

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Success, Power and Wealth

If you took a survey out onto the street asking, "Which people would we regard as the most successful?", celebrities like Bill Gates or Simon Cowell might figure highly on the list. Favourite pop idols, film stars, politicians and royalty might be up there too. It seems that we measure success in terms of popularity, glamour, money and power. Even in our own not-so-famous circles, we strive for status and job promotion. With promotion comes extra responsibility and with that extra responsibility, increased power to our elbow.

The disciples may well have been feeling bemused in today's gospel story. Jesus tells them that man will hand him over to his death. The disciples were probably wondering why Jesus should succumb to this kind of ignominy. After all, wasn't he the Son of God? Couldn't he exercise some power? Who knows, perhaps it was this idea that prompted their conversation on the way to Capernaum. We are told that the disciples were discussing amongst each other, which of them was the greatest. They must have known deep down that Jesus would not approve of this discussion, because when Jesus asks them what they were talking about, they fall silent with shame.

Jesus places a small child in their midst to teach them a lesson. He is asking them, and us, to accept the child's world as our own. We are asked to accept a world of vulnerability and absence of status. We are asked to take stock. Who do we look up to in our society? Do we look down on those who appear to lack ambition or position? Today we remember that Jesus' way is not of pomp and circumstance, but of servitude and humility. We have to learn that success is not about what we have, but who we are.

Bite Size

"They gave him a manger for a cradle, a carpenter's bench for a pulpit, thorns for a crown, and a cross for a throne. He took them and made them the very glory of his career."

W.E. Orchard

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

20th SEPTEMBER 2015 – 25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Home Mission Day)

Weekend Masses – Page 135 of Parish Mass Book

Saturday	6.00 pm	A special intention
Sunday	9.00 am	Donor's Intention
	11.00 am	People of the Parish

Music for Sunday Masses - Setting: Dom Gregory Murray Mass as standard

Processional 6pm – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 302 – Breathe on me, Breath of God ...

Offertory Hymn 967 – O, the love of my Lord is the essence ...

Communion *Instrumental Interlude/Sacred silence at player's discretion ...*

Recessional 11am – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 964 – Be not afraid ...

CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION - Saturday at 5.30 - 5.55 pm

Mass Times for the Coming Week (25th week in Ordinary Time)

[Psalter Week 1]

Mon.	10.00 am	Donor's Intention - St Matthew
Tues.	No Mass today	- Feria
	7.30 pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group – in Emmaus Room
Weds.	No Mass today	- St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)
Thurs.	10.00 am	Donor's Intention - Our Lady of Walsingham
Fri.	10.00 am	Donor's Intention - Feria
Sat.	10.30 am	Fr Tony Sketch - Feria
	6.00 pm	Michael Moffatt - 26 th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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: Gerald Reeder, Helen Browne, Colin Keatley, Peter Purcell, Agnes Tyce and Francis Dunn Soddy. *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 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, Michelle Smith and Rhonda Darby.

Money Matters – The collection last weekend was £418.11. Thank you very much. Retiring collection today for Home Mission Sunday.

Mass Stipends - I have received quite a lot of Mass stipends from the Diocese. They will appear in the newsletter as for 'Donor's Intention'.

Diary Dates for this week –

- Weds. 23 Sept – No Mass today as I will be attending the Ministry to Priests at Clare Priory
- Sat. 26 Sept – Saturday Club meets - 11.00am in Emmaus Room

Home Mission Sunday – 20 September 2015 – Proclaim 15 – Many Mass-going Catholics feel the pain and sorrow caused by a large number of family members and friends not practising their faith. In response, there is an urgency for us all to consider afresh how we might respectfully and joyfully reach out to our absent brothers and sisters in Christ. "The prayers offered and money raised on Home Mission Sunday enable new projects and partnerships to be developed to support Church growth and the work of outreach in England and Wales."

UCM Cake & Produce Stall – An appeal to all UCM members and other generous souls for cakes, jams and other produce to be sold on our stall next weekend 26th / 27th September. Mary Shutt will be on hand to receive donations from 4.45pm on Saturday, 26th or you can just hand them in before the Mass you attend. Many thanks, in advance, for your kind generosity.

Tony Goodchild - Tony, husband of Sheila Goodchild, who was in the past an active member of the parish, died last Sunday morning. His funeral is on Tuesday 29th Sept at Aldeburgh. Sheila's address is 35 The Glebes, Snape, Saxmundham, Suffolk, IP17 1QF for those who wish to send a card. May he rest in peace.

IGNITE 2015, NORWICH – A Procession of Witness to celebrate *The New Evangelisation* in the Diocese of East Anglia will be taking place on **Friday, 2nd October, 2015**, led by Bishop Alan Hopes. The event begins at 12:00 noon with a Schools Mass at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist, Norwich. At 8:00pm there will be a torchlight procession of the Blessed Sacrament from the Castle Mound to the Cathedral of St John the Baptist, to which everyone is invited. From 9:30pm there will be an all-night vigil before the Blessed Sacrament, led by our parishes and young people. Again, everyone is welcome for all or part of the night. The vigil will end with Solemn Mass at the Cathedral at 11:30am. See the poster and cards at the back of Church.

Confirmation Preparation – Last May, over 300 people attended the main Diocesan Youth Event, *The Ignite Festival*, which was a great success with some young people finding it a life changing experience. Bishop Alan's expectation is that all Confirmation groups from across the Diocese will attend the 2016 Ignite Festival (April 30th – May 2nd) as part of their Confirmation Programme. For some groups this could be their pre-confirmation retreat. The weekend brings together young people from across the Diocese to experience a powerful encounter with the Lord. There will be worship, speakers, live music, social time, workshops, adoration and prayer opportunities for confession. etc. More information will be available from the Diocesan Youth Mission Team in due course.

'Coming Home' Initiative – Five out of six baptised Catholics no longer come to Mass. Today's Home Mission Sunday marks an initiative around the Diocese to try and change that with every parish in the diocese being asked to include in their bidding prayers at Masses from now until the First Sunday of Advent the 'Coming Home' prayer for non-Church-going Catholics. There are prayer cards available at the back of church for you to take some to say the prayer at home and to give to friends and those sick or housebound members of the parish who are unable to come to Mass. We want our friends and family who don't come to Mass to know that we're praying for them and hope the cards might spark off a conversation about faith and going to Mass and why people do or don't attend.

'Coming Home'

*Loving Father, we pray for those baptised who no longer or rarely attend Church:
that they will understand and experience in their hearts that Christ is the source of
unconditional love and reconciliation.*

*We pray for everyone who worships in our parish community:
that we may find the right words and means to invite our absent brothers and sisters to
return to the practice of their faith.*

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.