

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Pitfalls of a Prophet - There's an insightful saying, "An expert is someone who carries a briefcase and works two hundred miles from home." The saying finds resonance in Jesus' own words, "No prophet is accepted in his own native place." In today's reading Jesus is invited to preach back in his hometown synagogue. At first, Jesus' audience are impressed, but then they start to mutter to each other. Surely this is just the son of Joseph the carpenter! When this truth dawns on them they are enraged and drive him

out of town. It doesn't matter how successful or famous or distinguished one has become, once you return home you will always be that little runny nosed seven-year-old who refused to wash behind his ears.

The readings over the Epiphany season are all about human kind coming to understand who Jesus is and what he is about. In particular, the readings tell us how this understanding is communicated. Jesus was an excellent communicator, but not even he was free of prejudice. The business of communicating with others on the subject of God is not without problems and pitfalls.

There is nothing elite about being a prophet. A prophet is anyone who stands up and speaks an insightful truth. As Christians we are all required to stand up for the truth. There is plenty of injustice in the world to speak out against, but before speaking out, we are warned of the pitfalls. Today's gospel warns us of the pitfall of familiarity breeding contempt. What other pitfalls might we encounter in speaking out? It is easy for instance to imagine that everyone's faith should be the same as one's own. Might we misjudge the mood, readiness or interest of our audience? Might we be tempted to patronize, or worse, bore out listeners?

For two thousand years inspirational communicators have stood up in Jesus' wake and amplified his words. Today we are invited to choose our own words, weigh up our audience, examine the pitfalls and add our voice.

Bitesize - "Familiarity breeds contempt, while rarity wins admiration."
~ *Apuleius Roman philosopher, rhetorician, & satirist (124 AD - 170 AD)*



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 Safeguarding – <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/safeguarding/>
Diocesan Website – <http://www.rcdea.org.uk>
Notre Dame High School, Norwich – <http://www.ndhs.org.uk>
Daily Liturgy Website – www.universalis.com

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3RD FEBRUARY 2019 – 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year C

[4th Week of the Year, Weekday Year I, Psalter Week 4]

Mass Times for the Week			Intentions
Sat. 2 nd Feb.	6.00 pm	4 th Sunday in Ord. Time <i>[Parish Mass Book p132]</i>	C. Coyne (fdn)
Sun. 3 rd Feb.	9.00 am 11.00 am		E. Maguire (fdn) People of the Parish
Mon. 4 th Feb.	10.00 am	Feria	Jack & Ena Connolly (fdn)
Tues. 5 th Feb.	-	St. Agatha	No Mass today – PP's day off
Weds. 6 th Feb.	10.00 am	St. Paul Miki & Comps.	G. Maguire (fdn)
Thurs. 7 th Feb.	10.00 am	Feria	The English Family (fdn)
Fri. 8 th Feb.	10.00 am	Feria - Day of Prayer for Victims of Trafficking	Mona Murphy (fdn)
Sat. 9 th Feb.	10.30 am	Feria	Albert Foley (fdn)
Sat. 9 th Feb.	6.00 pm	5 th Sunday in Ord. Time	Helen Coyne (fdn)
Sun. 10 th Feb.	9.00 am 11.00 am		People of the Parish Maria Alexandra Coita Pita

Music for 4th Sunday in Ord. Time – *Setting: New People's Mass (& Memorial Acclam. B)*

Entry: 6pm – Angelus (said); Hymn 720 – Be still, for the presence of the Lord ...

Psalm *℟*: 6pm & 9am (said) - *My lips will tell of your help.*

11am (sung) - *I will sing of your love to me: my lips will tell of your help.*

Offertory: Hymn 803 – Love is his word, love is his way ...

Recessional: 11am – Angelus (said); Hymn 965 – As the deer pants for the water ...

Confession/Reconciliation: Saturday at 5.30pm, or by request/appointment

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

Anniversaries this week: Benjamin Wyand, Stanley Snellgrove, George Gay, Mary Hirst, Bernard O’Shea, Doris Marie (Babs) Dyer, Lynes Smith, Marian Longhorn, George Howell, Brenda Secker, Joan Rooney, Ralph Keatley, Molly Sayer, Colin Halstead and Madeline Stanley. *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, King’s Lynn (QEII), 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 call the NNUH Hospital Chaplaincy direct on 01603 287470 for people needing urgent spiritual attention, or for visits to QEII Hospital, call Fr. Peter Rollings on 01553 772220. If you would like to receive the Sacrament or Anointing of the sick before going to hospital, please contact Fr. Brendan on 01362 694066.

