

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



The Job's Yours

We've got great plans for our lives. We're going to publish a book travel the world in a camper van, win X Factor or study for a PhD. Forgetting our own agenda to do God's will certainly isn't an appealing alternative. Who in their right mind would choose to work in a soup kitchen if they also had a job offer from Bill Gates? The other problem with doing the job God has planned for us is that it often isn't all that obvious. Some of us have a calling that is screamingly obvious, delivered by angels even. Others have a vocation

that slowly becomes apparent over a number of years, but what if we suspect that God has no job lined up for us at all? Could our apparent lack of vocation mean that we're not really looking for one?

Today's feast is a celebration of Mary's life and her assumption into heaven. Mary is a model of vocation and fidelity, a fidelity that demands self-knowledge courage and sacrifice. For those of us who feel we have no vocation we could learn many lessons by studying Mary's brand of discipleship. Motivation is key. Mary's motivation was to support God's plan. Nothing Mary ever did or said was for her own glory. At the same time there can be few people who could claim to have led a more challenging or rewarding life than Mary's. Similarly, when we make plans it is useful to examine our motivation. God doesn't necessarily want us all to rush off and work in a soup kitchen (there aren't enough soup kitchens!) Nor would God have given us all different talents if he wanted us all to do the same thing. But if our plans are inspired by fame and impossible wealth, then God probably isn't behind the idea! If our plans involve changing the world for the better or improving the quality of someone else's life, the job's yours.

Bite Size

"Wisdom is knowing what to do next; virtue is doing it."

David Star Jordan, The Philosophy of Despair

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

16 AUGUST 2015 – THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Weekend Masses – Page 180 of Parish Mass Book

Saturday	6.00 pm	
Sunday	9.00 am	Norah Ryan
	11.00 am	People of the Parish

Music for Sunday Masses - Setting: Dom Gregory Murray Mass

Processional: 6pm – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 366 – Holy Virgin, by God's decree ...

Offertory: Hymn 610 – Take our bread, we ask you ...

Communion: *Instrumental Interlude at player's discretion*

Recessional: 11am – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 356 – Hail, Queen of heav'n, the ocean star! ..

CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION - Saturday at 5.30 - 5.55 pm

Mass Times for the Coming Week (20th week in Ordinary Time) [Psalter Week 4]

Mon.	10.00 am	William Pritchard - Feria
Tues.	No Mass today	- Feria
	7.30 pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group – in Emmaus Room
Weds.	10.00 am	John Perkins (Mealy) - Feria
Thurs.	10.00 am	John Perkins (Bussey) – St Bernard
Fri.	10.00 am	John Perkins (Harrington) - St Pius X
Sat.	10.30 am	- The Queenship of Mary
	6.00 pm	- 21 st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fdn. = Foundation Mass

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: Mary Porter and Richard Burrows. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.*

Money Matters (*O yes, it does!*) – The collection last weekend was £538.26 and during July £467.00 was given by Standing Order. Thank you all very much.

Lenten Alms – The Diocesan Lenten Alms Retiring Collection takes place today. This collection should have been taken during Lent but was inadvertently missed and needs to be submitted to the Diocese by the end of this month. The proceeds from this collection will go to CENACOLO for the Church's work among young drug addicts and AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED for refugees in Syria and Iraq.

Hospital Visits – If you or family members are admitted to the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital 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, John Fox, Joan Blakiston, Sylvia Remmen, David Peek, Michael Reavey, Sheila Christie, Robert Nicol, Doreen Kanssen, Shirley Liebenhals, Sarah Chaudri, Ann & Derek Williams, David & Anna Thompkins and Michelle Smith.

St Vincent de Paul Society – The next meeting of the SVP takes place on Wednesday, 19th August at 7.30pm in the Emmaus Room.

Dereham 5k Road Race – Sunday 23rd August 9am – 10am – Please be aware that the annual Dereham 5k road race will be taking place next Sunday between 9am and 10am. Some of the roads around the Church will be closed during that time and therefore those of you coming to the 9am Mass that morning by car will need to arrive earlier than usual to avoid any travel disruption. All the road closure details are available online at <http://www.breckland.gov.uk/dereham-5k-2015>.

First Holy Communion - Preparation for First Holy Communion in Summer 2016 will start when schools resume in September for children who will be in year 3 or older in the new school year. Forms are available from Fr Brendan, or Robbie Meehan (Catechist).

Walsingham: Dowry of Mary Pilgrimage – The national Pilgrimage in honour of Our Lady at Walsingham takes place on **Sunday, 6th September 2015**, led by Bishop Alan Hopes, Bishop of East Anglia. See the poster at the back of church for more details.

Repository (Church Shop) – The church shop has a good variety of religious items for sale – missals & bibles, mass cards, First Holy Communion cards and gifts, new baby and birthday cards, rosaries, statues, children's books, candles, etc. Also now in stock – Christmas cards, advent calendars, Nativity sets, and 2016 diaries. All at reasonable prices. The shop is open after weekend Masses and also weekdays on request. Contact Peggy Mealy on 01362 288499 for any help.

Bill to legalise Assisted Suicide – On Friday, 11th September the House of Commons will debate and vote on a Bill to legalise assisted suicide. This will put the most vulnerable people in our society at risk. Please see the notice board at the back of church to view a reply received from our Mid-Norfolk MP, George Freeman, in response to a letter of representation sent by a parishioner. There is still time to submit representations against the Bill to Mr. Freeman in writing to George Freeman MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA or by email to george.freeman.mp@parliament.uk. If you haven't already done so, please pick up a copy of the pro forma letter at the back of church to make representations against the Bill, together with other information sheets about the Bill.

Apostleship of the Sea – The recent Sea Sunday Appeal collection in the parish raised £147.08 for the Apostleship of the Sea (AoS), the Church's official maritime welfare agency which supports seafarers both practically and spiritually. This annual collection is absolutely vital to enable it to continue its work, and a letter of thanks to the parish has been received from Salvina Bartholomeusz, Parish Coordinator for AOS. Salvina writes that: "Your support goes a long way to helping us continue our good work in caring pastorally for the seafarers who come to our shores. The plight for some of these good people can be really heart-breaking. Loneliness is a very big factor as they miss out on family life and children miss seeing their parents for so many months at a time." For more information on the work of AoS please visit www.apostleshipofthesaea.org.uk.



AoS would also welcome receiving any collections of unwanted rosaries, prayer cards and books (but not out of date missals), medals etc. which can be passed on to seafarers in need, who take comfort from them. There will be a box at the back of church to accept any such religious items for AoS. Is there someone who would be willing to volunteer to look after this, please?

Help Save Lives in the Middle East - Sign the Online 'Safe Haven for Christians Petition' - Our support is sought for the Barnabas Fund petition to save the lives of Syrian and Iraqi Christians facing "an existential threat". Find the online petition at www.barnabasfund.org/save-the-christians-petition.