

**GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

**The First Stone**



It's a sad fact of life, if you do something good, it isn't remembered for very long. You are only as good as your last good deed. But if you do something bad, there will be those who insist on never forgetting it. There will always be those who mutter, "Oh that's 'so and so' the one who had the affair." "That Mr. Thingymajig, the one who embezzled

the company funds." It's a very sad human failing. We are loathe to let the failings of others go.

In today's gospel reading the Scribes and Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught committing adultery. According to the Law of Moses such a woman should be stoned. What has Jesus to say on the matter? As ever, The Scribes and Pharisees are seeking to trap Jesus into giving an answer that is unlawful. Jesus however is great at not falling into traps. "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone," he replies.

When we have made a mistake in life, the last thing we need is condemnation. Condemnation is rarely useful. Condemnation sends us to a dark place where we fester. Denied our second chance, our self-esteem is eroded. We begin to see ourselves in a different light. Other people think we are bad or weak so perhaps we are. Our self-image spirals downwards, we start to behave the way people expect us to behave.... badly! But the people, who have pointed the finger of blame; are they really in any position to judge?

We are extraordinarily quick to throw the first stone. Our powers of empathy are limited. Perhaps we enjoy moral outrage. Perhaps we enjoy gossiping at someone else's expense. Today we are challenged. The next time we open our mouths to condemn, we are asked to find mercy instead, the same mercy we expect when we have fallen from grace.

**Bitesize** - "If someone were to pay you ten cents for every kind word you said about people and collect five cents for every unkind word, would you be rich or poor?"  
 ~ Author unknown, quoted by Jacob M. Braude



**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**  
**[Registered Charity 278742]**

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**7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2019 – 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT – Year C**

[5<sup>th</sup> Week of Lent, Weekday Year I, Psalter Week 1]

Mass Times for the Week			Intentions
Sat. 6 <sup>th</sup> Apr.	6.00 pm	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent [Parish Mass Book p176]	Special Int. Bob Shutt (Perkins) The People of the Parish
Sun. 7 <sup>th</sup> Apr.	9.00 am 11.00 am		
Mon. 8 <sup>th</sup> Apr.	10.00 am	Lent Feria	Bob Shutt (Wilkes)
Tues. 9 <sup>th</sup> Apr.	-	Lent Feria	<b>No Mass today</b>
Weds. 10 <sup>th</sup> Apr.	-	Lent Feria	<b>No Mass today</b>
	10.30 am	Stations of the Cross (Led by UCM)	
Thurs. 11 <sup>th</sup> Apr.	10.00 am	Lent Feria	Bob Shutt (Mealy)
Fri. 12 <sup>th</sup> Apr.	10.00 am	Lent Feria	Bob Shutt (Todd)
	7.15 pm	Stations of the Cross (Led by Altar Servers)	
Sat. 13 <sup>th</sup> Apr.	6.00 pm	PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD	Jack Smith The People of the Parish Joao Lobo & Thanks (Moniz)
Sun. 14 <sup>th</sup> Apr.	9.00 am 11.00 am		

**Music for 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent – Setting: Belmont Mass (incl. Mem. Acclam. 2)**  
**Entry:** 6pm – Angelus (said); Hymn 887 – God, whose almighty Word ...  
**Psalm:** (11am sung) *R.*: *What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed, we were glad.*  
**Offertory:** Hymn 201 – When Satan speaks in angel tones ...  
**Recessional:** 11am – Angelus (said); Hymn 881 – God of day and God of darkness ...

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

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

**Anniversaries this week:** James Juby, Patrick Joseph Mullally, Consuelo Murphy, Ted Clark, Tom Brady, Cyril Byrne, Brigid Mary Murphy and Daniel Creamer. *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, King's Lynn (QEII), 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 call the NNUH Hospital Chaplaincy direct on 01603 287470 for people needing urgent spiritual attention, or for visits to QEII Hospital, call Fr. Peter Rollings on 01553 772220. If you would like to receive the Sacrament or Anointing of the sick before going to hospital, please contact Fr. Brendan on 01362 694066.

**Sick & Housebound [with GDPR Permissions] – Please pray for:** David Peek, Janet Yardley, Jenny Rudd, Peter Gormans, Sarah Chaudri, Rita Smith, Carol Whitesides, Catherine (Kay) Garrard, Robert Nicol, Eileen Brocklesby, Neville Hibberd, Shirley Liebenhals and Brenda May.

