

## Palm Sunday

### First Reading Isaiah 50:4-7

Part of the "Suffering Servant" poems, which show the incredible faithfulness of the one who suffers. It shows how they trust God's plan. We see echoes of Jesus' suffering and death throughout all of these poems, which demonstrate his humility and strength.

### Responsorial Psalm 22(21):8-9, 17-18a, 19-20, 23-24

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

### Second Reading Philippians 2:6-11

Paul writes passionately and poetically about Jesus' nature and his suffering and death. He shows how through Jesus' actions and the grace of God, Jesus is elevated to rule as our King.

## Gospel Acclamation

### Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Christ became for us obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name.

### Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

### Gospel Matthew 26:14 – 27:66

In Matthew's account of the passion of Jesus, we see the political wranglings and the brutality front and centre. Through it all though we see the majesty of Jesus, fulfilling prophecy after prophecy, showing God's plan in action.

## Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Sunday Year A

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Weekday Cycle II

*"Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus said, 'You have said so.'" Matthew 27:11*

## Service Times & Intentions

<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Michael's)	<b>28 Mar</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	Dennis Turner RIP
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>29 Mar</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> (St Helen's)	<b>29 Mar</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Deceased Members of the Freaney Family
Tuesday (St Helen's)	31 Mar	10.00am	The Sick of Our Parish
Wednesday (St Michael's)	1 Apr	7.00pm	Jean Daly RIP
<b>Maundy Thursday</b> (St Helen's)	2 Apr	7.00pm	
<b>Friday</b> (St Helen's)	3 Apr	3.00pm	
<b>Saturday Vigil</b> (St Helen's)	<b>4 Apr</b>	<b>8.00pm</b>	Deceased Members of the Wildsmith Family
<b>Sunday</b> (Sacred Heart)	<b>5 Apr</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Peter and Trish O'Hanlon RIP
<b>Easter Sunday</b> (St. Michael's)	<b>5 Apr</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	People of the Parish

**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
22 <sup>nd</sup> March	£489.23	£1639.96

When you plant a daffodil bulb in the cold soil in the autumn you are playing your part in a not-so-secret plan. The daffodil needs time in the cold of winter, in the dark underground, for its roots to develop and to prepare itself to be triggered into action when the warmth of spring arrives. If it doesn't have the correct conditions and time it may still grow, but the leaves produced will be small and weak. For the gardener, the wisdom comes in trusting the plan and having patience. Even though you cannot see what is happening under the ground, the plan will come to fruition. In spring the flowers will bloom, and new life will be visible.

Each of the four Gospel writers – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – tells the story of the dramatic death of Jesus in their own unique way. The main details of the story are shared, but each attempts to draw their listener or reader to see something particular. Mark highlights the suffering of Jesus; Luke highlights his innocence and humanity; John emphasises his divine sovereignty, while Matthew, the author of today's account, focuses on the fulfilment of prophecies and the rejection of the ruling bodies.

Matthew shows us that Jesus is the promised Messiah and thus our King. The question that naturally follows is why? Why is Matthew highlighting this for his early Church audience and for us today?

The simplest answer is hope. When we see prophecies fulfilled, we see a plan that is playing out. We see that God is in control and that allows us to breathe a little more calmly. For the early Church, going through incredible persecution and struggles, this must be immensely comforting. There's a sense that even though it looks like things are going wrong, God has a plan and God's plan will come to fruition and God's plan is good.

We see this plan laid out throughout the whole of the Bible. God's plan is for the whole of creation to dwell in unity with God, growing and flourishing in the love of the Trinity. God does not keep this plan a secret. Just the opposite, in fact, and when we read prophecies like those found in the book of Isaiah, we are amazed at how

detailed they are. God wants to make it abundantly clear that there is a plan in which we can trust.

Today we can have the same hope. It is easy, when looking at our country and our world, to lose hope, to see only the difficulties and horrors. It can feel like God is no longer in control. This simply cannot be true. Perhaps Matthew wants us to hear that, even though we cannot see or understand it, God has a plan, and it is good.

