

**GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



**Why Should God Care for Me?**

It's easy to hear the story of the 'Prodigal Son' from afar. It's easy to disassociate ourselves from the feelings of the younger son and make the same judgments that the older brother reached. The story takes on a totally fresh significance when you imagine yourself in the prodigal son's shoes.

When we are young everything is clear cut. The difference between right and wrong is obvious and the path through life is uncomplicated. Then life begins to test our principles. Poverty encourages us to make poor choices. Fear of failure encourages us to cheat or lie. Depression causes us to eat and drink too much. Desperation leads us to gamble or steal. Pride prevents us from seeking help. Every poor choice takes us further and further away from God. Like the young man in the story we begin to feel as though we are not worthwhile. The young man does not consider that his father will welcome him back as his son. We must have felt the same way at some time or another. We must all have started to pray and then thought, "Why on earth should God listen, why on earth should he care?"

Imagine the joy of learning that God has never given up on us? Imagine the young man's rush of relief and joy at finding that his father had never given up waiting for him to come home. For God, forgiveness is just a part of a love that never gives up.

The 'Lost Sheep', 'The Lost Coin', 'The Lost Son'. Three stories that remind us that no one is worthless or insignificant in God's eyes. God is continually looking to bring us back to him. Today's parables are about wholeness and inclusion in a society seemingly intent on division and exclusion. Today's parables speak to us about the need to be found and carried. Today's parables are about transcending the human instinct to sit in judgement over others and to feel the joy of God the Father's reconciling love.

**Bitesize** - "All men should strive to learn before they die what they are running from, and to, and why." ~James Thurber



**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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**15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019 – 24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year C**  
**HOME MISSION DAY**

[24<sup>th</sup> Week of the Year, Weekday Year I, Psalter Week 4]

Mass Times for the Week			Intentions
Sat. 14 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	6.00 pm	24 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ord. Time <i>[Parish Mass Book p136]</i>	William Murphy The People of the Parish Joao Lobo & Thanksgiving
Sun. 15 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	9.00 am 11.00 am		
Mon. 16 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	10.00 am	SS Cornelius & Cyprian	Paul Morris (Tinney)
Tues. 17 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	-	Feria	<b>No Mass today – PP's day off</b>
Weds. 18 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	<b>1.00 pm</b>	<b>Requiem Mass for Paul Morris</b>	
Thurs. 19 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	10.00 am	Feria	Paul Morris (Pitcher)
Fri. 20 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	10.00 am	SS Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Paul Chong Ha-sang & Companions	Thomas Carolan
Sat. 21 <sup>st</sup> Sept.	6.00 pm	25 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ord. Time	<i>(tba)</i>
Sun. 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept.	9.00 am 11.00 am		The People of the Parish

**Music for 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ord. Time – Setting: New People's Mass (& Mem. Acclam. A)**

**Entry:** 6pm – Angelus (said); Hymn 211 – Our Father, we have wandered ...

**Psalm:** (11am sung) *R.*: I will leave this place and go to my father.

**Offertory:** Hymn 840 – God of mercy and compassion ...

**Recessional:** 11am – Angelus (said); Hymn 853 – Forth in the peace of Christ we go ...

**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:** Paul Hodak, William Goulden, Stewart Aylin, Peter John Bussey and Gerald Reeder. *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, Rita Smith, Carol Whitesides, Robert Nicol, Eileen Brocklesby, Shirley Liebenhals, Catherine Carter, Alf Charlton, Frances Saville King, Una McWeeny, Derek Williams and Philip Clarke.

**Money Matters:** Thank you for your offering of £450.43 last weekend for the day-to-day running of our parish and also for your Monthly offertory donations by Standing Order/Direct Debit for August which amounted to £407. **This weekend,** there is a retiring collection after all Masses for the Home Missions.

**130 Club Draw for August 2019** - 1<sup>st</sup> Prize £20 – Ticket No. 18; 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize £15 – Ticket No. 173; 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize £10 – Ticket No. 170; 4<sup>th</sup> Prize £10 – Ticket No. 55; 5<sup>th</sup> Prize £10 – Ticket No. 132.

