

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



If You Could Choose A Miracle?

If you were in Jesus' shoes and you were about to grab the world's attention with your first miracle, what might that first miracle be? Might you reverse global warming or end poverty? Jesus' first miracle was to turn water into wine at the Wedding of Cana. To many it seems a frivolous kind of miracle something akin to a party trick, but John relates the miracle with good reason.

John's gospel is quite different in character from the other three. It's written in a very symbolic style, and it doesn't follow the same order, or record the same stories as the others. St. John is concerned in showing us signs, which gradually reveal the glory of God through Jesus. The author seems to be mainly interested in the significance of the deeds of Jesus. So what is the significance of this miracle? John writes, "This is written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name." Suddenly confronted with enough wine to swim in, the disciples had no choice but to begin to believe in who Jesus really was. Neither would the symbolism have been lost on the people of the time. It was the people's belief that at the time of salvation God would provide a table for feasting for his servants and a cup that would never run dry. In short, the substance of the sign was of no consequence at all; it was the message the sign conveyed that was all-important.

The symbolism we read in this first miracle speaks of an old religion bogged down with oppressive rules and laws liberated by a new faith governed by love, compassion, joy, generosity, and abundance. Being a Christian is a very serious business, and as Christians we are asked to address life and death issues, but that doesn't mean we should trudge around with long pious faces. Jesus frequently likens the Kingdom of God to a feast, so smile.... the changing of water to wine is a sign of better things to come.

Bite Size

"Some are born who never need them; others still who never read them: signs."

Neil Diamond, Signs, US singer & songwriter (1941 -)

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

PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART AND ST MARGARET MARY [Reg. Charity 278742]

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17TH JANUARY 2016 - 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Peace Day)

Sunday Masses – Page 127 of Parish Mass Book

Saturday	6.00 pm	Donor's Int.
Sunday	9.00 am	Anne Williams
	11.00 am	People of the Parish

Music for Sunday Masses - *Setting: Belmont Mass*

Entry 6pm – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 475 – Here in this place ...

Offertory Hymn 772 – Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us ...

Communion *Instrumental Interlude/Sacred silence ...*

Recessional 11am – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 713 – Sing of the Lord's goodness ...

CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION - Saturday at 5.30 - 5.55 pm

Weekday Mass Times (2nd week in Ordinary Time) [*Psalter Week 2*]

Mon.	10.00 am	Robert McCarthy – Feria (Octave of Christian Unity)
Tues.	No Mass today	- Feria
	7.30 pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group – in Emmaus Room
Weds.	10.00 am	Special Int. (Mealy) - Feria
Thurs.	10.00 am	Jacqui Barber - St Agnes
Fri.	10.00 am	Donor's Int. - Feria
	5.45 pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Silent Prayer
	6.15 pm	Evening Prayer (Vespers)
Sat.	10.30 am	Seabrooke (<i>Fdn*</i>) - Feria
	6.00 pm	Stearman (<i>Fdn*</i>) – 3 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Racial Justice Day)

**Fdn. = Foundation Mass*

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

Anniversaries this week: Lily Rawding, Nell Jones, Stanley Meadows, Frances Kelly, Amy Garvey, Arthur Longhurst, Perpetua Cecine Triggs, Gwen Dawes, Betty McGee and Maisie Aylin. *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 (QEII), King's Lynn, 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 Fr Peter Rollings (01553 772220) for visits to QEII. 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, Joan Blakiston, David Peek, Michael Reavey, Sheila Christie, Robert Nicol, Doreen Kanssen, Shirley Liebenhals, Sarah Chaudri, Anne & Derek Williams, David & Anna Thompkins, Michelle Smith, Rita Smith, Rhonda Darby, Collette Barrow-Nessian, Eileen Brockleby, Pat Howe and Kathleen (Jenny) Rudd.

Money Matters – The collection last weekend was £470.01 and £492.00 was given by Standing Order in December. Thank you all very much. Next Sunday, there will be a retiring collection for the Catholic Association for Racial Justice.

