

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Does Prayer Work?

Have you ever prayed really, really, hard for something and not had that prayer granted? Have you ever looked back in life at a prayer you once made and thought thank goodness God didn't grant it? This week's gospel reading is a lesson in prayer, but more importantly, it's a lesson in having faith that God is a parent who will not let us down.

Let's face it, we pray hardest to God when we want something. We pray hardest when something seems beyond our human means and we need some kind of miracle, this often leads us to make inappropriate prayers. How many of us pray that the love of our life will notice us in the launderette? How many of us pray to win the lottery and make secret deals with God that we will donate half the winning to charity in return? How many of us pray to God for our football team to score a winning goal in the closing minutes of a match? Worse... we lose faith when such prayers aren't answered! We find it difficult to believe that unanswered prayers might mean that God knows better, or has a different purpose for us.

Perhaps Jesus' disciples shared some of our frustration when they say, "Lord teach us to pray." In response Jesus gives us a model by which to pray. It's important to recognise it as a model and not a prayer as such. Reciting a prayer is not the same as praying. The model pray Jesus gives us, 'The Lord's prayer', invites us to pray to God as our Father, acknowledging his holiness and praying with the shared commitment to have his will done on earth. We are invited to pray for our 'daily bread', in other words, for the things we genuinely need. Pray for forgiveness, and promise to forgive others. Pray with persistence. Prayer is about building a relationship with God, speaking to him often throughout the day. Lastly, and most importantly we should approach God with the faith we approach a loving parent. "What father," reasons Jesus, "would hand his son a snake when he asks for a fish?" or hand him a scorpion when he asks for an egg?" Even parents with very average parenting skills know how to give children what they need. "How much more," says Jesus, "will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"

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

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

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24th JULY 2016 - 17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday Masses - Page 114 of Parish Mass Book

Saturday	6.00 pm	Dane Burbriene
Sunday	9.00 am	Teresa Revell
	11.00 am	People of the Parish

Music for Sunday Masses - Setting: Dom Gregory Murray Mass

Entry 6pm - Angelus (said); Hymn 938 - Soul of my Saviour ...

Offertory Hymn 609 - In bread we bring you ...

Communion Instrumental Interlude/Sacred silence ...

Recessional 11am - Angelus (said); Hymn 960 - Guide me, O thou great Redeemer ...

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

Weekday Mass Times (17th week in Ordinary Time) [Psalter Week 1]

Mon.	10.00 am	Eileen Bennett - St James, Apostle
Tues.	No Mass today	- SS Joachim & Anne, parents of the BVM
	7.30 pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group - in Emmaus Room
Weds.	10.00 am	Doris Whyard - Feria
Thurs.	10.00 am	Donor's Int. - Feria
Fri.	10.00 am	John Perkins - St. Martha
	5.45 pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Silent Prayer
	6.15 pm	Evening Prayer (Vespers)
Sat.	No morning Mass	- Feria
	6.00 pm	Donor's Int. - 18 th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Anniversaries this week: Doris Cousal, Emily Veronica (Vera) Noden, Margaret Harlow, David Thompkins, Elizabeth Sapcote, Errol Alexander Patrick Cowell, Thomas Losco-Bradley, Olga Secker, Doris Webster, Margaret Leonard, Naomi Dance, Ellen Storey, John Perkins and Charles Martin. *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, Michael Reavey, Robert Nicol, Shirley Liebenhals, Sarah Chaudri, Anne & Derek Williams, Anna Thompkins, Michelle Smith, Rita Smith, Eileen Brockleby, Pat Howe, Kathleen (Jenny) Rudd, Ellen Flood, Patrick Monaghan, Margaret Leggett, Diana Cater and Ken May.

Money Matters – The collection last weekend was £451.70. Thank you all very much.

130 Club June Draw - Quarterly Prize £50 – Francis Crawley; 1st Prize £20 – Anne Nicol; 2nd Prize £15 – Jeannette Harris; 3rd Prize £10 – Collette Barrow-Nessian; 4th Prize £10 – Nora Fahy; 5th Prize £10 – Claire Matthews.

Diary Dates for this week –

- **Saturday Club** is on holiday for the summer.
- **Sat. 23rd Jul** – 50th Anniversary of St George’s Catholic Parish, Norwich at 7.30pm. Performance by Sheringham Shantymen. See poster at back of church for details and prices of tickets.
- **Sun. 31st July** – Exhibition of vestments and treasures at St Joseph’s Catholic Church, Sheringham (continues until 1st August). See poster at back of church for details.

Holiday Time – Visitors from near and far are always very welcome in our Parish. It is lovely when people attend Mass here while on holiday. We hope that you enjoy your stay in Norfolk and your time with us here at Sacred Heart, Dereham. We love to hear where you have come from and where you are visiting in Norfolk.

UCM - Our Garden Party for UCM members being planned for 10th August, will go ahead only if Anne Sibley knows you are coming! Please contact her urgently on 01362 692030, or leave a note in her pigeon hole.

Spectacles Collection – Peggy Mealy is collecting unwanted eye-glasses to send to the Missions in Africa. If anyone has any old spectacles that they’d like to donate, there is a box at the back of church for this purpose.

Red Missionary Boxes – If you have not already done so, a reminder to bring your boxes to church, so that there can be another count and the monies sent to Missio (Association for the Propagation of the Faith (APF)). Thank you.

World Youth Day 2016 - 25th-31st July - The theme of the XXXI World Youth Day Krakow 2016 is: ‘Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy’ (Mt 5:7). Our Holy Father Francis has chosen the fifth of the eight Beatitudes, given by Jesus in his Sermon on the Mount on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, to show the importance of the Beatitudes which are at the heart of Jesus’ teaching. In his first Sermon, Jesus presents us with eight examples of qualities that bring us closer to the Kingdom of God.

Ss. Joachim and Ann Parents of the Virgin Mary - 26th July - The strong character of Mary in making decisions, her continuous practice of prayer, her devotion to the laws of her faith, her steadiness at moments of crisis, and her devotion to her relatives—all indicate a close-knit, loving family that looked forward to the next generation even while retaining the best of the past. Joachim and Ann—whether these are the real names of Mary’s parents or not—represent that entire quiet series of generations who faithfully perform their duties, practice their faith and establish an atmosphere for the coming of the Messiah, but remain obscure

Saint Martha - 29th July - 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.

Bite Size

“A strict belief, fate is the worst kind of slavery; on the other hand there is comfort in the thought that God will be moved by our prayers.”

Epicurus Greek philosopher (341 BC - 270 BC)

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.**