

## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Is God's Salvation for Us All?



Just when we thought that Jesus' love was all embracing and all compassionate, he shocks us by behaving in a way that can only be described as harsh and unfeeling. In today's gospel Jesus is approached by a Canaanite woman, who pesters him to cure her daughter. 'Canaanite' was the name given to the older inhabitants of Israel who were dispossessed as unclean by Jesus' own people. Jesus would not have been expected to fraternise with such a woman. True to expectation, Jesus does not respond to the woman, explaining that he has been sent

only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel ... this woman is therefore not his problem! Could Jesus really have held this harsh opinion, or was he testing his disciples?

The Canaanite woman continues to pester. She has great faith that Jesus will eventually give in and cure her daughter. Again Jesus responds harshly. "It is not right to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs..." In other words, only Jews had a right to be treated as 'children of God'. The Gentiles on the other hand are likened to 'dogs'. This opinion seems even less like the Jesus we know! Much more likely is the notion that Jesus is stretching his disciples' understanding of God's boundaries, or rather, lack of.

When we first read the Bible we get the feeling that God is simply there for the 'Children of Israel' or the Hebrew Nation, but the truth is that God does not limit his promises to just certain categories of people. The story finishes with Jesus rewarding the woman's faith with a cure. At first it might appear that Jesus is giving in to 'pester power', though it is much more likely that Jesus had decided from the very outset that he would help this woman. In awarding a cure, Jesus is showing his disciples and us, that faith has the power to melt boundaries and prejudice. Even today we probably imagine God's salvation is for a select few, but today's story teaches us that salvation is there for anyone and everyone who places their trust in God.

**Bite Size** - "You can find inspiration from others but determination is solely your responsibility." ~ *Dodinsky*

**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 Information: <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/safeguarding/>  
Diocesan Website: <http://www.rcdea.org.uk>  
Notre Dame High School, Norwich: Website <http://www.ndhs.org.uk>  
Daily liturgy website: [www.universalis.com](http://www.universalis.com)

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

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## 20<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2017 – 20<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Sunday Masses – Page 117 of Parish Mass Book

Saturday	6.00 pm	Donor's Int.
Sunday	9.00 am	Int. Norah Ryan
	11.00 am	Int. People of the Parish

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

**Entry** 6pm – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 700 – Come, praise the Lord, the Almighty ...

**Offertory** Hymn 608 – Take my hands and make them as your own ...

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

**Recessional** 11am – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 898 – Make me a channel of your peace ...

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

Weekday Mass Times	(20 <sup>th</sup> week in Ordinary Time)	[Psalter Week 4]
Mon.	10.00 am	St Pius X – Donor's Int.
Tues.	<b>No Mass today</b>	The Queenship of the BVM
	7.30 pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group – in Emmaus Room
Weds.	10.00 am	Feria – Donor's Int.
Thurs.	10.00 am	St Bartholomew, Apostle – Donor's Int.
Fri.	10.00 am	Feria – Donor's Int.
Sat.	<b>No morning Mass</b>	Feria
	6.00 pm	21 <sup>st</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Int. Kathleen & Michael Carroll

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

**Anniversaries this week:** Mary Porter, Richard Burrows, Adrian Sheath, Damian Ring-Davies, Mary Hayter, John McGowan, Jack Stearman and Marley Coe. *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, Kathleen (Jenny) Rudd, Ellen Flood, Margaret Leggett, Peter Brown, James Maxwell, Robert Anderson, Carole Whitesides and Stuart Bell.

**Ron Thurstance R.I.P.** Ron died peacefully at Quebec Hall on Tuesday morning. May he rest in peace.

**Money Matters** – The collection for the running of the parish last weekend amounted to £545.59 and the retiring collection for the Catholic Communication Network was £146.56. Thank you very much for your generosity.

<b>Diary Dates for this week –</b>	
Mon. 21 Aug	AA Group meeting – 7.30pm in Emmaus Room
Sat. 26 Aug	Saturday Club is on holiday. <i>NB. There is no morning Mass.</i>

**Welcome to all our visitors during Summer months.** It is always lovely to see and hear from our visitors during the Summer. You are very welcome here at Sacred Heart and I hope that you have a truly enjoyable time in Mid Norfolk. So much to see and enjoy!

**First Holy Communion 2018** - Application forms are now available from Fr Brendan or Robbie Meehan for the First Holy Communion classes starting in September 2017 on Saturday mornings 11-11.30am following 10.30am Mass. Children must be in year 3 or above, and be at least 8 years old in July 2018. Please return forms as soon as possible.

**Safeguarding Notice:** All people in the parish who perform a voluntary role with children, young people or vulnerable adults require a check to be performed by the Disclosures and Barring Service (formerly a CRB check). If you take on a role of this nature, it is essential that a check is performed before you begin your role. The process of renewing the DBS checks that volunteers in our parish have has begun, so if you have had a check before and still perform a voluntary role with children, young people or vulnerable adults in the parish, then you will receive a letter from Kathleen Edmunds, our Parish Safeguarding Representative, over the coming months asking you to undertake a re-check and renew your DBS certificate. All the necessary instructions will be in the letter.

**A Date for your diaries:** Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> is the day for the Norfolk Churches Trust Sponsored Cycle Ride. Please see the poster on the notice board. The sponsor forms and promotional information is late this year. I will make it available as soon as it arrives.

**Social Committee Report** is attached to your newsletter this week.

**Exam Results** - When you look at the people who make the world go round, you may be surprised at the exams that they did or didn’t manage to pass. As you get older you realise that it isn’t the exams in themselves that were important but how you moved forward from that point. This of course is difficult for teenagers to believe when the importance of exams has been drummed into them from the earliest youth. We offer our prayers this week for our younger parishioners who have just received or just about to receive exam results. We praise their efforts, and we support them in whatever they want to do next.

**UK Volunteering Opportunities with Vinspired** - Vinspired is the UK's leading volunteering charity for 14 - 25 year olds. Vinspired helps young people to make their mark on causes that they care about, whilst learning new skills and talents along the way. Check it out at [www.vinspired.com](http://www.vinspired.com)

**Slavery Remembrance Day, 23<sup>rd</sup> August** - This day is all about commemorating the transatlantic slave trade, but it’s also a day to combat modern day slavery. You might not think you are well placed to combat the slave trade, but in fact your daily shop is a perfect place to start. The problem of trafficking and overcoming it can be so overwhelming, but if we start small, we can slowly empower ourselves to be educated. Choose one or two things you consume the most, and simply do your research on the companies that provide those products or services. It’s easier than you think. Start your research at [www.ethicalconsumer.org](http://www.ethicalconsumer.org)

*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.**