Diary Dates for this week –

- Sat. 23rd Jan – Saturday Club meets - 11.00am in Emmaus Room

First Holy Communion Dates - The Sacrament of Reconciliation for the candidates for First Holy Communion will be celebrated on Saturday, 23rd January. The date for First Holy Communion will be Sunday, 10th July.

Open Parish Meeting - A date? How would Sunday, 14th February, suit people? We have our Parish Finance Committee meeting on the 10th and the accounts will be ready for presentation then. Thanks for the written reports from the SVP, the U.C.M. and items for the agenda such as a Mass in the afternoon for the sick (Sacrament of the sick), a liaison team to communicate with me, and more social events. Please keep your suggestions coming.

Union of Catholic Mothers - Members please note that our next meeting and AGM is on Wednesday, 10th February. As this is also Ash Wednesday, our meeting will be after the 10 o'clock mass and not at our usual time of 2pm. Members might wish to bring a packed lunch.

Diocesan Mass for the Sick – Bishop Alan Hopes invites you to join him in a celebration of our Lady of Lourdes at a Mass for the sick (including the sacrament of anointing) on **Saturday, 6th February 2016 at 12 noon, in St John's Cathedral, Norwich.** Please let me know if there will be any wheelchair bound parishioners attending the Mass so that we can let the Cathedral know.

A day on Mercy - While at Clare this week, I met with Magdalen Houlihan briefly and she told me that she had put together a 'Day on Mercy', drawing on passages from both the

Old and the New Testaments. Magdalen gave the Day on Silent Prayer here last year and gives me priority with regard to her time.. Please let me know what you think.



Peace Sunday - 17th January 2016 - Overcome indifference and win peace - "...We have been heartened by the outpouring of empathy and action that surrounds the current migrant crisis, but unless we combine this with work to stop the causes of war, the global arms trade and our part within it; the billions spent annually on war and war preparations – we will not win peace." (*Most Rev Malcolm McMahon OP*)

Christian Unity Week - 18th- 25th January - The theme of the Week of Prayer 2016 has been chosen by a group of people belonging to different churches in Latvia. God has chosen us not as a privilege, but to fulfil some purpose. Being a holy and priestly people means being at the service of the world. Christians live their baptismal calling and bear witness to God's mighty acts in a variety of ways. Awareness of our common identity in Christ calls us to work towards answering the questions that still divide us as Christians. We are called, like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, to share our experiences and so discover, that in our common pilgrimage, Jesus Christ is among us. Through common social and charitable projects we reach out to the poor, the needy, the addicted and the marginalized.

Faith & Mercy: CYMFED Adult Leaders' Congress - Inviting all adults, especially anyone working with young people, to this exciting event in central London on February 6th. Organised by the Catholic Youth Ministry Federation. See www.cymfed.org.uk for full information. The Diocese will heavily subsidise anyone from East Anglia who would like to go, and also help with transport. Please contact Hamish in the Diocesan Youth Office for more information: dys@east-angliadiocese.org.uk or Tel. 01508 486236.

The Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham - The Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady in England "England's Nazareth" - Job Vacancy - The Trustees of the Walsingham Trust wish to appoint a CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER to run the day-to-day operations of the National Shrine. The person appointed will work with the Rector of the Shrine, Mgr. John Armitage. The Job Description, Person Specification and Application Form are available to download on the Shrine's website www.walsingham.org.uk. Any queries should be addressed in the first instance to Mrs Debbie Jones, either by 'phone: 01328 820217; or Email: rcnationalshrine@walsingham.org.uk, or by post to The Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady, Pilgrim Bureau, Friday Market, Walsingham NR22 6EG. Forms should be returned by post or email by the 29th January 2016.

Pilgrimage in the footsteps of St Paul - Fr Paul Maddison is leading a pilgrimage to Turkey from 3rd to 12th October this year visiting many of the places associated with the life of St Paul. Cost is £1400 sharing a twin room with direct flights from London. For more information or to book a place please call 0800 6123423 or email him on: info@pilgrimagepeople.org before the end of January.