Sick & Housebound [with GDPR Permissions] – Please pray for: David Peek, Janet Yardley, Jenny Rudd, Peter Gormans, Sarah Chaudri, Rita Smith, Carol Whitesides, Catherine (Kay) Garrard, Robert Nicol, Eileen Brocklesby, Neville Hibberd, Shirley Liebenhals and Brenda May.

Money Matters: Thank you for your gift of £502.04 last weekend for the day-to-day running of our parish.

Diary Dates for this week -		
Mon. 4 th Feb.	2.00pm	Mother Teresa’s Knitting Group – Emmaus Room. New members always welcome to join us for a knit & natter.
Tues. 5 th Feb.	7.30pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group - Emmaus Room
Weds. 6 th Feb.	7.30pm	SVP Conference meeting – Emmaus Room
Thurs. 7 th Feb.	6.30pm	Music selection and practice – Emmaus Room. All volunteers welcome to sing or play.
Fri. 8 th Feb.	7.15-8.15pm	Altar Servers meeting – Emmaus Room
Sat. 9 th Feb.	11.00am	Saturday Club - Emmaus Room
Sat. 9 th Feb.	11.30am	Celebration of Our Lady of Lourdes and Mass for the sick at St John’s Cathedral, Norwich. Refreshments before and after in the Narthex.

Confirmation. It is time to think once more about the Sacrament of Confirmation for our young people who feel ready, willing and able to make their commitment to the Faith. I propose to start a course of preparation in September with a possible date for Confirmation in June/July. There will be more information later, but I want to 'float' the proposal now. Please note that the minimum age for Confirmation is 13 on the day of Confirmation.

Ordination to the Priesthood of The Revd. Michael Brookes. We have all been invited to this at St. John's Cathedral on Saturday, 6th July. I am willing to order a coach to take us there and back if enough people are interested. Please indicate to me if you are interested.

Parish Open Meeting: It is time to think about this once more. I believe that we have a successful formula for the meeting with Midday Prayer, Lunch and Meeting. I promise to

publish the agenda before the meeting this time. It was a bad oversight not to do so last time.

Pope Francis’s Monthly Prayer Intention: February 2019 - In the month of Saint Josephine Bakhita’s feast day (February 8th), Pope Francis has chosen the **‘Victims of Human Trafficking’** as the theme for his monthly prayer intention. Human trafficking and modern-day slavery affect men, women and children. It is amongst the fastest growing of international crimes and one of the largest sources of income for organised crime. And yes... it’s happening in the UK! This month Pope Francis invites us to join in his intention: **“... For a generous welcome to the victims of human trafficking, enforced prostitution, and violence.”**

Association of Christian Writers Short Story Competition - Calling all budding writers. The Association of Christian Writers has launched a short story writing competition. The closing date is 31st March. First prize £25 book token and your story published in the Christian Writer Magazine. (£3 entry fee if you are not a member.) For Full details go to www.christianwriters.org.uk/competitions/

Climate Change Petition - We know that to avoid the worst effects of climate change, we must limit global temperature rise to 1.5C. Going above 1.5C warming could multiply hunger, migration and conflict. To stand the best chance of avoiding this, we need the UK to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to ‘net zero’ by 2045. This will mean Britain no longer contributes to climate change. Sign the online petition at www.e-activist.com/paqe/36329/petition/1

Settlement Scheme for EU Citizens – The Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales has issued a Statement on the Settlement Scheme for EU Citizens. It comments on the Government’s proposed scheme and signposts people to the official information channels. Please read the Bishops’ Statement which is posted on the notice board at the back of church. More information can be found online at – www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families - and at - www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-community-leaders-toolkit

The Angelus

☩. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary. *℟. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit. Hail Mary ...*

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

☩. And the Word was made flesh. *℟. And dwelt among us. Hail Mary ...*

☩. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God. *℟. That we may be made worth 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.