

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Peace and Love - Our world is complex and demanding. The daily pressures on us all are immense, and that is when stress can take over and affect us in all sorts of negative ways. Stress can make us perform less well, it can make us difficult to live with, it can even make us ill. Finding peace can just seem like a bit of a naïve idea. We think we might find peace if we finish that mountain of work or sort out a money problem, but somehow there is always another problem just around the corner and peace eludes us yet again. Could it be that we are looking for peace in the wrong places?

In today's gospel reading, Jesus bids farewell to his friends and gives them some parting promises. One of his promises is that he will leave us his peace, but it will not be a peace found of this world. We will not find Jesus' peace in being marooned on a desert island, in the freedom of a bank holiday Monday or in a pension plan. We will not even find peace in the absence of hostility conflict or war. We will only find peace by living in God's love, and living in God's love means sharing his mission. Jesus' peace is found in integrity and justice and wholeness. Peace is found when we stop thinking about ourselves and think about others.

In Jesus' farewell it is easy to sense the abandonment the disciples must have felt; easy, because there are times when we too feel alone and abandoned. There will almost definitely be times when the inner peace we thought we'd found isn't enough! There'll almost definitely be times when we are afraid and our friends and family seem ill equipped to help us. Jesus reminds us that in times such as these we have the Holy Spirit ever present and dwelling within us to give us strength, comfort and guidance.

In these weeks before Pentecost we celebrate that while life is dishing out its unfair share of relentless challenges, the Spirit is always there to encourage and remind us.

Bite Size

"Realize that true happiness lies within you. Waste no time and effort searching for peace and contentment and joy in the world outside. Remember that there is no happiness in having or in getting, but only in giving. Reach out. Share. Smile. Hug. Happiness is a perfume you cannot pour on others without getting a few drops on yourself." - *Og Mandino (1923 - 1996)*

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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1ST MAY 2016 – 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday Masses – Page 274 of Parish Mass Book

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

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

Entry 6pm – *Regina Coeli (said)*; Hymn 804 – The king of love my shepherd is ...

Offertory Hymn 810 – There's a wideness in God's mercy ...

Communion *Instrumental Interlude/Sacred silence ...*

Recessional 11am – *Regina Coeli (said)*; Hymn 880 – Tell out my soul ...

CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION - Saturday at 5.30 - 5.55 pm

Weekday Mass Times (6th week of Easter) [*Psalter Week 2*]

Mon.	No Mass today	St Athanasius
Tues.	No Mass today	SS Philip & James, Apostles
	7.30 pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group – in Emmaus Room
Weds.	11.00 am	The English Martyrs - Service of the Word
Thurs.	No Mass today	Easter Feria
Fri.	No Mass today	Easter Feria
	5.45 pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Silent Prayer
	6.15 pm	Evening Prayer (Vespers)
Sat.	No Mass today	Easter Feria
	6.00 pm	- ASCENSION OF THE LORD

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

Anniversaries this week: Irene Barnes, David Horsburgh, Thomas Delahunt, Philomena Hutton, Hubert Barker, Winifred Gaylard, Patrick Charles Coyne, Eileen Barker, Ellen Harding and Tim Lynch. *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, Doreen Kanssen, Shirley Liebenhals, Sarah Chaudri, Anne & Derek Williams, David & Anna Thompkins, Michelle Smith, Rita Smith, Rhonda Darby, Eileen Brockleby, Pat Howe, Kathleen (Jenny) Rudd and Pat Grout.

Money Matters – The collection last weekend was £374.70 and an additional £20.90 brought the Priests' Training Fund collection up to £357.81. Thank you very much. Today, there is a special retiring collection for the Ukraine (*see below) and next Sunday is World Communications Day when there will be a retiring collection for the Catholic Communication Network.

Fr. Michael Griffin – While I am away, Fr. Michael Griffin has kindly agreed to supply the parish Masses. Should you need to contact him, he is available at Fakenham on 01328 853481.

Diary Dates for this week –

- Weds. 4th May – UCM meeting – 2pm in the Emmaus Room
- Fri. 6th May – SVP 'First Friday' Coffee Morning – 10.30am in Emmaus Room. All welcome.
- Sat. 7th May – Saturday Club meets – 11.00am in Emmaus Room.

UKRAINE SPECIAL HUMANITARIAN COLLECTION – The Holy Father, Pope Francis, has asked that a special collection be taken up throughout Europe this Sunday which will be added to his own substantial offering towards the growing humanitarian crisis in the Ukraine that has come about as a result of the ongoing war in that country. These funds will be used for the benefit of those living in the conflict zones and those who are displaced within the country. In order to ensure that this aid is effectively and properly managed, the Holy See will organise specific projects for the most urgent humanitarian emergencies. These projects will be examined on site by a special Commission and the Pontifical Council *Cor Unum* will approve and evaluate the management of these funds. See the poster at the back of church giving more information about the crisis in Ukraine.

UNION OF CATHOLIC MOTHERS – The next meeting of the UCM takes place at 2pm on Wednesday, May 4th, when the guest speaker will be from Autism Anglia. This will be followed by a short business meeting. Anyone from the parish is very welcome to join us. We have a very full programme for the next year and would be delighted to welcome potential new members.

MASS FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND – Everyone is invited to a Mass for the sick and housebound of the parish on **Wednesday, 11th May at 2.30pm**, and afterwards to tea and chat in the Emmaus Room, organised by the SVP and UCM. Fr. Michael Griffin has kindly offered to celebrate the Mass as Fr. Brendan is on holiday. Anyone wishing to attend but in need of transport, please telephone Deacon Martin on 01362 822590 for assistance.

Town Pastors Commissioning Service - Town Pastors are now out on the streets of Dereham on Friday afternoons and/or evenings. We are very grateful for the support and encouragement provided by this church and invite you to celebrate the fulfilment of this new initiative by joining us at our Commissioning Service on **Sunday 8th May at 3.30pm at Wellspring Community church**. All are welcome.



The Fortieth Anniversary of The Catholic Diocese of East Anglia, 1976 - 2016. The Rt. Rev. Bishop Alan Hopes warmly invites you to join with the Diocese in the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Norwich on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, June 3rd 2016 at 6.30 pm. for **Solemn Concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving. Preacher: H.E. Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster.** Mass will be followed by refreshments in the Cathedral grounds. We could hire a coach for this if enough people are interested. As it is our Feast Day, our Cathedral and our Diocese and it's close by, it should be an easy decision!

In Eastertide, we recite REGINA COELI in place of the ANGELUS :

Queen of heaven, rejoice, Alleluia.

For he, whom you did merit to bear, Alleluia,

Has risen as he said, Alleluia.

Pray for us to God, Alleluia.

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, Alleluia.

For the Lord has truly risen, Alleluia.

Let us pray: O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech you, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, his mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.