

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



A Sign of Our Times

A woman gets on the bus, she is talking to herself and we suspect dementia or drug abuse. We spread ourselves out on the seat hoping against hope that she chooses to sit somewhere else. An old man stumbles in the high street and doesn't get up again. We suspect he's had too much to drink and hurry on. Perhaps someone else better qualified will lend a helping hand. We respond with fear and discrimination. It's a good job that although many of us choose to close our eyes and ears, there are equally as many people who want to help. We only have to look at

the number of aid agencies, charity campaigns and caring individuals to see signs of Jesus in our midst.

This is the significance of today's gospel story. What at first seems to be a straightforward account of the healing of a deaf man turns out to be much more. The story points to the miracle as a sign that Jesus was the Messiah the Jews had been expecting. It was prophesied that the ears of the deaf would be unsealed and that the tongues of the dumb would sing for joy. The curing of the deaf man was exactly the sort of miracle the Jews would have been expecting of the awaited Messiah. What seems like a straightforward account of a miracle takes us a step further. The deaf man happened to be a Gentile. In biblical times, orthodox Jews would have considered a Gentile unclean. By choosing a Gentile as the subject of his miracle, Jesus is telling us that there is no discrimination when it comes to God's salvation.

Today we ask God to help us see and hear the needs of others. There has never been a better time to show the world that Jesus is at the heart of our teaching. The migrant crisis that is on our news on a daily basis, shows some countries acting with empathy and others with inflammatory language and high barbed fences. We are reacting with the fear and discrimination that Jesus fought against. We cannot turn a deaf ear or a blind eye; we have to act like Christians in the way we speak, in the way we give, in the way we campaign and in our prayers

**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**

PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART AND ST MARGARET MARY

Parish Priest: Fr. Brendan Moffatt - email: brendanmoffatt@yahoo.co.uk

Address: The Presbytery, 35 London Road, Dereham NR19 1AS

Telephone: 01362 694066.

Parish website: <http://www.sacredheartdereham.org.uk>

Permanent Deacon: Rev. Martin Sanderson - Tel: 01362 822590

email: dcnmsanderson@hotmail.com

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

6TH SEPTEMBER 2015 – 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Weekend Masses – Page 129 of Parish Mass Book

Saturday	6.00 pm	
Sunday	9.00 am	Holy Souls
	11.00 am	People of the Parish

Music for Sunday Masses - *Setting: Dom Gregory Mass*

Processional 6pm – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 830 – The Church's one foundation ...

Offertory Hymn 317 – Father, in my life I see ...

Communion *Instrumental Interlude / Sacred silence at player's discretion ...*

Recessional 11am – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn – 945 – Now thank we all our God ...

CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION - Saturday at 5.30 - 5.55 pm

Mass Times for the Coming Week (23rd week in Ordinary Time) [*Psalter Week 3*]

Mon.	10.00 am	Holy Souls - Feria
Tues.	No Mass today	- BIRTHDAY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
	7.30 pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group – in Emmaus Room
Weds.	10.00 am	Holy Souls - Feria
Thurs.	10.00 am	Holy Souls - Feria
Fri.	No Mass today	- Feria
Sat.	10.30 am	Holy Souls - Feria
	6.00 pm	Albert Foley - 24 th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Racial Justice Day)

The Parish Newsletter is available to view on the parish website [<http://www.sacredheartdereham.org.uk>] from Friday onward each week; back copies can also be viewed on the website.

Anniversaries this week: Eleanor Finimore, George Hill, Joan Foster, Maurice Finimore and Michael Carey. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.*

Money Matters – The collection last weekend was £530.47. Thank you very much.

Sick List - Please pray for Michelle Redmond, Fr Michael Teader, John Fox, Joan Blakiston, Sylvia Remmen, David Peek, Michael Reavey, Sheila Christie, Robert Nicol, Doreen Kanssen, Shirley Liebenhals, Sarah Chaudri, Ann & Derek Williams, David & Anna Thompkins, Michelle Smith and Rhonda Darby.

