

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Living Temples - Once a year at Passover, Jews visited the Temple and offered a sacrifice to God. At this time of year, the number of visitors to Jerusalem swelled and the moneylenders, with their eye to business, took to operating a scam. When visitors came to the Temple they were able to purchase animals or doves to offer as sacrifices. Because the Jews considered Roman coinage bearing Caesar's head as idolatrous, they were given the opportunity to exchange their Roman coins for Temple coinage. The idea was originally a good one, but the moneylenders were operating an unfair exchange rate for over-priced animals. What had started out as a good idea had turned into an abuse - and this in God's name! Was it any wonder that Jesus was so angry?



To see Jesus angry enough to take a whip and drive out the villainous traders might surprise us. We are brought up with a vision of a Jesus as both meek and mild. In our modern times, where disputes have to be settled over a table and those who display temper are sent off for anger management counselling, the story might even make us raise a disapproving eyebrow. But what this story makes us realise is that there are situations that warrant our righteous anger. Jesus simply could not tolerate injustice, and neither should we.

What injustices do we need to drive out of our society today? We don't have to look far. How can we claim to be Christians yet settle for injustices that Jesus would not have settled for? Can we really sit back and allow rich countries to profit greedily at the expense of poor countries? Can we really condone the unfair distribution of our planet's resources just for our own convenience? Can we continue to let governments ride roughshod over those who cannot speak up for themselves?

What has to be driven out of our lives and communities because instead of bringing us closer to God they prevent us from meeting him? Today's story is not about protecting a sacred building. God after all does not live in a building. Each of us is a living temple. God lives through us.



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

PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART AND ST MARGARET MARY

[Reg. Charity 278742]

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Parish Safeguarding Representative: Kathleen Edmunds –

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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Sunday Masses [<i>Parish Mass Book p154</i>]		Intentions
Saturday,	6.00 pm	Donor's Int.
Sunday,	9.00 am	Margaret Leggatt
	11.00 am	People of the Parish

Music for Sunday Masses - *Setting: Belmont Mass, incl. Memorial Acclamation 1*

Entry: 6pm – *Angelus (said)*. Hymn 204 – Lord Jesus, think on me ...

Offertory: Hymn 934 – Dear Lord and Father of mankind ...

Psalm Response: (11am sung) - *You have the message of eternal life, O Lord*

Gospel Acclamation: Hymn 184 – *Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!*

Recessional: 11am – *Angelus (said)*. Hymn 830 – The Church's one foundation ...

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

Weekday Masses [3 rd week of Lent - Psalter Week 3]			Intentions
Mon.	No Mass today	Lent Feria	
Tues.	No Mass today	Lent Feria	
Weds.	10.00 am	Lent Feria	Gerard Fagg
Thurs.	10.00 am	St Felix	Margaret Kirk (Tinney)
Fri.	10.00 am	Lent Feria	Donor's Int.
Sat.	10.30 am	Lent Feria	Donor's Int.
	6.00 pm	4 th Sunday of Lent (<i>Lætare Sunday</i>)	Donor's Int.

Anniversaries this week: Thomas Arbuthnot, Billey Reavey, Thomas Donaghue, John

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

Gaylard, Ernest B. Shaw, Esther Rawe, Robert Patrick, Kenneth Gaylard, Elizabeth Mary O'Donnell, Roy Smith, Michael John Irvine Barty and Henry Durham. *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: David Peek, Robert Nicol, Shirley Liebenhals, Sarah Chaudri, Anne & Derek Williams, Rita Smith, Eileen Brockleby, Kathleen (Jenny) Rudd, Ellen Flood, Margaret Leggett, Robert Anderson, Carole Whitesides, Janet Yardley, Mary Cawley, Ken Summerford, Patrick McKenna, Anna Thompkins, Andre Kanssen and Joan Wells.

Money Matters – The collection last weekend for the maintenance of our parish amounted to £501.23 and the CAFOD Family Fast Day collection amounted to £524.21. Thank you very much for your generosity.

CAFOD Thank You – Thank you so much for supporting CAFOD Family Fast Day to help end hunger and poverty around the world. Your donation of £524.21 will be doubled by the UK Government, meaning a total of £1048.42 has been raised so more of our brothers and sisters can live lives free from hunger. Thank you! Thank you for fasting in solidarity, and please keep our brothers and sisters in your prayers throughout Lent.

Diary Dates for this week –		
Mon. 5 th March	2.00 pm	Parish knitting group meets in Emmaus Room. Come and join us for a sociable knit and natter.
Tues. 6 th March	7.30 pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group, in Emmaus Room
Weds. 7 th March	12.30 pm	SVP Conference meeting, in Emmaus Room (<i>postponed from last week</i>).
Weds. 7 th March	7.30 pm	Parish Fabric Committee meets in Emmaus Room
Fri. 9 th March	10.30 am	SVP Coffee Morning (<i>postponed from last week</i>). All welcome.
Fri. 9 th March	7.15 pm – 8.15 pm	Altar Servers meet in Emmaus Room
Sat. 10 th March	11.00am	Saturday Club meets, in Emmaus Room

Please note that there will not be a Mass on Monday as I am going to a Day of Recollection for clergy at Poringland.

Women's World Day of Prayer Events – The two local events for Women's World Day of Prayer that were postponed on Friday due to the bad weather, will now take place

on **Friday, 9th March at 2.00pm** at Salvation Army Hall, Dereham and Mattishall Parish Church.

Dereham Churches Together invite you to the next Praise, Prayer and Fellowship Evening hosted by Trinity Methodist Church, Theatre Street, Dereham on **Tuesday, 6th March at 7.30pm**. Everyone welcome.

Chrism Mass on March 27th – The list is now at the back of the church. There are 49 seats available.

Parish Open Meeting – The date for this has been set for **Sunday, 15th April** following the 11.00 am Mass. I would like to follow the usual format of Midday Prayer, lunch and then the meeting. I would be grateful if all groups in the parish could now prepare their written reports to be distributed at the meeting. The Financial Returns for last year have now been sent to the Diocesan Finance Office. Items for the agenda can be sent to me by email. Thank you.

Letter from our Rome Correspondent – “Lenten greetings from the eternal city, which is currently in the grip of the first snowfall for several years – which being so, the authorities seem less than well-prepared, and schools, public transport and most businesses are closed. The Pontifical Bede College, however, continues to function, and we are getting to grips with our second semester and the new round of academic, liturgical and pastoral responsibilities that this brings. Because of our hoped-for upcoming diaconal ordinations this June, my year was recently on retreat at a convent in Bagnoregio in the north of the country. We spent eight days in silence under the direction of a priest from Birmingham Archdiocese, whose previous appointments included time as spiritual director at the Venerable English College in Rome, and it was a very privileged opportunity to reflect on the step that we all wish to take in just a few months' time. A retreat of this kind before ordination is a requirement under Church law, but I was mindful of how many people would benefit from such an experience but are unable to do so because of the costs and family commitments; once again I am very aware of how fortunate I am to be supported by the diocese in my ongoing formation journey. Thank you to everyone for your prayers and good wishes, and I look forward to seeing you in the summer. May Lent be a blessed time and lead you into the joys of the Easter season. My prayers are for you and with you every day. ~ *In Christ, Mike Brookes*”.

Lent Talks on BBC Radio 4 - Every year, to mark the Christian season of Lent, Radio 4 invites contributors to offer a personal take on an aspect of the Passion story. Tune in on Wednesday evening at 8.45 pm or early Sunday morning at 5.45 am, or catch it again on iPlayer.

Bite Size – “Ability is what you're capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it.” ~ *Lou Holtz*