

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time First Reading Ezekiel 18:25-28 When a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life Responsorial Psalm Psalm 25 Remember your compassion, O LORD. Second Reading Philippians 2:1-11 Jesus, being found in human form, humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.	Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia. My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord, and I know them, and they follow me Alleluia. Gospel Matthew 21:28-32 A repentant sinner who turns to God is more pleasing to him than a hypocrite who only pretends to be righteous.
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Service Times & Intentions

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)
Tuesday (St Helen's)	29 Sept	10.00am	NO MASS
Wednesday (St Michael's)	30 Sept	7.00pm	NO MASS
Thursday (St Helen's)	1 Oct	10.00am	NO MASS
Friday (Sacred Heart)	2 Oct	10.00am	NO MASS
Saturday (St Michael's)	3 Oct	11.00am	NO MASS
Saturday Vigil (St Michael's)	3 OCT	5:30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	4 Oct	9:00am	Rosina Atkinson (RIP) Anniversary
Sunday (St Helen's)	4 Oct	11:00am	Kath & Terry Whiteley

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	£496.24	£ 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 27th September 2026

Sunday Year A

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekday Cycle II

“Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you.” (Matthew 21:31)

A father asks his son for help and is refused. Later, the situation changes, and he does what his father wants. The second son initially agrees to work in the vineyard and then doesn't go. One works, and the other does nothing. Both might have good reasons for refusing or agreeing to work: Jesus is merely telling a story and highlighting events that his listeners could all recognise. Can't we all think of similar occasions in our own home? Haven't we all found excuses to avoid jobs we really don't want to do – even if we know they will only take a couple of minutes?

Jesus knows his audience. Some individuals want to look good, perhaps gaining status in their local community, but do nothing to help the people around them. Then there are others, perhaps known to live less than ideal lives, who have hearts of gold and who aren't bothered about keeping up appearances: if their help is needed, they are there.

This parable is not about agricultural labour or family dynamics. It is about the difference between appearance and reality, between words and deeds, between outward religiosity and inward conversion. Jesus is speaking directly to the chief priests and elders – those who looked the part, spoke the part, and held the authority of religious leadership. Yet he tells them that tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of them. Why? Because those who seemed furthest from holiness were the ones who responded to God's call with repentance and a change of life.

The first son represents those who may say 'no' with their lips or their lifestyle. But something happens: their heart softens and they turn

back. Their 'no' becomes a 'yes' lived out in action. They are not perfect, but they are honest. They allow God to change them. The second son represents those who say all the right things, know how to appear obedient, respectable and devout. But their 'yes' is only a skin-deep performance that doesn't touch their heart or change their life. Their relationship with God remains only lip service.

Which son am I? And perhaps more challengingly, *when* am I each son? Because the truth is most of us have moments of both. Sometimes we resist God's call when we know what is right but hesitate, delay or refuse. Yet, by grace, we sometimes find ourselves turning back, doing the very thing we once resisted. In those moments we resemble the first son, whose initial refusal becomes obedience. And there are times when we speak the language of faith easily, when we say 'yes' to God in prayer, in church, in conversation – but fail to follow through. We intend to forgive but instead hold on to resentment; to pray but give up on the effort; to serve but stay comfortable. In those moments we resemble the second son, whose actions don't live up to his words.

Jesus' message reminds us that the kingdom of God is not about perfect beginnings but about faithful follow-through. What matters is not whether our first response was ideal, but whether we allow God to draw us into deeper obedience now. Jesus praises the tax collectors and prostitutes because of their willingness to change. They hear John the Baptist's call to repentance, respond, and their messy lives become fruitful. Meanwhile, the self-righteous religious leaders, the 'know-it-alls' who think they are better than everyone else ignore any reasons for change – and disregard God's invitation to become more loving, simple and humble.

Jesus' story of the two sons reminds us that change is always possible and that God delights in every step we take towards him, no matter how late or hesitant. His arms are always wide open and waiting for us. What matters is our response today. Going into God's vineyard means choosing forgiveness when bitterness feels easier, offering kindness when indifference takes less effort, making time for prayer when life feels crowded, speaking truth with love, serving without applause and allowing God to reshape our priorities.

And in this Season of Creation, we might remember the ways in which people are changing and re-learning to take care of our beautiful world – and we have the joy of watching its response. Working in God's vineyard can be hard work – but it's worth it! It makes flowers grow in our gardens – and in the hearts of the people around us.

Summary

1. We've all found excuses to avoid jobs we really don't want to do.

2. Those who seemed furthest from holiness were the ones who actually responded to God's call with repentance and change of life.
3. Jesus' story of the two sons reminds us that change is always possible, and that God delights in every step we take towards him.

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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

19.9.26 The winning number was 45: M. McAllister in Hoyland and S. Smith 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.

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.

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

Children's Liturgy at Goldthorpe - Sunday 11 October

The next Children's Liturgy will be held during 0900 mass on Sunday 11th October. Any child aged 3-8 who has Not Yet made their First Holy Communion is very welcome to join us.

Second Collection last week raised £146.73 for Home Mission Sunday