the fact that perfect faith is not always required for God’s loving action.

The Pharisees remain in their own moral blindness, more concerned about control and correct theology than healing people. They have made up their minds, and they're not interested in the truth. They can see the man has been healed. They have the evidence and testimony they need but refuse to accept it. As the old saying goes, "There's none so blind as those who will not see." And of course, the truth cannot be forced on someone who chooses to be ignorant.

We often grope our way through life, eyes half-closed, perhaps blind to the pain of those around us, often failing to see what will give us lasting joy, never really waking up to what we are doing or where we are going. Life is not just about what we can see. Jesus restores sight to the blind man – but then gives him a purpose by letting him see the Christ Light. Jesus doesn't ask him to sign up to a creed or set of doctrinal propositions. He simply asks him if he believes in the Son of Man. And his answer is "Lord, I believe."

The Pharisees believed that being religious was about believing in a set of doctrines. But to paraphrase St Paul – a *Christian is a person who sees Christ in other people and acts accordingly*. Jesus constantly tells his followers to stop sleepwalking, to wake up and see a new vision of the world – the kingdom of God. Let's try looking at the world today with fresh eyes, looking at things as if for the first time – can we see the holy, the goodness of God that is already there, right in front of our eyes? It's not so hard to see God if you know where to look – and where to look is *everywhere*.

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### **Prayers for the Sick**

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners, especially Phil Harrison, 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, Anthony and Carole Dyson, Bernadette Hoult, 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 soul of Jean-Pierre Kantungeko who died recently. His funeral will take place on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 12 noon in St Michael's church.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Peter Hart who died recently.

Please keep their families and friends in your prayers.

### **Phil Harrison**

Please keep Phil Harrison, former headteacher at St. Helen's School, in your prayers as he awaits surgery on a brain tumour.

### **Sick & Retired Clergy**

Thank you for your generous donations last weekend. Our parish raised the sum of £175.99

### **CAFOD Family Fast Day – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February**

The total you have raised so far is £564.30, of which £120 is Gift Aided. Please return your envelopes as soon as possible. Don't forget to consider using the Gift Aid slip if you are a UK Taxpayer, thus enabling CAFOD to benefit further.

### **Hallam Support for LIFE collection 15<sup>th</sup> March**

This day, Inaugurated by St. John Paul II, presents an opportunity to pray for the gift of life from conception to natural death and to raise awareness of the precious gift of life. Please be generous with your donations this weekend.

### **Confirmations 2026**

Confirmation Meetings will begin at Holy Rood on 15<sup>th</sup> April and will run for eight weeks until 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Bishop Ralph will be present for the Deanery Confirmation Mass on Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> June at 7.00pm in Holy Rood. Please see Fr Declan if you wish to be confirmed this year.

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

7<sup>th</sup> March No.19. Winners were P Tomlinson in Hoyland and T Swindells in Goldthorpe, each winning £25.

There are still available numbers in both churches. Please see Pat Tomlinson in Hoyland or Faye Handley in Goldthorpe, to try your luck and in doing so, support our parish.

### **Mothering Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March**

Prayer card bookmarks are available at the back of each church, please take one home after mass for mothers or anyone you would like to give one to.

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

A Huge Thank You to everybody who was involved in any way with the World Day of Prayer service at Goldthorpe last Friday – readers, singers, musicians, helpers to dress the altar, and those who provided refreshments afterwards. It was a wonderful service of prayer and praise and we welcomed 30 people from 10 different local church communities.

### **Lenten Day of Recollection, Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> March 11am-3.00pm**

#### **Everything is connected – how do we care for our common home?**

At St Vincent's Church, 40 Pickmere Road, Crookes, Sheffield, S101GY. The Speakers are Bishop John Arnold, Bishop of Salford, spokesperson for the Bishops Conference on the Environment, and President of Pax Christi. Dr. Maria Exall, Honorary Fellow at the Centre for Catholic Social Thought and Practice in the Department of Theology and Religion at Durham University. The event is free. Tea and coffee will be available, but please bring your own packed lunch. Tea and coffee provided. Please book your place: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/hallam-formation-and-mission-46212155433>

### **Offertory Envelopes**

New Offertory envelopes starting on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April, will be available soon for those who require them. If you haven't had envelopes before and wish to use them, please send an email to the office, telephone or ask Fr Declan. You can, of course, Gift Aid your donation, thus helping the parish further.