

**GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**



**Unless A Grain of Wheat Falls** - ‘Eat drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die.’ In a life or death situation, human nature would always prompt us to hold on to life no matter what the consequences, but in today’s gospel a grain of wheat is used to teach us a valuable lesson. The selfless grain of wheat falls and dies to enable a fresh harvest. What point is there in choosing life, if that life boils down to nothing more than self-preservation? On the other hand, what great value death, if

that sacrifice gives others life. Many of us fail to understand why Jesus perceived the necessity of going to Jerusalem where he knew he would die. Wouldn’t it have made more sense for him to bypass Jerusalem and carry on teaching into his dotage? Jesus however, isn’t about to compromise his purpose.

Jesus determines to give his life so others can find true life. This is what Christianity is all about. Jesus teaches us that we must ‘die to self’ before we can be of any use to God. Letting one’s own ambition die to be replaced by God’ plans for us? ‘Dying to self’? Could we be blamed for not feeling enthused? How many of us really see the wisdom in ditching our own exciting life plans to go around being holy? Perhaps we need to think again about how exciting our ambitions really are. Perhaps sacrificing our own agenda and recognising God’s plan in our lives could be the best and most exciting thing that ever happened to us. Perhaps sacrificing something of ourselves for a greater purpose could put us in touch with who we really are.

“Eat drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die.” This epitomizes everything as Christians we are not!

**Bitesize** - ‘Don't compromise yourself. You're all you've got.’ ~ *Janis Joplin*



**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**  
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*Permanent Deacon: Rev. Martin Sanderson – Tel: 01362 822590*  
*email: [dcnmsanderson@hotmail.com](mailto:dcnmsanderson@hotmail.com)*  
 Parish Music Leader: Michael King – email: [michaeljwking@gmail.com](mailto:michaeljwking@gmail.com)  
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**18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2018 - FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

<b>Sunday Masses</b> [ <i>Parish Mass Book p169</i> ]		<b>Intentions</b>
Saturday, 17 <sup>th</sup> March	6.00 pm	Donor’s Int.
Sunday, 18 <sup>th</sup> March	9.00 am	People of the Parish
	11.00 am	Frank Langham R.I.P.

**Music for Sunday Masses** - *Setting: Belmont Mass & Memorial Acclamation 1*  
**Entry:** 6pm – *Angelus (said)*. Hymn 720 – Be still, for the presence of the Lord ...  
**Psalm Response:** (11am sung) - *A pure heart create for me, O God*  
**Gospel Acclamation:** Hymn 184 – *Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory*  
**Offertory:** Hymn 748 – *Unless a grain of wheat shall fall upon the ground ...*  
**Recessional:** 11am – *Angelus (said)*. Hymn 788 – *Praise to the Holiest in the height*

**Confession/Reconciliation: Saturday at 5.30pm - or by request/appointment**

<b>Weekday Masses</b> [5 <sup>th</sup> week of Lent - Psalter Week 1]		<b>Intentions</b>
Mon.	10.00 am	ST JOSEPH John Perkins
Tues.	<b>No Mass today</b>	Lent Feria
Weds.	<b>12.30 pm</b>	<b>Requiem Mass for Margaret Kirk</b>
Thurs.	10.00 am	Lent Feria Sheila & Tony Goodchild (Bussey)
Fri.	10.00 am	Lent Feria Donor’s Int.
	<b>7.15 pm</b>	<b>Stations of the Cross</b> , led by the Altar Servers
Sat.	10.30 am	Lent Feria Donor’s Int.
	6.00 pm	PALM SUNDAY Pam Barnwell

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

**Anniversaries this week:** Thomas Donoghue, Janet Lennon, Margaret Cliffe, Andrea O'Connor, Margaret (Peggie) Jackson, Joy Lannon, Mary Roberts, Desmond Stone, Anna Platt, Alex Siedlecki, Margaret Bowles and Sheelah de Chenu. *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:** David Peek, Robert Nicol, Shirley Liebenhals, Sarah Chaudri, Anne & Derek Williams, Rita Smith, Eileen Brockleby, Kathleen (Jenny) Rudd, Ellen Flood, Margaret Leggett, Robert Anderson, Carole Whitesides, Janet Yardley, Mary Cawley, Ken Summerford, Patrick McKenna, Anna Thompkins, Andre Kanssen, Joan Wells and Francis Buxton.

