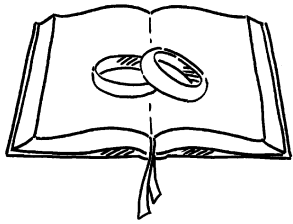


GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



To Love and To Cherish

It's easy to make promises in the first flush of romance. "I'll love you forever" and "I've only eyes for you," trip off the tongue easily. When we're young the idea of marriage is romantic and highly desirable. The vows we make when we marry don't seem too difficult. In sickness and in health? We don't imagine that our spouse might become an alcoholic or succumb to a disability. For richer or poorer?

We don't think that our partner will lose his or her job or become swallowed up in bad debt. For better or worse? We don't think for a moment that our loved ones will fall out of love with us and look elsewhere. So what happens when things go wrong? Does God really expect us to stay in abusive or loveless marriages?

This week's gospel text is one of the most heatedly debated passages in scriptures. "What God has joined together, no human being must separate." These are tough words for those who cannot make their marriage work. Yet the gospel is more about the hardness in man's heart than an instruction on marriage and divorce. At the time Jesus spoke these words divorce was permitted. It was a man's prerogative to 'dismiss' his wife for little reason. The wife was very much a disposable possession. It was this attitude that Jesus abhors in his answer to the Pharisees. In a world where marriage was taken lightly because divorce was managed easily, Jesus condemned the hardness in men's hearts and called them to look at God's plan that from the beginning of creation male and female should become one.

Of course we don't hold the same attitudes today, or do we? Sadly the answer is yes. We are surrounded by quick fix relationships, couples that only stay together while the going is good; couples that promise nothing and make no commitment; couples that are in it only for what they can get.

Marriages fail for all sorts of reasons, not always anyone's fault - this is a reality. It is hard to imagine that God would want us to stay in a marriage where we were the subject of abuse or real misery, but what we know for sure is that we shouldn't enter into the sacrament of marriage with the attitude that it is simply a contract with a let out clause if things go wrong. We enter marriage believing it to be a relationship in which we can love and cherish.

**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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Diocesan Website: <http://www.rcdea.org.uk>

Notre Dame High School, Norwich Website: <http://www.ndhs.org.uk>

4 OCTOBER 2015 – 27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Weekend Masses – Page 140 of Parish Mass Book

Saturday	6.00 pm	Donor's Intention
Sunday	9.00 am	Bernadette Buxton (Tinney)
	11.00 am	People of the Parish

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

Processional 6pm – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 795: I heard the voice of Jesus say ...

Offertory Hymn 603: Blest are you, Lord, God of all creation ...

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

Recessional 11am – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 952: You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord..

CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION - Saturday at 5.30 - 5.55 pm

Mass Times for the Coming Week (27th week in Ordinary Time)

[Psalter Week 3]

Mon.	10.00 am	Donor's Intention - Feria
Tues.	No Mass today	- Feria
	7.30 pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group – in Emmaus Room
Weds.	10.00 am	Osyth Hawke - Our Lady of the Rosary
Thurs.	10.00 am	John Merrick - Feria
Fri.	10.00 am	Thanksgiving (Nicol) - Feria
Sat.	No morning Mass	10am – 3pm Day for Silent Prayer - Feria
	6.00 pm	Fred & Joan Faulkner - 28 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: Reginald Rayner, Richard Hayter, Josepha Hart, Maud Juby, John Pearson, Sheila Flanagan and Joe Stasiorowski. *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 or Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, King's Lynn, 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, Fr Michael Teader, Joan Blakiston, Sylvia Remmen, David Peek, Michael Reavey, Sheila Christie, Robert Nicol, Doreen Kanssen, Shirley Liebenhals, Sarah Chaudri, Ann & Derek Williams, David & Anna Thompkins, Michelle Smith and Rhonda Darby.

Money Matters – The collection last weekend was £424.26. Thank you very much. Today there is the retiring collection for the CAFOD Harvest Fast Day. The UCM cake stall last weekend raised £99.25 for UCM charities.

Diary Dates for this week –

- Weds. 7 Oct – SVP meets – 7.30pm in Emmaus Room
- Sat. 10 Oct – Day of Prayer with Magdalen – 10am – 3pm (bring a packed lunch)
- Please note there will not be a morning Mass on Saturday 10th.
- There is also no Saturday Club this week because of the Prayer Day

Day for Silent Prayer – The day on silent prayer promises to be very helpful. I have had Magdalen work with me before on this in my previous parish. It helps people to be comfortable in silence and to discover and enjoy the presence of God. It also works very well on an ecumenical basis too, as Christians can always pray together.



Rosary Sunday – 4th October - Rosary Sunday will be celebrated in parishes across the world on Sunday 4th October 2015, because this is the Sunday closest to the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary (7th October) . Rosary Sunday is an invitation to everyone everywhere to pray the Rosary for peace.

October, Month of the Rosary - Pope Benedict XVI in an address at the Basilica of St. Mary Major where he prayed the rosary with the faithful said: "Today, together we confirm that the Holy Rosary is not a pious practice banished to the past, like prayers of other times thought of with nostalgia. Instead, the Rosary is experiencing a new Springtime. Without a doubt, this is one of the most eloquent signs of love that the young generation nourish for Jesus and his Mother, Mary. In the current world, so dispersive, this prayer helps to put Christ at the centre, as the Virgin did, who meditated within all that



was said about her Son, and also what he did and said."

Diocese of East Anglia Learning Together 2015 - Saturday 24 October - 11:00 to 15:00 - The Justice & Peace Commission invites you to a Day of reflections on Laudato Si', the Encyclical Letter of Pope Francis on Care for Our Common Home. The day will be led by Henry Longbottom SJ, a former environmental lawyer studying for the priesthood. He is keen to connect spirituality with advocacy for the natural environment . (see <http://greenjesuit.org/>). **Venue: In the parish hall of St Mary's Church, 322 Woodbridge Road, IPSWICH IP4 4BD.** (Tea/coffee served from 10:30, please bring packed lunch). Car parking available. **Contact:** Bernard Shaw bshaw98@yahoo.co.uk - See the poster at the back of Church.

Could you become a Town Pastor or a Prayer Pastor? - Dereham Town Pastors is currently seeking local Christians to become Town Pastors and Prayer Pastors. Are you over 18 and part of a local church? If so, we need you **NOW!!** - In Dereham patrols will go out on Friday afternoons and/or evenings, concentrating on helping youngsters aged 11 to 19, listening to their cares and concerns and responding accordingly. We need volunteers for street patrols to begin a training programme in late November which would continue in January and February. Town Pastors out on patrol are always supported by the prayer team, some of whom pray together at Trinity Methodist Church in Dereham, while others pray at home. Prayer Pastors would only need to attend the prayer training session due to be held in early February. **Is this for you? If so, take that first step** and telephone the Dereham Town Pastor Administrator, Tricia Waller on 01362 694129 or 07941 492020, email her at admin@derehamtownpastors.org.uk or visit our website: www.derehamtownpastors.org.uk

Bite Size

"You can awaken each day to obligations you never chose — or you can decide now to choose them." *(Robert Brault)*

'Coming Home'

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.