

## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Think Again!



Today we listen to Jesus' most famous sermon; a list of promises to the poor, the meek and the merciful that we now call 'The Beatitudes'. "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven," promises Jesus, "Blessed are the meek, blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness." Is Jesus telling us we can only be blessed if we make ourselves poor? Is he telling us to sit back meekly and let others walk all over us? Is Jesus encouraging us to go out and actively invite persecution and insult?

It's difficult to embrace Jesus' values because we have been brought up to value everything that Jesus does not. From an early age we have been taught to work hard at school so that we will get a good job and earn lots of money. We are scolded for not speaking up for ourselves and applauded for pushing ourselves forward. Our culture is all about winning, prestige and material success.

The challenge we find in the Beatitudes is to work contrary to our human instincts in order to find true happiness and fulfilment. Our instincts are to amass wealth, earn fame, and bask in our perceived self-importance. It is often our cowardly instinct to turn a blind eye to injustice or to fail to stand up for what we believe because we are afraid of ridicule. It is the instinct of governments to engage in conflict in the pursuit of material gain and power.

In his sermon, Jesus was not suggesting we live in dire poverty or become human doormats for the sake of it. Rather Jesus is asking us to look again at our values. We are asked to look at the things that we think will bring happiness. Jesus challenges us to think again.

### Bitesize

"Your money, or your life." We know what to do when a burglar makes this demand of us, but not when God does. ~ *Mignon McLaughlin*

**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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## 29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2017 - 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Sunday Masses - Page 130 of Parish Mass Book

Saturday 6.00 pm Int. Sister Gillian OCD

Sunday 9.00 am Int. Tony Hannigan

11.00 am Int. People of the Parish

### Music for Sunday Masses - Setting: *The Belmont Mass*

Entry 6pm - *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 795 - I heard the voice of Jesus say ...

Offertory Hymn 804 - The king of love my shepherd is ...

Communion *Instrumental Interlude/Sacred silence ...*

Recessional 11am - *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 820 - Seek ye first the kingdom of God ...

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

### Weekday Mass Times (4<sup>th</sup> Week of the Year) [Psalter Week 4]

Mon. 10.00 am Feria - Int. Peggy Osborn

Tues. **No Mass today** St John Bosco

7.30 pm Queen of Peace Prayer Group - in Emmaus Room

Weds. 10.00 am Feria - Int. Mary & Sid Gledhill

Thurs. 10.00 am The Presentation of the Lord - UCM Intentions

Fri. 10.00 am Mass for World Peace

Sat. 10.30 am Feria - Donor's Int.

6.00 pm 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - Int. People of the Parish

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

**Anniversaries this week:** Mary Hetherington, Marguerite Eastwell, Reginald Walter Bowles, Alice Page, Victor Rawding, Patricia Cox, Patrick Carroll, Alfred Edward Macdonald, English Family, George Maguire, Benjamin Wyand, Stanley Snellgrove, George Gay, Mary Hirst, Bernard O'Shea, Doris Marie (Babs) Dyer and Lynes Smith. *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 Pamela & Catherine Evans.

**Money Matters** – The collection for the parish last weekend amounted to £465.26. Thank you for your continuous generosity.

**Diary Dates for this week –**

- Tues. 31<sup>st</sup> Jan. – No Mass today – Parish Priest's day off.
- Fri. 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb. – SVP 'First Friday' Coffee Morning. After Mass. All welcome.
- Fri. 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb. – Altar Servers meet – 7.15pm in Emmaus Room.
- Sat. 4<sup>th</sup> Feb. – Saturday Club meets - 11.00am in Emmaus Room

**The New Order of Mass laminated cards.** I have put out a number of these in the church for use. They are very useful for the Creed and Gloria. Please do not take them away or put them in the sacristy as they are for use during weekday mass as well. I have ordered a few extra ones as well.

**Exposition and Evening Prayer.** Our numbers have fallen at this, but I hope to find a good time for it in the future and re-launch it.

**World Day for Consecrated Life: February 2<sup>nd</sup>** - In 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd. This Feast is also known as Candlemas Day; the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples. Although the World Day for Consecrated Life is celebrated on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, it is also celebrated on the following Sunday in order to highlight the gift of consecrated persons for the whole Church. Please pray for all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life.

**Parish Open Meeting.** I have not set a date yet for this. It will probably be in March when the Diocesan Financial Returns are completed. I ask that every group in the parish prepare a written report for the meeting and that items for the agenda be submitted to

me. There will not be an opportunity under 'Any Other Business' as this will not be on the agenda. The agenda will be published in advance of the meeting. The ladies of The U.C.M. have kindly agreed to prepare a lunch for those who attend. Midday prayer will precede the meeting.

**Clergy Deanery Meeting at Sacred Heart on March 16th.** The ladies of The U.C.M. have also kindly agreed to cater for this meeting. Each parish in the Deanery is expected to host the clergy meeting from time to time. It is our turn.

**Red Missionary Boxes** - It is time once again for donations to the red missionary boxes to be counted and the money sent off to Missio (APF). So please will you bring your boxes to church over the next two Sundays, so that there can be another count and the monies sent to Missio. Thank you.

**Union of Catholic Mothers Fundraising Report** - We are very grateful to the parish for their generous support of UCM fundraising last year. The Christmas cake stall raised £82.10, the gift stall £120, plus £141 from the raffle. Through the course of the year, the UCM was able to give an amazing total of £752 to mainly *local* charities, concerned with homelessness, autism, mental health, Air Ambulance, dementia awareness and children's bereavement support, among other things. Whilst local support is important to us, we exist to support the Church's view of the importance of the family, we support one another in all our daily trials, in friendship, practical help and in prayer. We welcome any other women from the parish who would like to come along to our meetings – those who are single, divorced, separated, or have no children are equally welcome!

**Teaching Vacancies: Sacred Heart Independent School:** Required for September 2017 – Biology Teacher KS3 & 4, with some Maths teaching 0.8 FTE, and ICT Teacher KS2-4, with some Maths/Science teaching Year 6, 0.6 FTE. Application forms & further details available from The Headteacher, 17 Mangate Street, Swaffham PE37 7QW. Closing date: 29<sup>th</sup> March 2017. Interviews: Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2017. Website: [www.sacredheartschool.co.uk](http://www.sacredheartschool.co.uk); email: [info@sacredheartschool.co.uk](mailto:info@sacredheartschool.co.uk); tel: 01760 721330

***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**