As disciples of Jesus, we are challenged through the account of his Passion to follow him. Does that mean we too have to be killed? For most of us the answer is probably no. In following Jesus, what we are called to do is to listen to God and do what we are asked. This undoubtedly will involve self-sacrifice and won't be easy, but we respond to God's call together as the people of God, filled with the Holy Spirit, who gives us everything we need.

When we learn to listen to God's word and follow what we are asked to do, we must learn to trust the author of the plan. We may not see the fruit (or flower) of the seed (or bulb) that we plant, but we trust that in time and with the right conditions, God will bring the plan to fruition.

Part of recognising that Jesus is our King is learning to trust that God sees the big picture and we simply need to play the part allotted to us. Hopefully we see the beauty of the flowers during our time on earth, but we trust that in time we will see the new creation in all its beautiful glory.

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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.

### **Peter Hart**

Reception into St Michael's church will be on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> April at 4.00pm. The funeral will be on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am. Please keep Peter's family and friends in your prayers.

### **Stations of the Cross at Goldthorpe**

There will be Stations of the Cross at Sacred Heart, Goldthorpe at 2.00pm on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April. Also at St John & St Mary Magdalene Anglican church at 9.30am on Good Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April

### **Easter Triduum**

Please be aware of changes to the Easter Triduum, which should be held in one church only. Next year, the Triduum will be held in either St. Michael's or Sacred Heart.

Maundy Thursday 7.00pm St Helen's

Good Friday 3.00pm St Helen's

Easter Vigil 8.00pm St Helen's

Easter Sunday masses are 9.00am Sacred Heart and **11.00am in St Michael's.**

### **Easter Offering**

Your offerings on Easter Sunday are for our parish priest. Thank you

### **Good Friday Collection for Holy Places in Palestine**

Each Good Friday, a collection is taken up in every Catholic Church to support the people and places of the Holy Land.

### **Knights of St Columba Easter Egg Appeal.**

As in previous years, the Knights are asking for donations of Easter Eggs for children who have to spend Easter in Barnsley Hospital. If you can help, please leave your donations at the back of church. Thank you

### **Confirmations 2026**

Confirmation Meetings will begin in Holy Rood Church Hall on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> April at 5.45-7.30pm. The Deanery Confirmation Mass will take place in Holy Rood Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> June at 7.00pm. The Catechists will be Lee Redhead and James Green. Please speak with Fr Declan if you wish to be confirmed this year.

### **Offertory Envelopes**

New Offertory envelopes starting on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April, are now available at the back of church, 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 if you are a taxpayer, thus helping the parish further.

### **Red Mission Boxes**

Please bring in your Red Mission Boxes, or just the money from your box. If you are a UK Taxpayer, please consider using Gift Aid, so make sure your name is on the box and on any donation that you bring to church. This allows the Missio Co-ordinator, Anne Damms, to log your donation and therefore claim the Gift Aid. Thank you for your support and for your continued prayers for missionaries around the world.

### **Children's Liturgy**

There will be no Children's Liturgy during April. Holy Week resources will be given out to the children after mass on Palm Sunday.

The next Children's Liturgy will be on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May.

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

**21.3.2026 No. 46** Winners were L Redfern in Hoyland winning £25. The winner in Goldthorpe was J Bainbridge, winning the rollover of £50.

### **Sent to Share the Faith**

On 17<sup>th</sup> April, three Franciscan Friars, Fathers Casey Cole, Tito Serrano and Jason Damon from Charlotte in the USA will be visiting the Diocese to help us to think about how we can spread the Gospel today. They have recently started a mission to reach young adults, spiritual seekers, and those disconnected from the Church through authentic presence, conversation, and compassion. Rooted in the spirit of St. Francis, SEARCH is about walking with others, sharing Christ's love, and inviting hearts to renewal and healing.

They are hosting two events - the first at the Cathedral specifically aimed at young people and young adults at 1:15pm following midday Mass, the second aimed at a wider audience at St Francis of Assisi beginning with Mass at 6:00 pm.

Bookings are necessary using the Formation & Mission Eventbrite Page on this link or QR code <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/hallam-formation-and-mission-46212155433>

Further details from the Formation and Mission team 0114 256 6410.