**Money Matters:** Thank you for your offering of £525.35 last weekend for the day-to-day maintenance of our parish. Thank you also for your very generous collection for CAFOD for the victims of Cyclone Idai in Africa, which amounted to £506.49. A cheque for this amount has been sent to CAFOD.

Diary Dates for this week -		
Tues. 9 <sup>th</sup> Apr.	7.30pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group - Emmaus Room
Weds. 10 <sup>th</sup> Apr.	11.00am	UCM meeting – Emmaus Room
Weds. 10 <sup>th</sup> Apr.	6.30pm	Music selection & practice – Presbytery & Church. All volunteers welcome to sing or play.
Sat. 13 <sup>th</sup> Apr.	Saturday Club is on Easter Holidays – classes resume 27 <sup>th</sup> April.	

**Please note** that on Tuesday/Wednesday this week, I will be at Clare Priory for the Ministry to Priests' Programme.

**Stations of the Cross** – There are two opportunities to attend Stations of the Cross this week. On Wednesday morning at 10.30 am, members of the Union of Catholic Mothers will lead the Stations, prior to their meeting at 11.00am, and on Friday evening at 7.15 pm, the Stations will be led by the Altar Servers, to which all are invited.

**Palm Sunday** – Please note that on Palm Sunday we will begin Mass with the blessing of Palm Crosses at the back of the church at 6.00pm and 9.00am and at 11.00am the blessing will take place in the garden, weather permitting.

**Thank You.** On behalf of my family I'd like to say how much we have appreciated all the love, support and best wishes that were shown towards us throughout this difficult time. Please don't underestimate how much your prayers and kindness, along with the Masses that have been said for Bob, gave us comfort in knowing how much he was loved. Thank you all once again. You will all be in our prayers. Mary Shutt.

**Holy Week Services:**

- **Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> April, Chrism Mass at St John's Cathedral at 7.00pm.** Our coach departs at 5.00pm.
- **Maundy Thursday:** Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.30pm with watching at the Altar of Repose until midnight.
- **Good Friday:** Children's Stations of the Cross at 10.30am  
Solemn Liturgy of the Passion at 3.00pm.
- **Holy Saturday:** Easter Vigil Mass at 8.30pm.
- **Easter Sunday:** Mass at 9.00am and 11.00am.

**Church Cleaning Rota** – Due to changes of volunteers, it has been necessary to produce a new rota for church cleaning. Could members please collect their copy from the letter rack in the porch.

**Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse: 12th April 2019** - The Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors (PCPM) has highlighted the importance of prayer and suggested to Pope Francis that the worldwide Catholic Church should join together in a day of prayer. The Holy Father has welcomed this initiative. In the Cycle of Prayer for England and Wales, this day is marked every year on the Friday of the fifth week of Lent. On this day the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales is encouraging the Catholic community to take part in a day of prayer for survivors of sexual abuse.

**Pope Francis' Prayer Intention: April 2019** - This month we are asked to join in Pope Francis' prayer intention, *'...For doctors and their humanitarian collaborators in war zones, who risk their lives to save the lives of others.'* We are asked to pray for those medical professionals and humanitarian workers do, every day, in the words of this month's Intention, "risk their lives to save the lives of others"; if they don't, who will? Our first prayer is in thanksgiving that there are heroic people prepared to do this. Mindful that our prayers must be more than mere empty words, we also look to what action we might take.

**EU Settlement Scheme** - In light of the very large proportion of EU citizens who are Catholic and attached to our parishes, it is a good time to highlight further details about the Settlement Scheme for EU/EEA citizens who wish to remain in the UK after Brexit. The Settlement Scheme is now due to open. All the details and links to the application process can now be found at: [www.gov.uk/eusetledstatus](http://www.gov.uk/eusetledstatus). The European Commission has launched a dedicated website at [www.eurights.uk](http://www.eurights.uk).

**Lent Prayer:** We pray for all people who are excluded, stigmatised or ignored, that they may be made to feel welcome and able to participate in society. May our eyes be opened to the dignity of every person, created and loved by God. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

**Lenten Alms Box** - There will be a box at the back of the church throughout Lent to receive your Lenten Alms. This year the proceeds from across the Diocese will be divided equally between Aid to the Church in Need and The Cambridge Nazareth Trust.

