

Gospel Reflection for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

Under the Spotlight



Jesus lived by one abiding rule. He knew that his integrity was the one thing that could not be taken away. His life could be taken, but his integrity could not. Today we are asked to live our lives by that same rule. We must know who we are; and we must adhere to who we are with every ounce of integrity we possess.

We all admire people who have the courage of their convictions. We admire their confidence, and we admire their openness. If we have ever had something to hide we know how difficult it is to feel good about ourselves. There must have been times in all our lives where we have been tempted to deceive, keep something a secret, or simply lay low and hope that problems will blow over. Keeping our integrity intact is not always easy, especially when we have used our own flawed agendas to go by.

Today's gospel makes reference to an Old Testament Story. Just as Moses used a bronze serpent to remind the Israelites of their sinfulness and steer them towards better choices, so we are asked to look upon Jesus as our guiding light. We are asked to see Jesus' light in every corner of our lives and make good choices on a daily basis. It might sound easy to make good choices, but so often we disguise our choices, to hide our real motivation, we might not even be aware that we are doing it. The most important clue to making good decisions is to ask whether we would have any qualms about pinning our choices up on a notice board under a spotlight. With our choices on public show, how confidently would we face a challenge? Would our integrity remain intact?

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 DEREHAM, NORFOLK

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15TH MARCH 2015 – 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Weekend Masses – Page 162 of Parish Mass Book

Saturday	6.00 pm	Int. Jennie Tumelty	(Angelus)
Sunday	9.00 am	Int. Jeremiah Ryan	
	11.00 am	Int. The People of the Parish	(Angelus)

Confession/Reconciliation – 5.30 – 5.55 pm Saturday

Weekday Services

Mon.	No Mass today	Lent Feria
Tues.	10.00 am	Jack & Ena Connolly – St. Patrick
	7.30 pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group in Emmaus room
Weds.	10.00 am	Neil Bradley (Fdn.) – Lent Feria
Thurs.	10.00 am	Special Intention – St. Joseph
Fri.	10.00 am	Fr. Wace (Fdn.) – Lent Feria
Sat.	10.30 am	Priest's Int. – Lent Feria
	6.00 pm	Priest's Int. – 5th Sunday of Lent

(Fdn.) = Foundation Mass

Divine Office – Psalter Week 4

Anniversaries this week:

Sian Bennett, Eugenie Beckett, John Hogan, Charles Hixson, Thomas Donoghue, Janet Lennon, Margaret Cliffe, Andrea O'Connor, Margaret Jackson, Mary Roberts & Desmond Stone. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.*

Money Matters (*O yes, it does!*) – The collection last weekend was £460.18 and CAFOD £32.00. I would also like to acknowledge with thanks the contribution which parishioners make by monthly Standing Orders. This will now be put in the newsletter on a monthly basis. Thank you all very much.

The Tablet newspaper is available for a trial. All the copies were taken at the 6.00 pm Mass last weekend, so I will put them out for the 9.00 and 11.00 am Masses this week. Remember, it is only a newspaper, although a very good one, and not the Catechism of the Catholic Church!

Morning Prayer will be said at 9.40 am before weekday Mass. This allows a bit of space between the two great Liturgical Prayers of the Church i.e. The Liturgy of the Hours and The Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Celebrate East Anglia: a lively Catholic, faith-filled weekend for people of all ages. Inspiring talks, children's age-appropriate groups, Mass with Bishop Alan. A great opportunity in this **Year of Personal Renewal** to accompany a friend and/or move along in our personal faith journey. At St. Benedict's School, Bury St. Edmunds on 30th/31st May 2015. See the notice at the back of the church, contact Philip Walters on 07910157584 or check out www.celebrateconference.org

Notices: Could I ask those groups who have notices up on the board to please check that the information is correct, that the notice itself is smart and changed/refreshed regularly. To attract people's attention notices need to look interesting and not faded or with curled up corners or perforated with so many pin holes as to make the paper look like lacework.

Silence is important during Mass. It is important for the priest to remember that having invited you to pray with the words: 'Let us Pray', that you have the opportunity to use that moment to pray. So there is a silence there for that and the Opening Prayer of the Mass is called 'The Collect'. The priest 'gathers', as it were, your prayers and says the Opening/Collect Prayer and the same applies at the end of Mass, after the words 'Let us pray' there is a silence in which to pray.

Chrism Mass at St. John's will be at 7.00 pm on Wednesday of Holy Week (1st April). We will organise a coach and a list will be put up at the back of the church.

Mothering Sunday

Historically Mothering Sunday was also known as Refreshment Sunday because the fasting rules for Lent were relaxed on this day. So Mums everywhere enjoy your chocolates and your cake! Today is the day on which we thank our mothers for all their love and hard work. Happy 'Mothering Sunday'.



Saint Patrick – 17th March

In his early teens, St. Patrick was kidnapped, taken to Ireland and sold into slavery. For six years he led a harsh life, but he never lost faith that one day he would be freed from slavery and realize his dreams. If we take one lesson from Saint Patrick, it should be this: to use what faith we have to overcome the discouragement that threatens to paralyse us.



Saint Joseph Spouse of Blessed Virgin Mary - 19th March

Discretion, humility, care, tenderness, courage, integrity, and hard work. We don't get to hear much about St Joseph but the little we do know teaches us a great deal about being a 'guardian', not just for the benefit of the youngsters in our family, but for all those who look to us for example.

Bible Society Lenten Appeal

Lent is a time for giving up, but this year *The Bible Society* challenges you to just give. 51.2 million people are currently forcibly displaced worldwide. They have left behind their homes, possessions and families in order to escape terror in their homeland. For us, giving up is a Lenten practice, but for these families it's a reality of everyday life. Refugees around the world are asking for Bibles and basic supplies. The Bible Society is working tirelessly to provide them.

The challenge is to raise £40 in the 40 days of Lent. Do something different this Lent - don't give up, just give. Donate online at www.biblesociety.org.uk/about-bible-society/appeals/dont-give-up-just-give

Bitesize

Character is doing the right thing when nobody's looking. There are too many people who think that the only thing that's right is to get by, and the only thing that's wrong is to get caught.

J.C. Watts