

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



A Place for Us.

Maybe we feel that if we only had the perfect job in the perfect community, then finally we wouldn't feel so restless. Maybe we feel that if we could meet that perfect partner, then finally we could be ready to settle down. Maybe we feel as though if we could just get the children through to school and into a good university, we could take a well-earned break from life's treadmill. If only we could achieve a certain goal, or settle some old score we could finally obtain peace. It never seems to happen ... it seems to be part of our human condition to be forever restless.

Perhaps we are at our closet to feeling at peace when the day is done and we close our own front door on the world, though even then there's the dog to be fed and the children to be bathed and put to bed. In the gospel reading today, Jesus directly addresses our yearning for peace. "Do not let your hearts be troubled, I go to prepare a place for you...." What a very comforting thought. God has prepared a little corner of heaven especially for us. What will our little corner of heaven be like, and more importantly, how must we find our way there?

In today's gospel, Jesus is preparing his disciples for the time when he will no longer be with them in the flesh. Jesus assures them that although their relationship is changing, it's not ending. The assurance for us all is that through our belief in Jesus, we will find our home with God. "I am the way, and the truth and the life..." Jesus leaves us with the promise that following his teachings is the way to ultimate peace.

Bitesize – "Have courage for the great sorrows of life and patience for the small ones; and when you have laboriously accomplished your daily task, go to sleep in peace. God is awake." ~Victor Hugo, French dramatist, novelist, & poet (1802 - 1885)



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 [Registered Charity 278742]

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10TH MAY 2020 – 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER – Year C

THE CHURCH REMAINS CLOSED AT THIS TIME

Mass Times for the coming week		
5 th Week of Easter, Weekday Year II, Psalter Week 1		
<i>Although celebrated without a congregation, the times of Mass are as follows:</i>		
Sunday, 10th May	11:00 am	5 th Sunday of Easter
Monday, 11th May	12:00 Noon	Easter Feria
Tuesday, 12th May	12:00 Noon	Easter Feria
Wednesday, 13th May	12:00 Noon	Easter Feria
Thursday, 14th May	12:00 Noon	ST MATTHIAS
Friday, 15th May	12:00 Noon	Easter Feria
Saturday, 16th May	12:00 Noon	Easter Feria
Sunday, 17th May	11:00 am	6 th Sunday of Easter

PRAYER OF ST. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN

*May He support us all the day long, till the shades lengthen,
and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed,
and the fever of life is over, and our work is done.
Then in His mercy may He give us a safe lodging,
and a holy rest, and peace at the last.*

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

Anniversaries this week: Eric Atkinson Brown, Ann Dent, Catherine (Kay) Garrard, Margaret Kingsbury, Paul Theocleous, Henry Westcott. *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:** Janet Yardley, Jenny Rudd, Carol Whitesides, Shirley Liebenhals, Frances Saville King, Una McWeeny, Derek Williams, Teresa Kendall, Greta Cummings.

Money Matters: Not a lot to report. Thank you to those of you who continue to support the parish through Standing Orders or Direct Debit and to those who have posted cheques in lieu of the weekly collection. The bank statement for April shows that more went out than came in, but we are still in a financially sound position at the moment. Thank you.

Diary Dates for this week – All parish group meetings are currently suspended while the church remains closed at this time.

Mass Intentions: I am offering Mass each day for the Country, for the Parish, for the staff of the NHS, for the sick, the anxious, the bereaved, and the deceased. Additional prayers are said daily after Mass for all our concerns with regard to the Coronavirus.

Quieter Days - I have become used to a quieter and slower pace of life. Have you noticed how easy it is to hear the birds singing at the moment? Around here they are usually drowned out by the noise of the traffic, the sirens and people going about their daily business. I have 30 minutes of quiet prayer before Mass each day and the birdsong fills the church. It is lovely. You have to be quiet to hear and be quiet to enjoy the presence of God.



CAFOD Emergency Appeal - CAFOD launched its coronavirus emergency appeal on 30 April. The effects of coronavirus on developing countries where CAFOD works are likely to be devastating. Families without enough to eat and without access to clean water and healthcare are particularly vulnerable to coronavirus. The poorest and most marginalised communities will be pushed further into poverty. Your prayers and gifts are needed now more than ever to help protect the lives of those in poor communities. While we are not able to hold physical collections in our church, you can donate as individuals at cafod.org.uk/coronavirusappeal

A People who Hope in Christ: A Message from the Metropolitan Archbishops of the Catholic Church in England and Wales – On the parish website you will find a message from the five Archbishops of England and Wales about the present situation of the Church in the midst of the Covid19 pandemic. It is an important message for us and will give us some hope to see a light at the end of the tunnel we are travelling through at the moment.

Christian Aid Week 10th-16th May: Love never fails. Coronavirus impacts all of us. But love unites us all. As this virus spreads across the world, love rises up in response. Our parishes have already shown incredible kindness to our neighbours. Now is the time to reach out to neighbours both near and far. Our love protects. From storms, from drought, and now from coronavirus. Our love protects our global neighbours battling the spread of this illness. Our love protects. With soap, clean water and medical supplies. By supporting Christian Aid Week, we can reach out and protect more of our neighbours today. To donate online visit www.christianaid.org.uk

The God Who Speaks - Scripture is at the centre of everything the Church does. The word of God shapes our prayer and worship. The Bible shows us how to understand the world, how we are called to live and relate to each other. 2020 is the 10th anniversary of Verbum Domini – Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation on 'The Word of the Lord' and the 1,600 anniversary of St Jerome's death. These dates have inspired the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales to dedicate 2020 as a year of focus on the Bible and 'The God Who Speaks'. Each month there is a different focus. The focus this month is from Ascension to Pentecost. You can download reflections and artwork at www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/the-god-who-speaks/focus/

Living in a Virtual World - This week think about people who are living in isolation but are doubly affected because they do not understand the technology of Zoom or the internet, or are hard of hearing. Writing good old-fashioned letters is an often-forgotten way to keep in touch. You can buy 'virtual stamps' on the Royal Mail site.



In Eastertide, we recite REGINA CÆLI in place of the ANGELUS:

Queen of heaven, rejoice, Alleluia.

For he, whom you did merit to bear, Alleluia.

Has risen as he said, Alleluia.

Pray for us to God, Alleluia.

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, Alleluia.

For the Lord has truly risen, Alleluia.

Let us pray: O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech you, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, his mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.