

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time First Reading Isaiah 55:6-9 Isaiah calls us to repentance, emphasising that God's thoughts and ways are so far above our human ways, especially in God's generous capacity to forgive. Responsorial Psalm Psalm 145 The LORD is close to all who call him Second Reading Phil 1:20c-24. 27a Paul wishes to magnify Christ, stating, 'For me life is Christ, and to die is gain,' while emphasising the need for continued, faithful service.	Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia. Open our hearts, O Lord, that we may pay attention to the words of your Son. Alleluia. Gospel Matthew 20:1-16 The parable of the landowner highlights God's grace and generosity, challenging our notions of what is fair and proper.
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Service Times & Intentions

Saturday Vigil (St Michael's)	19 Sept	5:30pm	Maureen Turner, RIP (Anniversary)
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	20 Sept	9:00am	Jim and Mary Fleming, RIP
Sunday (St Helen's)	20 Sept	11:00am	People of the Parish
Tuesday (St Helen's)	22 Sept	10.00am	Thanksgiving for a Successful Operation (TD)
Wednesday (St Michael's)	23 Sept	7.00pm	
Thursday (St Helen's)	24 Sept	10.00am	
Friday (Sacred Heart)	25 Sept	10.00am	
Saturday (St Michael's)	26 Sept	11.00am	
Saturday Vigil (St Michael's)	26 Sept	5:30pm	Joseph Goddard (RIP)
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	27 Sept	9:00am	People of the Parish
Sunday (St Helen's)	27 Sept	11:00am	The O'Donovan Family (RIP)

Divine Mercy Chaplet in the Lady Chapel directly after the Vigil Mass on Saturday.

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
13 th September	£533.96	£ 1,719.96

Parish of Corpus Christi

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



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Sunday 20th September 2026

Sunday Year A

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekday Cycle II

Do you begrudge my generosity? Matthew 20:15

Have you ever felt unfairly treated by your boss? Perhaps you don't feel you earn enough for the job you do, or maybe you've felt short-changed for all the effort you've put in. Many of us have been there! There is something to annoy us all in today's parable of the vineyard labourers. Jesus says the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner hiring workers for his vineyard. After agreeing to pay each person one denarius a day, he continues to hire new people, including some at the eleventh hour. When he comes to pay them, all are given the same, which leads the first-hired to grumble and complain – why should they be paid the same as those who only did an hour's work? The landowner replies, 'Do you begrudge my generosity?' The landowner is clearly not a businessman; he's not interested in paying the going rate – what he does is simply not fair. Surely, we should get what we earn?

God's love for us knows no bounds and doesn't conform to our conventional notions of justice. It is freely given to all in equal measure: those who have been Christians all their lives and those who come late to the party; those who worship every Sunday and those who never darken the door of a church; those who shout 'Lord, Lord!' and those who don't. God has a generous love beyond all our understanding, beyond all our human notions of fairness and 'what is right'. Jesus is telling his followers that this unlimited love keeps on giving: there is no end to it. It cannot be earned by hard work and is freely given to all.

The needs of those who arrive late to the vineyard are no less than those of those who got there early. The latecomers aren't necessarily lazy; they are the ones 'no one has hired', people who were overlooked, marginalised and desperate, those whom society puts at the back of the queue. They too

have families to feed and bills to pay – the landowner asks the workers to look with solidarity on their brothers and sisters and be grateful for his benevolence. Similarly, God knows what we need, and

God isn't being unfair to the first group, who receive exactly what had been agreed: he is being extraordinarily generous to the last. This is the heart of the Gospel: God never gives us what we deserve; he gives us what we need.

The landowner asks the question: 'Do you begrudge my generosity?' In the original Greek, this is literally, 'Is your eye evil because I am good?'

We too can have this 'evil eye': perhaps by being envious of our neighbour's blessings or good fortune, or by feeling cheated because life appears to have treated others better than us. Surely we deserve better treatment? However, the moment we start counting our merit we lose sight of the fact that the vineyard itself is a gift. Just being invited by Christ to work for the kingdom is the primary reward, the 'pearl of great value'. We work in the vineyard not to get a wage or 'brownie points' in heaven, but because we love the landowner.

Our ego-driven self always seems to want love to be earned rather than freely given. But God's love which cannot be measured out like this: one person will never receive more than another. Grace is not a finite pie; if God gives a large slice to someone else, that doesn't leave less for us. Of course, this is all a gift, and we are free to walk away from God. But this parable tells us that even if we come back at the eleventh hour, we will still receive the fullness of his love. Thus, 'the last will be first'.

Note that we can often agree with parables like this in our heads whilst our hearts scream, 'No way!' This is only human. It's only when we start putting Jesus' ideas into practice that we will know whether we really believe them and whether we have really changed. Can I see myself in solidarity with my neighbour rather than in competition? Can I rejoice in God's generosity rather than grumbling about fairness?

Summary

1. God's love is given freely to all and is not based on what we deserve, but what we need.
2. God wants to rid us of the 'evil eye' which makes us envious of the blessings and good fortune of others.
3. We are called to be in solidarity with those who are at the back of the queue, who are marginalised and downtrodden, knowing that in God's eyes the last shall be first.

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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

12.9.26 The winning number was 26: P. Tomlinson in Hoyland and P. O'Hanlon in Goldthorpe. Both won £25. If you would like to play the bonus ball, it is only £1 a week for a chance to win £25.

Cafod Family Fast Day

Cafod Family Fast Day is Friday 2nd October.

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.

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.

Two Adults are being Confirmed on 23 September at St. Michael's at 7pm.

Please join us for this celebration.

Home Mission Sunday - Second Collection 20th September

SVP Working with Prisons Conference

On Saturday 10th September the SVP will be hosting a conference at St. Michael's Church Hall from 10AM – 4PM. There will be a concelebrated Mass at 12PM