**Money Matters** – The collection last weekend for the maintenance of our parish amounted to £584.03. We also received a cheque for £168.86 from the Norfolk Churches Trust for the 2017 Sponsored Cycle Ride. Thank you very much.

**130 Club Renewals** – If you have not already done so, would members please collect their renewal envelopes from the back of church. Marcia Slee will be on hand at all Masses over the next two weekends. **Please reply by 31<sup>st</sup> March.** There are still some unallocated numbers for anyone interested in joining or wanting an extra number.

**Alive in Faith Funds** – The latest update from the Diocese is that our parish has contributed £40,134 to the Alive in Faith Programme and £10,034 is available to us for parish projects. Thank you for your very generous response to this programme.

Diary Dates for this week –		
Tues. 20 <sup>th</sup> Mar	7.30pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group, in Emmaus Room
Weds. 21 <sup>st</sup> Mar	7.30pm	SVP Conference meeting, in Emmaus Room
Sat. 24 <sup>th</sup> Mar	11.00am	Saturday Club meets, in Emmaus Room

**This Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March**, there will be Stations of the Cross at 7.15pm, which will be led by members of the Altar Servers group.

**Chrism Mass at St John's, Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00 pm** - The list for the coach is still open and there are still lots of seats available on the bus. We will depart Dereham at 5.00pm and I hope we will depart Norwich at about 9.00pm. If we arrive a bit early, then we can get good seats near the front of the cathedral.

**Holy Week:**

- **Maundy Thursday:** Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.30pm with watching at the Altar of Repose until midnight.

- **Good Friday:** Children's Stations of the Cross at 10.30am. Solemn Liturgy of the Passion at 3.00pm.
- **Holy Saturday:** Easter Vigil Mass at 8.00pm.
- **Easter Sunday:** Mass at 9.00am and 11.00am.

**Easter Flowers** – Donations are invited towards the cost of flowers to decorate the church for Easter. There is basket on the table at the back of Church this weekend. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

**The Fabric Committee needs help.** We need to identify competent and reliable tradesmen for various electrical, decorating and other jobs in the church and presbytery. Are you, or do you know of any of these who would be prepared to quote for some specific jobs? If so, in first instance could you contact Anne Maskell on 01362 860721 or to [acmaskell@me.com](mailto:acmaskell@me.com).

**Parish Open Meeting** – The date for this has been set for **Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> April** following the 11.00 am Mass. I would like to follow the usual format of Midday Prayer, lunch and then the meeting. I would be grateful if all groups in the parish could now prepare their written reports to be distributed at the meeting. The Financial Returns for last year have now been sent to the Diocesan Finance Office. Items for the agenda can be sent to me by email. Thank you.

**Parish gardener** - Our gardener has given notice that he would like to quit working for us later this year. Consequently, I will be looking for his replacement from about August. If you know of anyone or can recommend anyone for this job, please let me know.

**Community of Our Lady of Walsingham: Final Profession of Vows** - Please pray for Sr Theresa, of the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham, as she prepares to make her final profession of vows next month. All are welcome to attend the Mass which will take place during the 12.00 Mass in the Chapel of Reconciliation on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April. You are welcome to stay for refreshments after the Mass. If so, kindly RSVP to Sr Camilla by 26<sup>th</sup> March so we can estimate numbers. Email [admin@walsinghamcommunity.org](mailto:admin@walsinghamcommunity.org) or phone 07931 795769.

**The Newman Lectures 2018** – The programme for this year's Newman Lectures at the UEA has been announced as follows:

- **16<sup>th</sup> April – Professor Stephen Bullivant** (Director of the Benedict XVI Centre for Religion and Society at St Mary's University, Twickenham).
- **23<sup>rd</sup> April – Dr Rowan Williams**, University of Cambridge
- **30<sup>th</sup> April – Sr Ann Swailes OP** – University of Cambridge

The theme of this year's lectures is 'Holiness'. As usual, there is no need to book tickets to these events and everyone is welcome to attend. Lectures start at 6.30 p.m. and parking at UEA is free from 6pm onwards for those attending the lectures.