

## Gospel Reflection for the Third Sunday of Lent Hitting Hypocrisy Where It Hurts



Imagine the scene. Jesus makes a whip and drives the money changers from the temple. Everywhere sheep and cattle are careering out of control. Doves are flapping up to the rafters.... coins and feathers everywhere and the money changers in an uproar. Jesus makes things clear. "Stop making my Father's house a market place!" Do we feel an element of discomfort. How many parishes use the back of church to raise funds? How

often do we stand at the back of church selling raffle tickets? How many years have we invited donations for votive candles, or sold newspapers, books, rosary beads, cards and statues? If Jesus walked in today, would he tip over our collecting boxes and reprimand us?

Perhaps before we answer this question we need to understand the context of today's reading. In Jesus' day it was expected that visitors to the temple should present a sacrifice, and for that purpose, the temple officials made it easy to purchase cattle and turtle doves. The second practical consideration was that because the Roman coinage was considered idolatrous by the Jews, the temple permitted money changers to exchange roman coins for tokens. The original system was not a bad idea, but it became corrupt. It was all too easy for the price of doves to become extortionate, and the exchange rate for tokens to come down on the side of the money changers. Soon it was the case that something that had originally been intended to oil the practicalities of worship in itself cheated would-be worshippers, especially those with little money. Jesus had a passion for exposing hypocrisy, and this was hypocrisy at its worst.

Jesus probably would not have a problem with us using the back of church for selling newspapers or raising funds. At the end of the day it isn't buildings of worship in themselves that are of the greater importance, but what lies in our hearts and in our intentions. Our bodies are the real temples. Jesus challenged impurity at its roots, and the root of all impurity is wherever we have a thought or an idea that lacks integrity or smacks of hypocrisy.

**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 DEREHAM, NORFOLK

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### 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2015 : THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

#### Weekend Masses – Page 154 of Parish Mass Book

Saturday	6.00 pm	Int. Priest's intention	(Angelus)
Sunday	9.00 am	Int. People of the Parish	
	11.00 am	Int. Jackie Wallace	(Angelus)

#### Confession/Reconciliation – 5.30 – 5.55 pm Saturday

#### Weekday Services

Mon.	No Mass today	
Tues.	10.00 am	G. Maguire – Lent Feria
	7.30 pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group in Emmaus room
Weds.	10.00 am	Helen Coyne – Lent Feria
Thurs.	10.00 am	Kath Davis & Family – Lent Feria
Fri.	10.00 am	Lilian Carter – Lent Feria
Sat.	10.30 am	Sidney Carter – Lent Feria
	6.00 pm	Jennie Tumelty – Fourth Sunday of Lent

#### Divine Office – Psalter Week 3

#### Anniversaries this week:

Elizabeth Mary O'Donnell, Roy Smith, Henry Durham, Ronald Jack Heasman, Catherine Honora Hare, Charles Christie, Pauline Fenton, John Le Milliere, Deidre Brewer, Winifred Wake, Fr. John Joseph Ketterer (3rd priest at Dereham) D. Andrews, Peggy Free & Maurice Anthony de Chenu.

*May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.*

**Money Matters** (*O yes, it does!*) – Collection last weekend was £484.70. CAFOD £757.85 of which £445 is claimable for 'Gift Aid'. Thank you very much.

### **130 CLUB - February Draw**

1st Prize - £20: Elaine Wilkes. 2nd Prize - £15: Fiona Richardson. 3rd Prize - £10: Chris Sayer. 4th Prize - £10: Elizabeth Cox. 5th Prize - £10: John Perkins.

**Bishop Alan** was on the phone to me last week and enquiring as to how I am settling in etc. In the course of our conversation we agreed that there would not be a Mass of Induction for me as your Parish Priest. I have fulfilled the requirements of Canon Law and taken the Oath and the Office of Parish Priest officially. However, Bishop Alan would like to come and celebrate Mass with us. I thought that the Feast of the Sacred Heart would be the perfect day as the Feast of the Parish and also it falls this year on the anniversary of my ordination, but he is busy on that day in Cambridge. The suggested alternative would be to celebrate on Monday June 15th at around 6.00 pm. How about Mass of the Sacred Heart followed by 'a-bit-of-a-do in the car park, garden and Emmaus Room ?

### **Parish Logo**

I would value suggestions for a design for a Parish Logo. A line drawing of the statue in the car park might do, but please not Fr. John's. His style is so recognisable! Ideas please. The logo would go on the Newsletter and perhaps parish notepaper etc.

### **Readers**

I would just like to ask you to remember to stay in your place until everyone has sat down before moving to the lectern; also the second reader is asked not to move until the first reader is back in place. I would also like to ask you not to announce: 'The First Reading or The Second Reading or The Gospel Acclamation. The idea is just to insert slight pauses in the liturgy, giving dignity and space to each part.

### **Stations of the Cross**

Deacon Martin has bought some copies of the Stations for private devotion in the church. They are in a box at the back of the church. Please use one and return it when you have finished and try a different version on the next occasion you do the Stations.

### **UCM**

The monthly meeting of the UCM will be held next Wednesday at 2pm in the Emmaus room. Our speaker will be Nikita Periera, who we sponsored last year for the Three Peaks challenge and subsequent visit to Sri Lanka. She will be

talking about her experiences. The UCM warmly welcome visitors and those wishing to find out more about the UCM.

### **Lent Study 2015 - A Lenten Study resource produced by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland - Walking and praying with Christians of the Middle East**

The Christian churches of the Middle East are facing a crisis unparalleled in recent history. As a result of a set of complex religious and political factors, the number of Christians in the region has fallen dramatically as many have sought refuge in other parts of the world, especially the West. However these are ancient communities that trace their origins back to the very beginnings of Christianity. The present conflicts and political instabilities in countries such as Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Israel and the Palestinian Territories have had a profound impact upon these Christian communities. Many Church leaders in the region believe that without a Christian presence, the future of the Middle East looks bleak This Lenten Resource is intended for ecumenical groups, church groups and individuals. It attempts to offer a traditional course that picks up on Lenten themes whilst at the same time praying with Christians of the Middle East. Access the course at [www.ctbi.org.uk/688](http://www.ctbi.org.uk/688)

### **St. John Ogilvie - 11<sup>th</sup> March (1579-1615)**

John lived in an age when neither Catholics nor Protestants were willing to tolerate one another. Turning to Scripture, he found words that enlarged his vision. Although he became a Catholic and died for his faith, he allied himself with believers who embrace Christianity in all its diversity. A saint ahead of his time... a saint who could lead us all in the ecumenical spirit fostered by the Second Vatican Council ... a saint whose example we could all adopt in creating unity between all believers.

### **Lent Talks - BBC Radio Four Wednesday Evenings 8.45pm-9pm**

In the weeks leading up to Easter, a group of well-known people each deliver a Lent Talk, which this year explores the theme of performance.

### **Bitesize**

*"All of us are experts at practising virtue at a distance "*

*Theodore M. Hesburgh*