

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD



A Fresh Start

Mary's destiny had been revealed to her by the Angel Gabriel. Joseph too had been foretold in a dream of the virgin birth. But just in case there were any malingering doubts, to have a gang of excited shepherds gate-crash the stable re-telling the news that the angels had brought to them out on the hills must have been wonderfully reassuring for the new parents. Mary certainly had plenty to ponder. For Mary there was a fast unravelling realisation that she was part of God's plan. The birth of the new baby represented a new and exciting beginning, not only for Mary, but for us all.

The first day of the year is the day the Church sets aside for honouring Mary. Mary represents true discipleship. Mary exhibits a life of hearing, seeing, and telling of God's marvellous deeds. Mary inspires us to consider deeply the significance of events in our own lives. How much in our lives is valuable and how much is not? Do we journey through life oblivious to the world around us, or do we resolve to make some kind of impact? If to date we have moved blinkered through life, wasting the opportunities that God has scattered in our path, now is the time to make a fresh start. Now is the time to make a fresh start based not on the values of our celebrity driven society, but on the model of Mary's selfless love.

If Mary had made a new year's resolution in that stable all those years ago, it probably would have been to make herself an instrument for God's will. As for our own resolutions, we could live another year of frustration and disappointment, or we could resolve to make Mary our model, and look harder for God's direction in our lives.

Bite Size

"We spend January 1st walking through our lives, room by room, drawing up a list of work to be done, cracks to be patched. Maybe this year, to balance the list, we ought to walk through the rooms of our lives... not looking for flaws, but for potential."

~ Ellen Goodman

PARISH PRAYER - Father, pour out your Spirit upon our parish. Grant us a new vision of your glory, a new faithfulness to your Word, and a new consecration to your service; that your love might grow among us and your Kingdom come.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen

Useful links: Diocesan Website: <http://www.rcdea.org.uk>
Notre Dame High School, Norwich: Website <http://www.ndhs.org.uk>

PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART AND ST MARGARET MARY [Reg. Charity 278742]

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1ST JANUARY 2017 - SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Sunday Masses – Page 109 of Parish Mass Book

Saturday	6.00 pm	Int. Sr Mary Stephen
Sunday	9.00 am	Special Int.
	11.00 am	Int. People of the Parish

Music for Sunday Masses - Setting: Dom Gregory Murray Mass

Entry 6pm – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 880 – Tell out, my soul ...

Offertory Hymn 356 – Hail, Queen of heav'n, the ocean star!

Communion *Instrumental Interlude/Sacred silence ...*

Recessional 11am – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 155 – Hark! the herald angels sing ...

CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION: Saturday at 5.30pm, or on request / by appointment

Weekday Mass Times

(2nd week of Christmas) [Psalter Week 2]

Mon.	10.00 am	SS Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen – Int. Celia Goodstadt
Tues.	No Mass today	Christmas Feria
Weds.	10.00 am	Christmas Feria – Int. Joy Bussey
Thurs.	10.00 am	Christmas Feria – Int. Drury (<i>Foundation Mass</i>)
Fri.	10.00 am	Christmas Feria – Int. Noel Conroy
	5.45 pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Silent Prayer
	6.15 pm	Evening Prayer (Vespers)
Sat.	No morning Mass	Christmas Feria
	6.00 pm	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (Solemnity) – Int. Sacred Heart Parish (Sanderson)

The Parish Newsletter (incl. back copies) is available to view on the parish website from Friday onward each week.

Anniversaries this week: Caroline Rolfe, Ellen (Nell) Raiteri, Robert Clark, Eira Whitehouse, Patricia Gravestock, John Doherty, Rev. Bernard Warwick (Deacon at Dereham), Joseph Sadowsky, Matthew Murphy, Frank Pike, Philip Ward, Lillian Carter and Len Smith. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.*

Hospital Visits – If you or family members are admitted to the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital (NNUH) or Queen Elizabeth II Hospital (QEII), King's Lynn, and would like a visit from the Roman Catholic Chaplain, please call either St John's Cathedral, Norwich (01603 624615) for visits to NNUH, or Fr Peter Rollings (01553 772220) for visits to QEII. If you would like to receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the sick before going to hospital, please contact Fr. Brendan on 01362 694066.

Sick List - Please pray for: Joan Blakiston, David Peek, Robert Nicol, Shirley Liebenhals, Sarah Chaudri, Anne & Derek Williams, Michelle Smith, Rita Smith, Eileen Brockleby, Pat Howe, Kathleen (Jenny) Rudd, Ellen Flood, Margaret Leggett, Peter Brown, James Maxwell and Pamela & Catherine Evans.

Thank you very much for your Christmas Offering which amounted to: £1,482.03. Thank you also for your very many gifts and cards for Christmas. I deeply appreciate your good wishes and kindness to me.

While saying thank you, I must thank all the people who contributed to decorating the church for Christmas, to those who cleaned it, to our Servers, Readers, Lay Eucharistic Ministers and our musicians without whom it would not have been the celebration that it was.

Christmas at Sacred Heart has a special feel to it. Our Masses have the feeling of true heartfelt worship and celebration of our Saviour's birth. There is a depth of spirituality here that is joyful and hopeful. Thank you for that.

Diary Dates for this week –

- Tues. 3rd Jan. – Altar Servers outing to the Pantomime - meet at Church at 6.00pm.
- Tues. 3rd Jan. – Please note there is no Queen of Peace Prayer Group meeting this week. The Prayer Group resumes on Tuesday, 10th January at 7.30pm.
- Fri. 6th Jan. – SVP 'First Friday' Coffee Morning. After Mass – all welcome.
- Sat. 7th Jan. – Saturday Club meets - 11.00am in Emmaus Room

Epiphany Candlelight Mass - Sunday 8th January at 5pm - For all young people and their families across the diocese. Followed by hot dogs, a bonfire and fireworks. There will be a collection of presents for children who are refugees (please bring wrapped presents and indicate whether suitable for a boy or girl or either, and approximate age). Held at The White House, 21 Upgate, Poringland, Norwich. Organised by the Diocesan Youth Service.

Diocesan Year Book for 2017 is now available at the back of the church. It has all the news of the Diocese, the Liturgical Calendar, names, addresses and photographs from

Diocesan events in the past year. The price is £3.00.

Introducing Ignite Lite - Whereas the Ignite Team is full-time, *Ignite Lite* is an exciting opportunity for people age 16-30 to be involved in evangelisation in youth ministry as part-time volunteers as and when they are available. There is a training weekend January 20th-22nd. For more information, please email: igniteteam@east-angliadiocese.org.uk or see www.rcdea.org.uk/youth

Pope Francis's Prayer Intention for January 2017 - For Christian Unity - During the month of January we are asked to pray for an increased commitment to Christian Unity.



Unity begins in recognising the similarities between us and not the differences. Unity also means working together to achieve the same ends, and in a war torn world the need to pull together has never been so great.

This month Pope Francis invites us to join in his prayer intention “...**That all Christians may be faithful to the Lord's teaching by striving with prayer and fraternal charity to restore ecclesial communion and by collaborating to meet the challenges facing humanity.**”



The Angelus

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary. **R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.**

Hail Mary

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord. **R. Be it done unto me according to thy word. Hail Mary**

V. And the Word was made Flesh. **R. And dwelt among us. Hail Mary**

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God. **R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

LET US PRAY:

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made known by the message of an angel may, by His Passion and Cross, be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.