Diary Dates for this week -		
Tues. 17 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	7.30pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group - Emmaus Room
Weds. 18 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	6.30pm	Music selection & practice – Presbytery & Church. All volunteers welcome to make a joyful noise to the Lord!
<b>Saturday Club</b> – Classes resume on 28 <sup>th</sup> September. <b>NB.</b> <i>There is no Saturday morning Mass during this time.</i>		

**Home Mission Sunday, 15th September** - Today we celebrate Home Mission Sunday. We are invited to find ourselves in the Gospel story as we accompany the characters who call out, 'Rejoice with me!' These words express the joy of finding something, or someone they had lost. Imagine the joy in your own heart when you see someone you love coming home to Church, because they are seeking, or have found Christ. Occasionally this happens by direct divine intervention, but more often we are called to be the face of Christ, praying for, inviting and welcoming those we love into a relationship with Him. Thankfully we are not alone in this task. The Home Mission Office is a national organisation that helps the local Church engage in the vital mission of Evangelisation. This weekend, they ask for our prayers and our financial support through the second collection. Our prayers help them to be attentive to the Holy Spirit who directs their work, and our donations to the second collection will enable them to help the local Church share the joy of the Gospel throughout England and Wales. In short, the second collection helps them to help us. For more

information about the Home Mission Office or to donate online please visit [www.homemission.org.uk](http://www.homemission.org.uk)

**Holiday** - I will be away from the parish on holiday from Monday, 23rd September until October 3rd. On the Weekend of September 28/29, Mass will be celebrated by Fr. John Warrington. He will not be staying overnight at the presbytery, but with his family in Norwich. I am sure that you will give him the warmest of welcomes.

**First Holy Communion Summer 2020** – Application forms are now available from Fr Brendan or Robbie Meehan for the First Holy Communion classes starting on Saturday, **28<sup>th</sup> September** at 11.00-11.30am, following 10.30am Mass. Children must be in school year 3 or above.

**Confirmation Group 2019** – We will be starting preparation for Confirmation on **11<sup>th</sup> October**. Anyone interested and eligible for Confirmation, please see either Michael King or Fr. Brendan for an application form.

**Vocations Weekend for young women: Theme: Discernment and Vocation: Dates: 29 Nov - 1 Dec 2019: Location: Liverpool** - The weekend is organised by the sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ). There is nothing quite like religious life – it's an extraordinary adventure into a deep relationship with God. If you are wondering if God is calling you to religious life and would like to find out more why not come along? You are welcome to stay for the weekend or just come along on Saturday for the day. There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, chance to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them. For more information contact Sr Lynne FCJ at [lynnefcj@hotmail.com](mailto:lynnefcj@hotmail.com) or visit our website [www.fcjsisters.org](http://www.fcjsisters.org)

**Dereham Foodbank** – The Foodbank continues to be very busy and the team remain very grateful for all the support they receive. In response to requests for information on what goods are needed, current priority needs are: tinned meat, pasta, tinned soup, tinned fruit, biscuits, tinned rice pudding, long life fruit juice, savoury snacks and sweet treats. However, there is still a need for supplies of everything on the standing shopping list, including long life milk, tinned fish, pasta sauce, tinned tomatoes, tea and coffee and jam/spreads. There is also a shortage of larger size nappies (4-6).

The Angelus	
☩. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.	℟. <i>And she conceived of the Holy Spirit. Hail Mary ...</i>
☩. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.	℟. <i>Be it done unto me according to thy word. Hail Mary ...</i>
☩. And the Word was made flesh.	℟. <i>And dwelt among us. Hail Mary ...</i>
☩. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.	℟. <i>That we may be made worth of the promises of Christ.</i>
<b>Let us pray:</b> Pour forth, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ thy Son was made known by the message of an angel may, by his Passion and Cross, be brought to the glory of his Resurrection, through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen.	