

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Calling Upon the Holy Spirit

Why do we keep rules? Probably to avoid penalties, punishment or adverse consequence! Rules are a necessary evil if we are to live in a well-ordered society. Commandments however are different from rules. Commandments are expressions of how we are to love each other. Perhaps we shouldn't need commandments, perhaps we should know how to love each other intuitively, but sadly

it seems we need a little guidance and a lot of help.

In today's section of the gospel known as the 'Farewell Discourse'. Jesus gives his disciples some final assurances. He tells them that although he will no longer be with them in the flesh, they will always abide in each other's love. The disciples will have plenty of opportunity to express that love by keeping his commandments. In return Jesus will send them, and us, an advocate, a spirit of truth the Holy Spirit.

How easy life would be if Jesus had stayed with us in the flesh. All we would have to do is keep running to him for answers every time we got stuck. There wouldn't be any great long debates on abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, stem cell research or anything else for that matter ... we would simply send Jesus an email and twiddle our thumbs awaiting the answer. Because he knew that he could not stay with us in person, Jesus left us with the Holy Spirit to take his place but how often do we call on it? We are good at thinking we can get through life under our own steam. Sometimes we can be opinionated, quite sure that we can work out all the answers for ourselves. Today we are reminded that the Holy Spirit is with us from our baptism and ready to be called upon whenever we need direction or revelation. For most of us, that probably means a daily call.

Bitesize – "One word frees us of all the weight and pain of life: That word is love."
Sophocles, Greek tragic dramatist (496 BC - 406 BC)



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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17TH MAY 2020 – 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER – Year C

THE CHURCH REMAINS CLOSED AT THIS TIME

Mass Times for the coming week		
6 th Week of Easter, Weekday Year II, Psalter Week 2		
<i>Although celebrated without a congregation, the times of Mass are as follows:</i>		
Sunday, 17th May	11:00 am	6 th Sunday of Easter
Monday, 18th May	12:00 Noon	Easter Feria
Tuesday, 19th May	12:00 Noon	Easter Feria
Wednesday, 20th May	12:00 Noon	Easter Feria
Thursday, 21st May	12:00 Noon	THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
Friday, 22nd May	12:00 Noon	Easter Feria
Saturday, 23rd May	12:00 Noon	Easter Feria
Sunday, 24th May	11:00 am	7 th Sunday of Easter

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Died at East Dereham c743

God of steadfast love, when you willed that your Son be born of Mary you revealed to us the beauty of virginity: come, then, with your purifying grace, and at the intercession of your holy virgin, Withburga, make our hearts a place where you can dwell.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

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

Anniversaries this week: Noel Kenneth Daly, John Conway, Sarah Chaudhri, 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.*

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: Thank you to those who have set up Standing Orders or Direct Debits to support the parish. If anyone would like to set up one of these the information you need for your bank is **Account Name Catholic Church of Dereham. Sort Code: 40-20-18 Account Number 11311115.** Our Bank is HSBC.

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

I look forward very much to the day when I can open the church doors for you to come and go as you please once more. We tend to think of the church building as the House of God but it is also for God's people to pray in, rest, light candles, meet, make tea and coffee and experience the Christian community in. It is our place, consecrated place, of worship. Everything is as you left it. I changed the colours over to white for Easter. The hymn books and the Mass books are where you left them. I have emptied the bins and watered the plants. After Pentecost, we will need to change over the Mass books. The church of Sacred Heart and St. Margaret Mary will not be the same until you come back and use it again.


Ascension Thursday, 21st May: Real and Present - On this day we imagine Jesus going to some place high above the clouds, to some faraway place beyond death. But if the disciples felt any sense of abandonment that's certainly not how they acted. The disciples didn't leave the scene of the Ascension in mourning; they returned with great joy and praised God in the temple day after day. It is clear that the disciples did not experience Jesus as absent. It is clear that in everything they did from then on, that Jesus was real and present in their lives.



Official statement from the Bishops in response to the Government's COVI-19 recovery strategy – A copy of the Bishops' statement can be found online at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/catholic-bishops-respond-to-governments-lockdown-easing-plans/>

A hidden gem in our church. Many people know about the hidden gem in our church. I was here for years before it was pointed out to me. I stood close to it every day for years and never knew it was there and when it was pointed out to me, I quickly forgot about it. I am, of course, referring to the carving of the wren underneath the lectern in the church. It has been there from the beginning, a work of art that is as the artist left it. It is in the dark, in the left corner under the slope of the lectern from where the Word of God is read, the Gospel proclaimed and the homily preached and our prayers of intercession made. It has no function. It is just there. To use the title of Malcolm Muggeridge's book on Mother Theresa, it is something beautiful for God. I noticed again the other day. I had forgotten about it. This time I thought of the hidden life of the Church at the moment. Our prayer life. The prayers we say often like: Please God, Thank God, The Rosary, the Divine Office, Grace before and after meals, when we rise in the morning and retire at night before we sleep. Our day is consecrated by an awareness of God's goodness and our frequent prayers - which form, shape, and make us into something beautiful for God and in the world around us. St. Paul calls us: *God's work of art.*



 **Pope Francis' call to prayer, fasting and good works for our world in the present pandemic.** This is a call to all people of faith to beseech God, the Almighty to safeguard the entire world, to help us overcome this pandemic, to restore security, stability, health, and prosperity, so that, once this pandemic-crisis is over, our world may become a better place for humanity and for human fraternity than ever before. *You will find a copy of the Vatican letter and attached statement on the parish website.*

The Divine Renovation webinar - A series of web-based courses forwarded from the Department for Evangelisation within the Bishops' Conference, provided by Hannah Vaughan-Spruce and the UK team. For those thinking about their commitment to their faith and the vocation of handing it on to future generations.

- **Engaging Seekers, Reaching the Unchurched:** Thursday 14 May, 2 - 3pm
<https://divinerenovationuk.churchsuite.co.uk/events/zg7s4qrj>
- **Divine Renovation from Square 1:** Tuesday 19 May, 11am - 12pm
<https://divinerenovationuk.churchsuite.co.uk/events/fh5q6bg9>
- **The Digital Revolution of your Parish's Finances:** Thursday 28 May, 3 - 4pm
<https://divinerenovationuk.churchsuite.co.uk/events/fnklgpyy>

You can view some previous webinars here:

- Taking Church Online <https://youtu.be/J7dHlJSxVnM>
- Livestream your first Mass <https://youtu.be/GTGkxiBjWt0>
- How could this crisis lead to more mission-focussed parishes?
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BeLU_rOVIVA&feature=youtu.be
- Bringing youth ministry online
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v10tPYs_mJw&feature=youtu.be

Plus, free parish response kit available at <https://divinerenovation.org>