Hospital Visits – If you or family members are admitted to the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital and would like a visit from the Roman Catholic Chaplain, please call St John's Cathedral, Norwich (01603 624615). If you would like to receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the sick before going to hospital, please contact Fr. Brendan on 01362 694066.

Presbytery Telephone & Wifi – The Presbytery telephone and wifi are currently not working. In the meantime, I can be contacted via 'phone on 01362 696650 or by email to brendanmoffatt@yahoo.co.uk (which I can read on my iPhone).

Saturday Morning Catechism Classes and First Holy Communion - Saturday, 12th September will be the introduction for classes this year following the 10.30 a.m. Mass. Enrolment forms for those who wish to be prepared for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion are available from the Sacristy.

Diary Dates for this week –

- Fri. 11th Sept – No Mass today due to Deanery Meeting
- Sat. 12th Sept. – Saturday Club recommences - 11.00 a.m. in Emmaus Room

Repository (Church Shop) – A reminder that the Repository has a good variety of religious items for sale and is open after weekend Masses and also weekdays on request. Contact Peggy Mealy on 01362 288499 for any help.



Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary - 8th September - The Church has celebrated Mary's birth since at least the sixth century. A September birth was chosen because the Eastern Church begins its Church year with September. The 8th September date helped determine the date for the feast of the Immaculate Conception on 8th December (nine months earlier). Scripture does not give an account of Mary's birth....the apocryphal proto-evangelism of James fills in the gap. This work has no historical value, but it does reflect the development of Christian piety. According to this account, Anna and Joachim are infertile but pray for a child. They receive the promise of a child that will advance God's plan of salvation for the world. Such a story (like many biblical counterparts) stresses the special presence of God in Mary's life from the beginning. (*American Catholic*)

A time of quiet prayer for healing at Clare Priory - On Thursday September 10th (between 7.00pm and 8.30pm) we have another of our evenings entitled "Come to me all who are burdened and I will give you rest". These evenings offer you the opportunity to experience quiet prayer for healing of the hurts of life. It will be a peaceful and reflective time with the opportunity, for those who wish, to be prayed with individually in silence. And there will be no expectation for you to say anything or take part in anything you may just sit quietly. To book a place please phone Kathy at the Priory. 01787 277326. We do need to know the number to expect.

Assisted Dying Bill - On Friday 11 September 2015 the House of Commons will be debating and voting on a Private Member's Bill to legalise assisted suicide. To request your MP vote against the bill, fill in the template email at www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/Featured/Assisted-Dying-Bill or take one of the copy letters to post which are still available at the back of church.

Sponsored Cycle Ride (Norfolk Churches Trust) – The annual bike ride takes place this coming Saturday, 12th September. Sponsorship forms for anyone wishing to participate are at the back of church. A couple of time slots also still remain for willing volunteers to act as hosts to stamp visiting bikers' forms – if you can help, please add your name to the list at the back of church.

"Be Still" days in at Clare Priory - Tuesday 15th and Thursday 17th September - "Consenting to the presence and action of God in our lives." - The programme will be identical on both days, so book for the day that suits you. Each day begins at 9.30 am and ends at around 3.30 pm. There will be one optional session for those who wish to know more about Silent Prayer. A soup lunch is provided and the cost is £20.00. Please book through Kathy 01787 277326.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for September - The general prayer intention of Pope Francis is for the jobless youth: that opportunities for education and employment may increase for all young people. The Holy Father is greatly concerned about high jobless rates among young people, saying they are becoming a lost generation - victim of today's "throw-away" culture that casts aside anyone who is not profitable economically. Pope Francis stressed that high unemployment among youth is a crisis of the family, "a true social plague" that leaves young people feeling useless. If the youth are deprived of hope, then the very future and hope of society and of the Church is jeopardized. We are invited to join in Pope Francis's prayer "... that opportunities for education and employment may increase for all young people."

Bite Size

"Our thoughts are unseen hands shaping the people we meet. Whatever we truly think them to be, that's what they'll become for us." (*Richard Cowper*)