

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR ALL SAINTS



The Greatest Sermon - We are asked to emulate the lives of the saints, but how do we even begin to live our lives like one of those slightly impossible to believe-in-people whose faces we find on our church medals, cards and statues. Could they ever have been just normal people like us? Today we hear the 'Sermon On the Mount', sometimes called the 'greatest sermon of all time'. It begins with a list of revolutionary statements, which we now know as the 'Beatitudes'. The Beatitudes give us a blue print for living our lives, and a key for entering the Kingdom of God.

Be poor in spirit we are told, not allowing our lives to be governed by money or material concerns. We should be meek, always seeking to serve rather than seeking the power with which to lord it over others. Hunger for righteousness we are told, never tolerating injustice, always having the integrity to suffer for what we believe in if needs be. We should be merciful, not only with those we feel deserve mercy like the poor and the disadvantaged, but with those who need our forgiveness and consideration. Are we always pure of heart or do we enjoy a good gossip, a joke at someone else's expense? Are we peacemakers, or do we fuel battles against neighbours, workmates or people from different communities?

The Beatitudes are a list of ideals and challenges designed to shape our lives for the better, but are we left looking at the list and feeling that it's just too much of a tall order? As in anything that initially seems too difficult are we in danger of simply 'switching off'?

On this the feast of 'All Saints' we celebrate the lives of those saints whose lives we aim to imitate. But what is interesting to note, is that not even these very special men and women have managed to live by every single beatitude. A saint is not necessarily a perfect person, but someone who has sought his or her hardest to be faithful to God. When we determine to live our lives by Jesus' ideals what matters is our commitment and integrity, not our measure of success.

Bite Size - "A good character is the best tombstone. Those who loved you and were helped by you will remember you when forget-me-nots have withered. Carve your name on hearts, not on marble." (Charles H. Spurgeon)

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

PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART AND ST MARGARET MARY

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1ST NOVEMBER 2015 – ALL SAINTS

Weekend Masses – Page 186 of Parish Mass Book

Saturday	6.00 pm	Teresa Dowson
Sunday	9.00 am	John Perkins
	11.00 am	People of the Parish

Music for Sunday Masses - Setting: Belmont Mass

Processional 6pm – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 371 – For all the saints

Offertory Hymn 607 – Let all mortal flesh keep silence ...

Communion *Instrumental Interlude/Sacred silence at player's discretion*

Recessional 11am – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 708 – Holy God, we praise thy name

CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION - Saturday at 5.30 - 5.55 pm

Mass Times for the Coming Week (31st week in Ordinary Time) [Psalter Week 3]

Mon.	10.00 am	Nonie Hawkes (Bussey) - ALL SOULS' DAY
Tues.	No Mass today	- Feria
	7.30 pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group – in Emmaus Room
Weds.	10.00 am	Donor's Intention - St. Charles Borromeo
Thurs.	10.00 am	Requiem Mass for Sylvia Remmen
Fri.	10.00 am	John Perkins (Bell) - Feria
	5.45 pm	Exposition & Silent Prayer
	6.15 pm	Evening Prayer
Sat.	10.30 am	Donor's Intention - Feria
	6.00 pm	Kathleen Carroll - 32 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Parish Newsletter is available to view on the parish website from Friday onward each week; back copies can also be viewed on the website.

The Mass setting this week is the Belmont Mass – singing the Kyrie, the Sanctus and Agnus Dei. We will recite the Gloria and sing it when we have learned it. The words are the same, only the music is changed.

Anniversaries this week: Thomas Bane, Minnie Andrews, Pam Gayton, Fr. Brian Nightingale, Patricia Hawkins and Kathleen Carroll. *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 Hospita (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: Michelle Redmond, Fr Michael Teader, Joan Blakiston, David Peek, Michael Reavey, Sheila Christie, Robert Nicol, Doreen Kanssen, Shirley Liebenhals, Sarah Chaudri, Ann & Derek Williams, David & Anna Thompkins, Michelle Smith, Rhonda Darby and Collette Barrow-Nessian.

Money Matters – The collection last weekend was £410.56. Thank you very much. **Today there is a retiring collection for St Edmund's Fund.**

130 Club September Draw – Quarterly Prize £75 – Catherine Evans; 1st Prize £20 – Michelle Salter; 2nd Prize £15 - Myrna Kemp; 3rd Prize £10 – Ian Howard; 4th Prize £10 – Teresa Kendall; 5th Prize £10 – Catherine Cox.

Diary Dates for this week –

- Weds. 4th Nov. – SVP meets – 7pm in Emmaus Room
- Fri. 6th Nov. – 'First Friday' Tea/Coffee Morning – after morning Mass & Rosary
- Fri. 6th Nov. – Altar Servers meet – 7.15pm in Emmaus Room
- Sat. 7th Nov. – Saturday Club meets - 11.00am in Emmaus Room



Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls) - 2nd November - During the month of November, but particularly on this day we remember all those who have died. We remember the lessons we have learnt from them and the talents we have inherited from them. We remember how we loved them and how they loved us and made us what we are today. We remember their good deeds and determine to be more like them. On this day we also pray for those who have died for our religious or political

freedom, and finally we pray for those who have died alone with no one to remember or pray for them.

Remembrance Sunday – 8th November – Next week on Remembrance Sunday the Mass at 11.00 a.m. will be a Requiem Mass for the War Dead. We will keep the Silence.

Sacrament of Reconciliation, often called Confession - There are four (4) parts to the Sacrament. Contrition, Confession, Satisfaction and Absolution. Contrition is the part where God's grace awakens in us the desire for reconciliation. It begins some time before you approach the priest. You might think to yourself: 'I must go to Confession' and then start to examine your conscience. God is calling you back by his grace to friendship with Him.

International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church 2015 - 1st and 8th November - On November 1st and 8th, believers around the world are taking time to remember and pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ who are being persecuted. Each month:

- 322 Christians are killed for their faith
- 214 churches and Christian properties are destroyed
- 772 forms of violence are committed against Christians

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for November 2015 - The purpose of interfaith dialogue is to increase our understanding of and respect for other religious systems and institutions, thereby increasing our appreciation of the values of others. Dialogue should deepen our empathy and lessen our divisions but it doesn't mean a watering down of our own beliefs. In the month of November, Pope Francis invites us to join in his monthly prayer intention, "....**That we may be open to personal encounter and dialogue with all, even those whose convictions differ from our own.**"



Posada – Making Room for Jesus this Christmas – Posada is an old Mexican tradition where young people dressed as Mary and Joseph travelled from house to house asking for a room for the night and telling people about the imminent arrival of Jesus in the weeks leading up to Christmas. On Christmas Eve they would visit the local church to re-enact the nativity and place figures of Mary and Joseph in a crib. Modern day Posada uses nativity figures of Mary and Joseph who travel from place to place. This gives each 'host' the chance to create their own celebration in their home or place in the community, worshipping and reaching out to their communities with the real message of Christmas, making room for Jesus in their lives. Our church has chosen to engage with Posada this year. Will you be a host to Mary and Joseph for a night? To find out what is involved, see the poster at the back of church and, if you want to be a host, add your name to the Journey Rota.

We say the 'Coming Home' prayer at the end of the Bidding Prayers: Loving Father, we pray for those baptised who no longer or rarely attend Church: that they will understand and experience in their hearts that Christ is the source of unconditional love and reconciliation. We pray for everyone who worships in our parish community: that we may find the right words and means to invite our absent brothers and sisters to return to the practice of their faith. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.