

**GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**The Greater Point**



When we read about Jesus' miracles, two big questions spring to mind. Does Jesus still cure people today? And ... why does Jesus cure some people but not others? Surely with his power he could cure everybody! Jesus behaves unexpectedly in today's gospel. Having cured Simon's mother in law, the whole town turns up at his door eager for miracle cures, and Jesus obliges. This it would seem is his golden opportunity. This is his

chance to have everybody eating out of the palm of his hand. Instead, Jesus gets up early and goes off to a deserted place, and when Simon comes looking for him, Jesus suggests that instead of returning to his newfound fans, that they move on to the next village. This might seem odd to many, but it is to become apparent that curing the sick was not top of Jesus' agenda.

Healing was only part of Jesus' primary ministry to teach. Jesus' healing miracles were signs of his identity and of God's power and compassion. His acts of healing were often to teach the importance of faith and discipleship.

Does Jesus still cure today? Perhaps the question is irrelevant. In asking it, are we missing the greater point? As mere mortals, our health is of paramount importance to us, but is it top of God's agenda? Saint Bernadette made a prayer that we could do well to adopt. She said "Lord, I do not ask that I never be afflicted, but only that you never abandon me in affliction."

**Bitesize** – "Diseases of the soul are more dangerous and more numerous than those of the body." ~ Cicero



**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 Safeguarding - <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/safeguarding/>  
 Diocesan Website: <http://www.rcdea.org.uk>  
 Notre Dame High School, Norwich: <http://www.ndhs.org.uk>  
 Daily liturgy website: [www.universalis.com](http://www.universalis.com)

**PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART AND ST MARGARET MARY**

[Reg. Charity 278742]

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**FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

<b>Sunday Masses</b> [Parish Mass Book p134]		<b>Intentions</b>
Saturday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb.	6.00 pm	Vincent & Jean Coleman
Sunday, 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	9.00 am	Una & Paul Morris
	11.00 am	People of the Parish

**Music for Sunday Masses** - *Setting: New People's Mass & Memorial Acclamation 1*  
**Entry:** 6pm – *Angelus (said)*. Hymn 302 – Breathe on me, Breath of God ...  
**Offertory:** Hymn 881 – God of day and God of darkness ...  
**Psalm Response:** (11am sung) - *Praise the Lord, who heals the broken hearted*  
**Communion:** *Instrumental Interlude/Sacred silence ...*  
**Recessional:** 11am – *Angelus (said)*. Hymn 779 – O God, you search me and you know me ...

**Confession/Reconciliation: Saturday at 5.30pm - or by request/appointment**

<b>Weekday Masses:</b> [5 <sup>th</sup> week of year - Psalter Week 1]			<b>Intentions</b>
Mon.	10.00 am	St Agatha	Donor's Int.
Tues.	<b>No Mass today</b>	St Paul Miki & Comps.	
Weds.	10.00 am	Feria	Hilary Fielding
Thurs.	10.00 am	Feria	Anne McCormack
Fri.	10.00 am	Feria	Donor's Int.
Sat.	<b>No morning Mass</b>	St Scholastica	
	6.00 pm	6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ord. Time	Donor's Int.

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

**Anniversaries this week:** Bernard O’Shea, Doris Marie (Babs) Dyer, Lynes Smith, Marian Longhorn, George Howell, Brenda Secker, Joan Rooney, Ralph Keatley, Madeline Stanley, Molly Sayer, Colin Halstead, Maria Rupp, William Green. *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, Rita Smith, Eileen Brockleby, Kathleen (Jenny) Rudd, Ellen Flood, Margaret Leggett, Peter Brown, Robert Anderson, Carole Whitesides, Janet Yardley, Josie Myhill, Mary Cawley, Ken Summerford, Patrick McKenna, Anna Thompkins and Andre Hansen.

