

## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



### **Branching Out**

There's a lot of work to do in today's world. Almost daily, the TV and Radio bring terrible news of atrocities and disasters around the planet. It's easy to feel overwhelmed by all the bad news and to feel powerless to do anything. We do not consider that we can individually instigate change for lots of reasons. We do not feel clever enough, or brave enough or rich enough. In short it's hard to know where to begin and even whether change is possible. The inspirational message in today's gospel is that we can make changes as long as we work together.

We are already familiar with the ethos of trade unions. Trade unions operate on one powerful principal. Individually we can be easily overlooked but together we have the power to bring the whole country to a stand-still and sway governments. If a trade union wanted to promote solidarity and unity, the vine would make an ideal logo. The vine itself is the heart of the union, the part that determines the ethos. The branches do the work of the vine and the fruit they bear is the outcome .... the final result.

Today we are told that with Christ as our vine we can do great things. All too often we become wrapped up in developing our own spirituality, trying to work out what God means to us as an individual ..... striving to find our niche. It's easy to forget that we are part of a huge family of people the biggest union on the planet. With Christ's teaching and pruning, we as a body, have the ability to transform the world by putting faith into action. Our individual responsibility is to look for ways in which we can become part of the overall plan. We don't have to branch out alone; we branch out as a team.

**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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### **3<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2015 – 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

#### **Weekend Masses – Page 264 of Parish Mass Book**

Saturday	6.00 pm	Holy Souls	<i>(Regina Coeli)</i>
Sunday	9.00 am	Holy Souls	
	11.00 am	People of the Parish	<i>(Regina Coeli)</i>

#### **Confession/Reconciliation - Saturday at 5.30 - 5.55 pm**

#### **Weekday Services**

*[Morning Prayer – Psalter Week 1]*

Mon.	10.00 am	Holy Souls - Feast of The English Martyrs
Tues.	No Mass Today	Easter Feria
	7.30 pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group – in Emmaus Room
Weds.	10.00 am	Holy Souls -Easter Feria
Thurs.	10.00 am	Holy Souls -Easter Feria
Fri.	10.00 am	Holy Souls -Easter Feria
Sat.	10.30 am	Holy Souls -Easter Feria
	6.00 pm	Holy Souls - 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

**Anniversaries this week:** Thomas Delahunt, Philomena Hutton, Hubert Barker, Winifred Gaylard, Patrick Charles Coyne, Eileen Barker, Ellen Harding, Tim Lynch, Molly Herbert, Trixie Gibbons and Frederick Dance. *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 £584.65. Priests' Training Fund collection was £317.29, of which £73 was donated in Gift Aid envelopes. The Fund can claim an extra £18.25. Thank you all very much.

**Nepal** – The Disasters Emergency Committee, of which CAFOD is a member, has launched an appeal for help. CAFOD has contacted the Catholic Parishes directly to ask if we would hold a retiring collection this weekend. So there will be a retiring collection this weekend for CAFOD to aid the people in Nepal.

**130 Club March Draw Winners** – Quarterly Prize £25: Robbie Meehan; 1<sup>st</sup> Prize £20: Alf Conwell; 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize £15: Michael Fenton; 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize £10: Maureen Jessup; 4<sup>th</sup> Prize £10: Catherine Todd; 5<sup>th</sup> Prize £10: Peter Duffield.

**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.

**Improvements to The Presbytery** – The front door, the office window and the kitchen/back door have been replaced in double glazing and matching the work which had been done previously. New keys will be needed to gain access. The glass panels in the Presbytery separating my study from the hallway have also been replaced with shatterproof glass. Work on renewing the kitchen will start on 5<sup>th</sup> May.

**Heartfelt congratulations go to Pat and Richard Grout** following their Investiture on Tuesday as Serving Brother and Sister in the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem. This is an Order of Chivalry, by appointment to the Queen. A great honour, and well-deserved after their many (and continuing!) years of service.

**Voting For A 'Good Society'** - Churches Together in England and Ireland have drawn up a vision of a how we might see 'a Good Society in 2020'. We are asked to visualise a future where all citizens have access to enough income to enable them to live with dignity; a future where homes are affordable; a future where young people are valued; a future where carbon emissions are reduced; a future that is just. How would each of us determine a 'good society'? How will that affect how we vote on May 7<sup>th</sup>?

**Remembrance and Reconciliation – May 8th-9<sup>th</sup>** - The Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives during the Second World War (May 8 and May 9) is an annual international day of remembrance designated by the United Nations General Assembly. On this date we are asked to pay tribute to the victims of World War II. It begins on May 8, the anniversary of the date when the World War II Allies accepted the unconditional surrender of the armed forces of Nazi Germany and the end of Adolf Hitler's Third Reich.



**Pope Francis's Prayer Intention for May** - It has been said that the opposite to love is not hate but indifference. At least when we are angry about something we are engaging. Emotions of any kind mean we care. Indifference to the world around us means that we feel nothing, and that we have given up caring.

This month Pope Francis urges us to imagine ourselves into someone else's life. We are asked to feel something for others, because only then will we do something. We are asked to join in Pope Francis' prayer intention for May ".....that, rejecting the culture of indifference, we may care for our neighbours who suffer, especially the sick and the poor."

<b>Bite Size</b>
"None of us is as smart as all of us." <span style="float: right;">Ken Blanchard</span>

**In Eastertide, we recite REGINA COELI in place of 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.