

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Insights

Today Jesus cures a man who has been blind from birth, but it is not the blindness of the man himself that is central to this story but the blindness of those around him. The Pharisees are pretty sure they know who Jesus is and they are fairly certain that he is not of God. Consequently they are completely non-plussed by Jesus' miracle. They question the cured man over and over as though seeking some other explanation. The Pharisees are unable to believe the evidence before their eyes.

They are just as blind as the blind man once was. They are blind to the truth because they refuse to see it.

Jesus chose to cure the blind man, not simply because he felt a sympathy for him but because he wanted to display how God can work through any one of us. Jesus could see that the blind man would make a persuasive evangelist, and he was right. The cured blind man, unlike his frightened parents, spoke out boldly and persistently first proclaiming Jesus as a prophet, and then as he gained more insight, that this man was the Son of God. Even so, the short-sighted Pharisees were not convinced. Their belief that only Moses could act as spokesperson for God, rendered them totally myopic when it came to Jesus. Perhaps there is a lesson here for all of us. Are we so blinkered in what we believe and how we worship, that we are unable to see the broader picture that would allow our faith to move forwards?

Jesus' miracle and choice of subject, teaches that God can work through any one of us. In the circumstances of our lives we can show others how God works. In our skills and talents we too can be evangelists, we just need the vision and a little bit of lateral thinking.

Bitesize

"A wise man can see more from the bottom of a well than a fool can from a mountain-top." ~Author Unknown

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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26TH MARCH 2017 - 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (*Laetare Sunday*)

Sunday Masses - Page 164 of Parish Mass Book

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

Music for Sunday Masses - Setting: Belmont Mass

Entry 6pm - *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 202 - Lord Jesus, as we turn from sin ...

Lenten Gospel Acclamation - Hymn 184

Offertory Hymn 851 - Awake, awake! Fling off the night ...

Communion *Instrumental Interlude/Sacred silence ...*

Recessional 11am - *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 846 - Amazing Grace ...

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

Weekday Mass Times (4th week of Lent) [Psalter Week 4]

Mon.	10.00 am	Lent Feria - Int. Helen Coyne (<i>Fdn.</i>)
Tues.	No Mass today	Lent Feria
	7.30 pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group - in Emmaus Room
Weds.	10.00 am	Lent Feria - Int. Kath Davis & Family (<i>Fdn.</i>)
Thurs.	10.00 am	Lent Feria - Int. Lilian Carter (<i>Fdn.</i>)
Fri.	10.00 am	Lent Feria - Int. Sidney Carter (<i>Fdn.</i>)
	7.15 pm	Stations of the Cross (Led by Altar Servers)
Sat.	10.30 am	Lent Feria - Int. Mgr. Harry Wace (<i>Fdn.</i>)
	6.00 pm	5 th Sunday of Lent - Int. Joy Bussey

**Fdn.* = Foundation Mass

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

Anniversaries this week: Frank Broom, Hazel O'Connor, Helena Josephine Bennett, Michael Casey, Sidney Carter, Antonio Pereira, Patrick Malone, Margaret Hindle, Gladys Reeve, Rita Power and Vera Conway. *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 and Robert Anderson.

Money Matters – The collection for the maintenance of the parish last weekend amounted to £456.76. Thank you very much.

Diary Dates for this week –	
Mon. 27 Mar	AA Group meeting – 7.30pm-9.00pm in Emmaus Room
Fri. 31 Mar	Altar Servers meet & will lead Stations of the Cross – 7.15pm
Sat. 1 st April	Saturday Club meets – 11.00am in Emmaus Room
Sun. 2 nd April	4.00pm – Stations of the Cross (Led by members of SVP)

Laetare Sunday - Lent means 40 days of fast, abstinence, and penitential works, but on the fourth Sunday of Lent there's a change. On Laetare (Rejoice) or Rose Sunday, we look beyond the sorrows of Lent to the rejoicings of the coming Easter.

Mothering Sunday - Mothering Sunday has been celebrated in the UK on the fourth Sunday in Lent from the 16th century. On this Sunday it was expected that families should attend their 'Mother Church'. This history is largely forgotten, but it remains an opportunity for us to show our mothers just how much we appreciate and love them. On Mother's Day we pray especially for all mothers and thank God for the care and love they give to their children. We ask God's blessing especially for mothers who struggle to protect their children against poverty and injustice.



Parish Open Meeting will follow the 11.00 am Mass on **Sunday, 2nd April**. The format will be: Midday Prayer, Lunch and the meeting. There will be no opening under Any Other Business. **Please sign the list on the notice board for lunch and the meeting.** Everyone is welcome. Please submit any items which you would like to discuss for the Open Meeting. The Agenda is quite short at the moment. However, some of the issues discussed at the last meeting can now be planned because of the funding which will come through the Alive in Faith Programme.

The Chrism Mass will be on **Tuesday, April 11th** at 7.00 pm at St John's Cathedral. We will hire a coach as usual. Please put your names on the list at the back of church. *(Please note – there will be no Queen of Peace Prayer Group meeting that evening to allow members who wish to attend the Chrism Mass.)*

Holy Week Mass Times:

- ❖ **Maundy Thursday** (13th April) – Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.30pm, followed by Watching at the Altar of Repose
- ❖ **Good Friday** (14th April) – Solemn Liturgy of The Passion at 3.00pm
- ❖ **Holy Saturday** (15th April) – Easter Vigil at 8.00pm

Good Friday - Stations of the Cross at 10.30am, led by the children and Catechists.

Good Friday Walk of Witness – Everyone is invited to join together **at 12 noon** in the Queen Mother's Gardens for the Churches Together Good Friday Walk of Witness.

Recommended Reading – **“God With Us: The Meaning of the Cross and Resurrection”** by Rowan Williams. This book is packed with striking theological insight and spiritual encouragement. Designed for use by individuals or groups, with questions for reflection or discussion at the end of each chapter, it is an ideal gift for anyone near the start of their spiritual journey or wanting to deepen their appreciation of the heart of the Gospel. *(Redemptorist Publications ISBN: 9780281076642)*

The Real Easter Egg - The new look Real Easter Egg 2017 range has been launched and we are being asked to encourage people to support this unique way of sharing the story of Easter. This year a 24 page Easter story-activity book illustrated by Alida Massari is included in the Original, Egg Hunt and Dark eggs. The Special Edition has an Easter traditions booklet inside. The Sharing box, with 30 eggs, comes with colour-in posters. Out of the 80 million Easter eggs sold in this part of the world every year, The Real Easter Egg is the only one which has a copy of the Easter story in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and makes a donation to charity from sales. Start hunting down the eggs in the supermarket ready for Easter.

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**