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Summary

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2. *Jesus offers realistic ways for resolving differences.*

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23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Sunday 6th September 2026

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23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekday Cycle II

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Sunday (St Helen's)	13 Sept	11:00am	Andrew J. Marren (RIP)

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Rosary is at 1.30pm each Wednesday in Goldthorpe.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation – Saturday 10:30 at Wombwell and upon request.

Date	Parish Collection	Standing Orders for August
30 th August	£592.96	£ 1,592.01

Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Roman Catholic Diocese of Hallam Trust • Registered Charity Number 512021

Sunday 6th September 2026

Sunday Year A

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekday Cycle II

'Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.'

Matthew 18:20

Every March in England, the West Country town of Cheltenham hosts the greatest celebration of steeplechase racing in its annual calendar. A low-key rivalry always exists between English and Irish trainers, but lately the Irish have been winning with ease. This year there was a problem starting some races: the course was too narrow for the number of horses in the line-up, and races often started late while officials tried to untangle the chaos. On one occasion a highly charged altercation took place between an English professional and an Irish amateur rider as they jostled for a good position on the starting line. The Irish jockey complained to the racing authorities, who began an investigation. However, the next day the TV cameras focused on one of their own commentators getting the two jockeys together. The cameras showed the riders shaking hands, declaring it was 'water under the bridge' and one of those exchanges that happened in the heat of the moment. The racing authorities reserved judgement.

If St Mark's Gospel is all action, St Matthew's concentrates on the teachings of Jesus. The Gospel can be divided into five long sermons or discourses, beginning with the famous Sermon on the Mount. The Gospel aims to show a predominantly Jewish congregation how Jesus fulfilled the promises of the original covenant between God and his people.

It is not surprising to find that scholars have attempted to find links between these five discourses and the first five books of the Torah or our Old Testament. It has even been put forward that the link is between the five

sermons and the five great feasts of Judaism. Neither claim receives much support today, but they do illustrate how much this Gospel is immersed in Jewish teaching and tradition.

Today's Gospel extract comes from the fourth of the great sermons, which is concerned with the life of the Church. We can see how Jesus is a realist. People may believe in him and follow him, but it does not mean they will always remain in harmony with each other. Jesus offers a graduated method for dealing with such disagreements. We start with a private exchange of views but if this fails in bringing reconciliation, then others are brought in to try to resolve the issue. Finally, the last resort is to go to law. This subject seems to trigger in Jesus the thought of extending the powers given earlier to Peter in the discourse to all the apostles. There isn't a distinction between what is right or wrong on earth and what is deemed right or wrong in heaven. Jesus' underlying concern is that we should live in harmony with each other, for when that happens, he is present in our midst.

A wise priest once remarked that we must always remember that the Church is the Church of the poor in every sense of the word. He meant that we needn't be surprised to find the Church's members include the whole gamut of society. Just because we have been baptised or have declared our allegiance to Christ it does not mean we are automatically saints. It does mean that we are all called to try and live better lives.

It is possible that we regard our membership of the Church as giving us a badge of respectability whilst continuing our hidden and unaltered lives. We may also try and impress others with our extreme acts of devotion or self-denial, but perhaps both attitudes are sides of the same coin. In both cases we are using our membership of the Church as a cover for what is ultimately a lack of true faith. In both circumstances we create divided communities, based on competitive and adversarial attitudes rather than understanding and harmony. True faith recognises our own poverty, our need to grow into an ability to use our life, not for self-aggrandisement but for the good of others. To do this we need to convince ourselves that God loves us as we are. There is no need for the games of self-glorification. As we begin to accept his love, we discover how we may give and receive each other's love. And Christ is then present amongst us.

Summary

1. *Disagreements can be resolved personally as well as by appealing to higher authorities.*
2. *Jesus offers realistic ways for resolving differences.*

3. *To become true members of the Church, we need to accept God's love for all of us.*

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Prayers for the Sick

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners, especially Phil Harrison, 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, 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, Vicky Quinn, A sick person and Brendan Pells.

Bonus Ball

29.8.26 The winning number was 55: Both Hoyland & Goldthorpe rolled-over. If you would like to play the bonus ball, it is only £1 a week for a chance to win £25.

Recently Deceased

Jean Platts whose funeral is Tuesday 8 September at 12pm in St. Michael's.
Nancy Preston whose Requiem Mass will be Wednesday 9 September at 1:30pm at St. Michael's

Foodbank

The Salvation Army Goldthorpe are still requesting help to keep the Foodbank stocked throughout August. All donations of non-perishable goods are very welcome - soup, beans, pasta, long life milk, cereal etc - and can be left at the back of church.

Children's Liturgy at Goldthorpe - Change of Date to 6th September

The next Children's Liturgy following our Summer break will be held during 9.00 mass on Sunday 6th September. Any child who has Not Yet made their First Holy Communion is very welcome to join us. Looking forward to seeing you all.

Second Collection today for Needy Parishes

Hallam Catholic Voice

A new diocesan newspaper, the Hallam Catholic Voice, is launching in October.

First Holy Communion 2027

If your child is between 7-8years of age, or in year 3 at school there will be an introduction meeting on Monday 19th October at St Michaels Church Hall at 6pm. It is for parents/carers and children to attend. There will be a list at the back of all 3 churches on the weekend of 12th & 13th September for parents to sign up for the programme. See **Julia Goddard** or **Amanda Campbell** for more information