

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Wheat and Weeds



Jesus compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a field in which the master has sown good seed. In the night, an enemy comes and plants weeds, so when the crop grows it is a mixture of wheat and weed. The servants' instinct is to pull the weeds out, but the master demands that the bad grow alongside the good ... he himself will

sort the wheat from the weeds at the final harvest.

It's a typical Palestinian problem, the darnel weed, which looks just like wheat in its early stages is a menace to the harvest. The roots of the darnel weed intertwine with the roots of the wheat. To pull the darnel out can jeopardise the harvest. Similarly just as it's hard to tell the difference between wheat and darnel, so it's not always easy for us to tell the difference between good and evil. A bad person can change and become good, and a seemingly good person might not be as virtuous as we imagine. It's best if we refrain from judging; this job is best left to God.

In films and novels, the good guys always win and the bad guys always get their comeuppance. Happy endings satisfy our human sense of justice, but in reality justice seems strangely elusive. We come up against evil time and time again. Sometimes we get so angry that we want to take justice into our own hands. Sometimes we are incensed that God can allow evil to grow alongside good, but before we get too irate, maybe we need to stop and take a good long look in the mirror. What makes us so sure that we're not weeds too? Where did we get that assurance that we are represented in the parable as the wheat?

Rarely is reality black and white. We all have good and bad inside us. We all need to change, and we all deserve the opportunity to make those changes. Perhaps this is the reason Jesus' advises us to leave the evil to grow alongside the good. As Martin Luther King Jnr. once said, "God's purpose is not wrathful judgement. God's purpose is redemption, and the road to redemption is by way of reconciliation."

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

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23RD JULY 2017 – 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday Masses – Mass Book p105	Intention
Saturday 6.00 pm	Emily Thurstance
Sunday 9.00 am	Sidney Gledhill (Baker)
11.00 am	People of the Parish

Music for Sunday Masses - Setting: Dom Gregory Murray Mass
Entry 6pm – Angelus (said); Hymn 821 – The kingdom of God is justice and joy ...
Offertory Hymn 603 – Blest are you, Lord, God of all creation ...
Communion Instrumental Interlude/Sacred silence ...
Recessional 11am – Angelus (said); Hymn 721 – O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder ...

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

Weekday Masses- 16 th week in Ordinary Time; Psalter Wk 4	Intention
Mon. 10.00 am - Feria	Teresa Revell
Tues. No Mass today - St James, Apostle 7.30 pm – Queen of Peace Prayer Group	
Weds. 10.00 am - Ss Joachim & Anne, Parents of BVM	Anna Easton
Thurs. 10.00 am - Feria	Edwin Goodstadt
Fri. 11.00 am – Feria	Sidney Gledhill (Monaghan)
Sat. No morning Mass – St Martha 6.00 pm – 17 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Rev. Michael Cotes

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

Anniversaries this week: Tomasz Wyrwik, Doris Cousal, Emily Veronica (Vera) Noden, Margaret Harlow, David Thompkins, Elizabeth Sapcote, Errol Alexander Patrick Cowell, Thomas Losco-Bradley, Olga Secker, Doris Webster, Naomi Dance, Margaret Leonard, Ellen Storey and John Perkins. *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, Pat Howe, Kathleen (Jenny) Rudd, Ellen Flood, Margaret Leggett, Peter Brown, James Maxwell, Robert Anderson and Carole Whitesides.

Money Matters – The collection for the maintenance of the parish last weekend amounted to £446.20 and £472.00 was given by Standing Order/Direct Debit during June. Thank you for your generosity.

Diary Dates for this week –	
Mon. 24 th July	AA Group meeting – 7.30pm in Emmaus Room
Tues. 25 th July	Queen of Peace Prayer Group – 7.30pm in Emmaus Room
Sat. 29 th July	Saturday Club is on Summer Hols. <i>NB: No morning Mass.</i>

Change of Mass Time - Please note the change of Mass time on **Friday** due to the funeral at Earlham Crematorium of Antonio Marques at 9.00am.

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!

SS Joachim and Anne: 26th July - By tradition Joachim and Anne are considered to be the names of the parents of Mary, the Mother of God. There is no evidence for this in the Bible. Any stories about Mary’s father and mother come to us through legend and tradition. The legend goes that after years of childlessness, an angel appeared to tell Anne and Joachim that they would have a child. Anne promised to dedicate this child to God.



Saint Martha: 29th July - Jesus liked to stay at the house of Martha, Mary and Lazarus, his friends at Bethany, when he was in Judea. One of these visits has ever remained dear to Christian memory. On that occasion Martha, busily serving the Master, asked him to persuade Mary to help her. Without in any way reproaching Martha, Jesus explained to her that certain souls, called by God,

should choose a better part still — the primary duty of listening to him and contemplating him. Some of us are more like Martha - and some of us are more like Mary; but there is in all of us a built in need to combine the two within us, for without sitting and listening to God our work for God can only lead to anxiety and anger and angst, -and without doing the work our faith is clearly nothing.

Summer Retreats 2017 - ‘Retreats 2017’ is the annual publication of the Retreat Association. With a lead article written by theologian Peter Tyler, this year’s guide gives information and programmes for over 230 Christian retreat centre in the UK and beyond. There are retreats with themes such as painting and walking individually guided retreats and quiet days. You can order a copy online at www.retreats.org.uk/retreatshandbook.php

Youth 2000 Summer Festival! “Inheritance”: 24th – 28th August 2017 – Looking for something to do this summer? Youth 2000 Summer Festival is a 5-day Prayer Festival packed with DYNAMIC TALKS from international speakers, LIVE BAND WORSHIP, powerful prayer times, FUN SOCIAL ACTIVITIES, creative workshops, IN-DEPTH DISCUSSIONS, evening entertainment and LOADS MORE. For more info. Contact: info@youth2000.org ; Tel: 020 7221 2124; or www.youth2000.org

Working with Missionaries of the Poor - Fr Michael Johnstone is again taking a group to Kingston, Jamaica in January to work as Volunteers with the Missionaries of the Poor. Anyone age over 18, male or female is welcome to join the group. Further information from Fr. Michael: email fr.mcjohnstone@gmail.com or Tel. 01603 664118.

Bite Size

“Be not angry that you cannot make others as you wish them to be, since you cannot make yourself as you wish to be.” ~ *Thomas à Kempis, The Imitation of Christ*

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.**