

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD



Spread the Word

“Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.” The scene is set. Jesus is about to ascend into heaven, but first he gives the disciples their all-important commission; to baptise and teach the message Jesus has taught them... to make disciples of all nations. It must have been a staggering thing for eleven humble Galileans to be told.

With the early disciples long gone, it is now up to us to carry the baton. We too are entrusted with the commission to make disciples of all nations. Perhaps we don't feel the commission as acutely because we didn't receive it standing on a mountain talking to Jesus face to face... but nonetheless we have inherited the commission and we have to do something about it.

So where do we begin? How do we go about making disciples of all nations? One thing is for sure; we are not all called to drop our day jobs and rush round the world being missionaries. We are each called in a different ways. Some of us are called as parents to baptise our children and bring them up as Christians. Some of us are called to bring God's love into the lives of those who have lost direction and hope. We are all called to teach by example either in the context of our jobs or in the extra things we do. We are each challenged to work out how best we can carry out Jesus' commission.

Yes the commission is a daunting one, but Jesus makes it clear that his ascension does not mean that he will be absent from our lives. We will always have Jesus' help. “I am with you always,” he promises, “until the end of the age.”

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

Parish Priest: Fr. Brendan Moffatt - email: brendanmoffatt@yahoo.co.uk

Address: The Presbytery, 35 London Road, Dereham NR19 1AS

Telephone: 01362 694066.

Parish website: <http://www.sacredheartdereham.org.uk>

Permanent Deacon: Rev. Martin Sanderson - Tel: 01362 822590
email: dcnmsanderson@hotmail.com

17TH MAY 2015 – THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (World Communications Day)

Weekend Masses – Page 272 of Parish Mass Book

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|----------|----------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Saturday | 6.00 pm | Ann Dent R.I.P. | <i>Regina Coeli</i> |
| Sunday | 9.00 am | People of the Parish | |
| | 11.00 am | Kath Borthwick | <i>(Regina Coeli)</i> |

Confession/Reconciliation - Saturday at 5.30 - 5.55 pm

Mass for the coming week [Morning Prayer – Psalter Week 3]

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| Mon. | No Mass Today | Easter Feria |
| Tues. | No Mass Today | Easter Feria |
| | 7.30 pm | Queen of Peace Prayer Group – in Emmaus Room |
| Weds. | No Mass Today | Easter Feria |
| Thurs. | 10.00 am | Liturgy of the Word & Holy Communion -Easter Feria |
| Fri. | No Mass Today | Easter Feria |
| Sat. | 6.00 pm | Pentecost Sunday |
| Sun. | 9.00 am | Alex Eldred – Pentecost Sunday |
| | 11.00 am | Pentecost Sunday |

Anniversaries this week: Noel Kenneth Daly, Esther Power, Margaret Shelock, William Reavey, Mary & Gerard Ring-Davies, and Michael McErleane.
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 £473.73. There was an additional donation to the Priests' Training Fund of £43. Direct Debits to the parish in April was £479.00 Thank you all very much. There is a retiring collection this weekend for the Catholic Communications Network.

130 Club April Draw - 1st Prize £20, Michelle Smith. 2nd Prize £15, Lesley Hogan. 3rd Prize £10, Amy Tripp. 4th Prize £10, Andrew Cwiczek. 5th Prize £10, Deacon Martin.

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.

Holiday - As you know, I will be away from the parish between the 19 and 27th May visiting my family in Ireland. Fr. Peter Brown has very kindly agreed to supply Mass in the parish on the weekend of the 23rd/24th, Pentecost Sunday. I know you will welcome him. It is a great help to know that I can get away and that supply priests are available. It is good for me to rest for a while and it is good for you to hear a different voice and a different point of view.

Recently Deceased - Please pray for Ann Dent who died recently. The preliminary arrangements for her Requiem Mass are that it should take place when I return from Ireland, but that is not certain yet. Please remember her family in your prayers too.

SVP Recruitment – There will be a short DVD showing the work of the SVP, on Wednesday 27th May at 7.30pm, in the Emmaus room. Anyone who would like to learn more about the SVP, with a view to possibly becoming a member of the present team/Conference, are most welcome to attend. Current members will be present to answer any questions, and the presentation will last no longer than 45 minutes.

Diocesan Newspaper – For anyone who did not get a copy of the latest issue, a copy of the Diocesan newspaper can be accessed on the Diocesan website. There is a link on the home page, or it can be accessed via the following link: <http://www.catholiceastanglia.org/news/index.php?module=news&sheet=front>

World Communications Day 2015 - 17th May - This is the day when Catholics are asked to reflect on the necessity of fulfilling the command of Jesus to preach the Good News of the Gospel to the whole world. This year's theme is "Communicating the Family: A Privileged Place of Encounter with the Gift of Love".

Nepal Appeal - Nepal has been hit by another earthquake and several aftershocks, just over two weeks after a 7.9 magnitude earthquake claimed more than 8,000 lives. Please pray for the people of Nepal. You can continue to make donations online at one of our Catholic aid agencies, CAFOD, Trocaire or SCIAF.

Saint Rita of Cascia - 22nd May - Rita wanted to become a nun but was pressured at a young age into marrying a harsh and cruel man. During their eighteen-year marriage, she raised two sons. After her husband was killed in a brawl and her sons had died, Rita joined the Augustinian nuns in Cascia. St. Rita is well known as a patron of desperate, seemingly impossible causes, abuse victims, and difficult marriages.

Looking Forward to June - The Annual Mission Appeal will take place on the weekend of 6/7th June. Sister Daphne Norden will speak at all Masses that weekend. Also, on June 15th Bishop Alan is coming to celebrate Mass with us. Dare I ask the UCM if they could prepare some refreshments etc for us all after the Mass? I am not quite sure what the drill is here for this kind of thing as we have not had a 'do' here since I arrived. Mass will be 6.30pm (ish).

Bite Size

God sends the dawn that we might see the might-have-beens that still might be.

Robert Brault

In Eastertide, we recite REGINA COELI in place of 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.