

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



The Power of Empathy

In the 1870's, the idyllic sunny island of Molokai might not have been one of your top holiday destinations. Molokai was a settlement where the government kept segregated all persons afflicted by leprosy. It was here that a young priest named Joseph Damien de Veuster (Fr. Damien), at his own request, arrived at the settlement to preside as its resident priest. There were then 600 lepers, many rendered helpless by the disease. For a long time, Fr. Damien was the only person to bring them the help they needed,

both spiritual and practical. After 12 years of this heroic service he eventually contracted the disease himself. At the age of 45 he stood before his brethren and addressed them, "My dear brethren my fellow lepers. ... I am one of you now."

In today's gospel Jesus is called upon to cure a leper. Jesus could have done this with a few words, but he does more than this ... he reaches out and heals the leper not only with words but the touch of his hand. This might seem a small detail, but the simple gesture speaks volumes. The gesture tells us that Jesus was setting aside the stigma that accompanied this terrible disease. Jesus is able to take on the leper's condition and know his needs. We call it empathy, an empathy essential for true compassion. This is the example that we see Fr Damien live to the letter.

To learn from Jesus' example, we do not have to rush off and find a leper colony as Fr Damien did. There are plenty of social lepers everywhere we look. There are all sorts of social misfits that we stigmatise and push to the edges of our society. If we are to learn by Jesus' example we have to employ all our powers of empathy before we can even begin to make changes. That Jesus uses his powers to cure leprosy is amazing, but more important is how we can learn from this miracle in changing the lives around us.

Bite Size – "People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." ~ *Bonnie Jean Wasmund*



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

PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART AND ST MARGARET MARY

[Reg. Charity 278742]

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

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

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Parish Music Leader: Michael King – email: michaeljwking@gmail.com

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Kathleen Edmunds –

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SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday Masses - Parish Mass Book p137		Intentions
Saturday, 10 th February 2018	6.00 pm	Donor's Int.
Sunday, 11 th February 2018	9.00 am	People of the Parish
	11.00 am	Special Int. (Mealy)

Music for Sunday Masses - *Setting: Dom Gregory Murray & Memorial Acclam. 1*

Entry: 6pm – *Angelus (said)*. Hymn 475 – Here in this place ...

Offertory: Hymn 965 – As the deer pants for the water ...

Psalm Response: (11am sung) – *You are my refuge, O Lord, you fill me with the joy of salvation*

Communion: *Instrumental Interlude/Sacred silence ...*

Recessional: 11am – *Angelus (said)*. Hymn 970 – Be thou my vision ...

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

Weekday Masses [Psalter: Mon/Tues: Wk.2, then Wk.4]			Intentions
Mon.	10.00 am	Feria	Sheila Goodchild (Borthwick)
Tues.	No Mass today	Feria	
Weds.	10.00 am	ASH WEDNESDAY	Hilary Fielding
	7.00 pm		Donor's Int.
Thurs.	10.00 am	Lent Feria	Neil Bradley (Fdn.)
Fri.	No Mass today	Lent Feria	
Sat.	No morning Mass	Lent Feria	
	6.00 pm	1 st Sunday of Lent	Special Int. (Mealy)

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

Anniversaries this week: Henry Raw, Patrick Flynn, Stella Daisy Hercock, Millie Boyer, Muriel Hope Drury, Joseph McHendrie, Nell Bradley, Antero Ribeiro, Mary Frances Martin, Alice Wyand, Michael Triggs and Joan Bedwell.

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, Rita Smith, Eileen Brockleby, Kathleen (Jenny) Rudd, Ellen Flood, Margaret Leggett, Peter Brown, Robert Anderson, Carole Whitesides, Janet Yardley, Josie Myhill, Mary Cawley, Ken Summerford, Patrick McKenna, Anna Thompkins and Andre Kanssen.

Money Matters – The collection for the parish last week amounted to £482.20. Thank you very much.

130 Club Draw for January 2018 – 1st Prize £20 – Rev. Martin Sanderson; 2nd Prize £15 – Alf Conwell; 3rd Prize £10 – Muriel Harmer; 4th Prize £10 – Scott Cain; 5th Prize £10 – Rex Baker.

Diary Dates for this week –		
Tues. 13 th Feb.	7.30pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group, in Emmaus Room
Weds. 14 th Feb.	After 10am Mass	Stations of the Cross, led by UCM
Weds. 14 th Feb.	12.30 pm	SVP Conference meets in Emmaus Room
Fri. 16 th Feb.	<i>Please note there is no Mass today as I will be concelebrating at the Requiem Mass for Fr Gordon Cordy at St John’s Cathedral.</i>	
Sat. 17 th Feb.	Saturday Club is on half-term holiday. Classes resume on Saturday, 24 th February.	
Sat. 17 th Feb.	11.30 am	Solemn Mass with Anointing of the Sick at St John’s Cathedral, Norwich in celebration of Our Lady of Lourdes.

This Sunday - World Day of Prayer for the Sick and Day of Prayer for the Unemployed.



Lent Begins – The season of Lent begins this **Wednesday, 14th February** and is a day of Fasting and Abstinence. Mass with the blessing and distribution of ashes is at 10.00 am and 7.00 pm. Lenten Alms will be collected throughout Lent for the Diocesan appointed charities of *Aid to the Church in Need (Syria & Iraq)*

and *Don’t Screen Us Out*. **Booklets** are available at the back of the church for

spiritual reading during Lent: ‘Walk with Me’ and ‘My Day by Day’. They cost £1.00 each. **Stations of the Cross** – Would the groups who are willing to lead the Stations of the Cross please contact me with regard to the day and times they would like so that it can be put in the bulletin?

Lenten Station Mass with Bishop Alan will take place at St. George’s, Sprowston Road, Norwich on 1st March, starting with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 6.00pm and Mass at 7.00pm. There is a light supper of soup and bread afterwards. Please see the poster on the noticeboards.

Norfolk Churches Trust Bike Ride – The NCT January 2018 newsletter reports that the amount raised to date from the 2017 Bike Ride stands at an impressive £97,442.55. This year, one stylish participant chose to travel in a 1931 Austin 8 car. The most churches visited by a cyclist this year was 87, pedal power still beating the record 50 churches visited by a pedestrian. St George, Colegate had a knock-out 77 visitors this year and All Saints, Hempstead-by-Holt still holds the record for raising the highest value of donations – just over £2,500 not including Gift Aid. The most money raised by a single individual this year, and winner of the Prince of Wales’s Certificate, currently stands at an outstanding £3,061. But whether it is £3 or £3,000, the NCT is equally grateful for anything you can raise but more importantly that you enjoy a great day out visiting our wonderful Norfolk churches.

Reports for the Open Parish Meeting – The date for the meeting has not yet been set but it would be very helpful if all the groups who are active in the parish would start preparing their written reports.

Help Required – The Community of Our Lady of Walsingham has recently acquired its first convent in Dereham. The sisters are looking for help with both secretarial and bookkeeping work. If you think you might be able to assist in one or both areas, please contact Sr. Camilla on 07931 795769, or email: admin@walsinghamcommunity.org to discuss terms and conditions.

<p>The Angelus</p> <p>V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary. R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit. <i>Hail Mary ...</i></p> <p>V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord. R. Be it done unto me according to thy word. <i>Hail Mary ...</i></p> <p>V. And the Word was made Flesh. R. And dwelt among us. <i>Hail Mary ...</i></p> <p>V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God. R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.</p> <p>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</p>
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