

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Filling the Void



Money can't buy happiness, but neither can poverty. We need money to pay the bills and so we spent most of our lives striving to earn it. Then when we've got enough to pay the bills, it's nice to have a little extra for birthdays and Christmas and for holidays. Money doesn't buy happiness, but it can it can certainly buy security and comfort. The trouble is striving to earn money can become an end in itself. There comes a point where we are left uncertain as to whether we are working to live, or living to work. Money can easily become a trap where however much we have;

there always seems a need for more. Enough it seems is never enough. The thirst for money is a thirst that cannot be quenched. We only have to look at the lives of the rich and famous, in some cases very tragic lives, to know that material pursuits don't bring happiness. However hard we strive, if material pursuits are our only goal, there will always be a void in our lives. Jesus tells us that only God can fill this void. "Do not work for food that perishes," he tells the Galileans, "but for the food that endures for eternal life."

In today's gospel reading we hear how the crowd followed Jesus because they were impressed that he had fed five thousand with only five loaves and two fishes. They followed him because they wanted more. But Jesus knew that they had missed the point. "You are looking for me not because you saw signs," he says, "but because you ate the loaves and were filled." The true bread, he tells them, is the bread of God, which comes down from heaven and gives life to the word. Then Jesus takes the crowd one step further, he tells them that to share in the bread of eternal life they must believe in the one that God sent.

This must have been hard for the Galileans to take in, but in retrospect easier for us. We look around at those who live by Jesus' teaching, and observe that these people seem content with their lives. ... happy even. In what ways are the rest of us working for the food that endures for eternal life?

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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2ND AUGUST 2015 – 18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Weekend Masses – Page 114 of Parish Mass Book

Saturday	6.00 pm	
Sunday	9.00 am	
	11.00 am	People of the Parish

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

Processional: 6pm – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 924 – Brother, sister, let me serve you ...

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

Communion Instrumental Interlude at player's discretion ..

Recessional: 11am – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 938 – Soul of my Saviour ...

CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION - Saturday at 5.30 - 5.55 pm

Mass Times for the Coming Week (18th week in Ordinary Time) [Psalter Week 2]

Mon.	10.00 am	Gladys Pointer - Feria
Tues.	No Mass today	- St John Mary Vianney
	7.30 pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group – in Emmaus Room
Weds.	10.00 am	- Feria
Thurs.	10.00 am	- Feast of The Transfiguration of the Lord
Fri.	10.00 am	Paul & Celia Goodstadt – Feria
Sat.	10.30 am	- St Dominic
	6.00 pm	- 19 th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Parish Newsletter is available to view on the parish website [<http://www.sacredheartdereham.org.uk>] from Friday onward each week; back copies can also be viewed on the website.

Anniversaries this week: Joanna Sokalska, Harrington Garrett, Jack Filby, Iris Reavey, Patrick Thomas Warden, Pope Paul VI, Peggy Pratt, Sybilla Hopkins, Peggy Malone, Agnes Harmer and Andrew Browne. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.*

Money Matters (*O yes, it does!*) – The collection last weekend was £409.57. The retiring collection, Day for Life, was £136.75. Thank you all very much.

Hospital Visits – If you or family members are admitted to the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital and would like a visit from the Roman Catholic Chaplain, please call St John's Cathedral, Norwich (01603 624615). 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 and Fr Michael Teader.

Please remember Fr Bob McCormick in your prayers. He was parish priest of Diss for many years and prior to that he was on the East Anglian Travelling Mission. May he rest in peace.

Feast of the Transfiguration - 6th August

The first and single most important factor in staying motivated is to have a vision. Having a vision gives us a reason to act. As Christ's disciples we might motivate ourselves with a vision of a world without poverty or war ... or simply to improve the life of one other person. The Feast of the Transfiguration invites us to stay motivated as disciples in the belief that we will one day enjoy the place God has prepared for each of us.



St Vincent de Paul Society – The next meeting of the SVP Conference takes place on Wednesday this week (5th August) at 7.30pm in the Emmaus Room. Future meetings will be held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month.

Union Of Catholic Mothers August Meeting - This month's meeting is the UCM's annual garden party, which will be held on Wednesday 19th August at 1pm. Members are asked to check their pigeon holes for invitations and further details.

Preparing the Church for the Weekend – I would appreciate it greatly if those who attend Mass on Friday mornings could open the partition and put out the chairs etc. for the weekend during the Summer holidays. There is no longer an AA meeting on Fridays and Altar Servers and Catechism classes are cancelled until the new school term. Your help would be appreciated very much.

Music in the Mass – With regard to the Mass setting, I think it may be getting close to the point where we could begin learning a new one. The setting I have in mind is: The Belmont Mass by Christopher Walker.

Confirmation – There is clearly a good interest in the Sacrament of Confirmation, so I will begin to take this forward a bit. As yet, there is no date set and no programme organised or a group of candidates formed, but there is interest!

Mike Brookes writes – “This is just a quick note to report that I am finally leaving Dereham on my way to foreign lands: Rome, to go to seminary; and St Mark's parish, Ipswich, where I'll be living between terms and for most of the next few weeks. I am sad to be going, but it's the next stage in a long process, and I'm looking forward optimistically. I travel to Rome with my two fellow first year seminarians on 24th September but will keep in touch via this newsletter.

Once again I want to express my profound thanks for everyone's kindness and good wishes, and for the generosity shown by everyone not only during the last few weeks, but for the whole two years I've lived in this parish. I ask for your prayers, and assure you of mine; I will be taking Dereham with me on my travels, and will remember all of you every day of my time at the Beda College, a journey which I hope I can share with all of you in the months to come.

Our Lady of Walsingham, Pray for us.”

Pope Francis's Prayer Intention for August - Volunteering in Service of the Needy - From “Knit-a-Square.com” a charity that invites us to knit blanket squares for AIDS orphans, to “Habitat For Humanity” a charity that invites us to help build homes in the poorest parts of the world.... there is no shortage of projects for us to give our skills and time in service of the needy. This month Pope Francis invites us to share in his prayer intention: “**That volunteers may give themselves generously to the service of the needy.**”

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Rome: 6th – 10th June 2016 – Bishop Alan is inviting the Diocese to join him on pilgrimage to Rome in the Holy Year of Mercy and to begin our celebrations of the 40th Anniversary of the foundation of our Diocese. Full details and booking forms are available at the back of church or can be obtained from Pilgrimage People who are dealing with the organisation. All enquiries should be directed to Pilgrimage People on 0800 6123423 or email: info@pilgrimagepeople.org.

Bite Size

“I cannot afford to waste my time making money.” (*Louis Agassiz*)