**Money Matters** – The collection last weekend for the day to day maintenance of our parish came to £495.07 and the retiring collection for Racial Justice Sunday came to £136.70. Thank you for your generosity.

Diary Dates for this week –		
Mon. 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	2.00 pm	Mother Teresa’s monthly knitting group meets in the Emmaus Room. New members always welcome.
Tues. 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	7.30 pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group, in Emmaus Room
Weds. 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	11.00 am	UCM meeting in Emmaus Room
Sat. 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb.		<b>Saturday Club is on half-term holiday.</b> Meetings resume on Saturday, 24 <sup>th</sup> February. <i>Please note there is no Saturday morning Mass during half-term.</i>

**Foundation Masses** - We currently have 25 foundation Mass each year. These yield a stipend of £3.00 each which is credited to our Diocesan Account each year as £75.00. All of the Foundation Masses at Sacred Heart are fairly recently established and we do not have any going back into the 'mists of time'. The Diocese has asked me to explain that as long as there is some income generated from Foundation Masses, then the Masses will be celebrated but where there is no income then the Mass intentions may be grouped together or celebrated *ex caritate*, i.e. without a stipend. We are not at that stage, but it may happen in the not too distant future.

**Celebration of Our Lady of Lourdes, 17<sup>th</sup> February** – The annual Diocesan celebration of Our Lady of Lourdes will be taking place on Saturday, 17h February at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist, Norwich. Solemn Mass at 11.30 a.m. with Anointing of the Sick.

**Open Parish Meeting** - It is on the horizon, but no date will be fixed until the next Finance Committee meeting when the accounts will be signed off and returned to the Diocese. Would Group and Committee leaders and all who made a Report to the Parish, please do so again this year. It is of great benefit to see in black and white all the work that goes on quietly at Sacred Heart and St. Margaret Mary. I sent a copy of last year’s report to Bishop Alan and he replied that he was delighted to see how vibrant we are here.

**UCM Cake & Produce Stall** – An appeal to all UCM members and other generous souls for cakes, jams and other produce to be sold on our stall on the weekend of 10<sup>th</sup> / 11<sup>th</sup> February after all Masses. The proceeds of this sale will go to charity. A member of the UCM will be in the church from 5pm on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February to receive any donations, or you can just bring them before the Mass you attend. Many thanks, in advance, for your kind generosity.

**40 Days for Life** – Can you spare an hour a week over Lent to participate in prayer and silent witness as part of a *40 Days for Life* campaign in Norwich? This international initiative, which began 20 years ago as a means of peacefully calling for an end to abortion and offering a presence for mothers who feel they have no other option, is now being hosted for the first time in our diocese of East Anglia, with Bishop Alan’s blessing and support. The Lenten vigil will be held outside the BPAS clinic on Bowthorpe Road during the clinic’s opening hours from 14<sup>th</sup> February to 25<sup>th</sup> March. Contact Katy Griffin at [katymariegriffin@gmail.com](mailto:katymariegriffin@gmail.com) if you would like to help out and sign up on the rota, either for a weekly slot or as a one-off (there will never be less than two people there at a time). To find out more about this worldwide campaign, visit [www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com)

**Diocesan Charismatic Renewal Day, 24<sup>th</sup> February** – You are warmly invited to a Day of Renewal on Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> February, led by Gary Stephens, BDiv, full-time Catholic Lay Evangelist. The day includes Holy Mass, prayer ministry and Reconciliation and is at Bowthorpe Church Centre, Norwich NR5 9AA. Drinks provided. Bring a packed lunch. For more details see the poster or contact Philip on 07910157584.

<i>The Angelus</i>	
V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.	<b>R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.</b>
<i>Hail Mary ...</i>	
V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.	<b>R. Be it done unto me according to thy Word.</b>
<i>Hail Mary ...</i>	
V. And the Word was made Flesh.	<b>R. And dwelt among us. Hail Mary ...</b>
V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.	<b>R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.</b>
LET US PRAY: <b>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</b>	