

Gospel Reflection for the Fifth Sunday of Lent



For Tomorrow We Die

“Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it produces much fruit,” The selfless grain is sacrificed for a greater good. This is what Christianity is all about. We have to “die to self” to be of real use to God. It’s only when we put our personal ambitions second, and put our destiny in God’s hands that there will be any real harvest.

Jesus knew that his death was imminent and he talked of it more and more. He could have avoided crucifixion if he had wanted to. He could have bypassed Jerusalem and avoided confrontation, but that wasn’t what he was about. Jesus’ purpose was to give his life so others could find true life; just as the grain of wheat’s purpose was to die in order that more wheat could be produced

In a life or death situation, our human agenda would always prompt us to choose life no matter what the consequences. Jesus’ agenda is different. 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?

Today we are asked what ‘dying to self’ might mean in our own lives. Dying to self might mean putting our own ambitions on hold while we care for an elderly relative or a handicapped child. Dying to self might mean giving something up to help a partner through a period of difficulty. Dying to self might mean giving everything up to follow a vocation.

There’s a saying that goes, “Eat drink and be merry for tomorrow we die.” Surely this epitomizes everything that Christians most certainly are not. We live to serve each other in this world, so that we might gain eternal life in the next.

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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22ND MARCH 2015 – 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Weekend Masses – Page 169 of Parish Mass Book

Saturday	6.00 pm	Priest’s Intention	<i>(Angelus)</i>
Sunday	9.00 am	Janet Lennon	
	11.00 am	People of the Parish	<i>(Angelus)</i>

Confession/Reconciliation - Saturday at 5.30 - 5.55 pm

Weekday Services *[Morning Prayer – Psalter Week 1]*

Mon.	10.00 am	Private Intention
Tues.	No Mass Today	Lent Feria
	7.30 pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group in Emmaus room
Weds.	No Mass Today	The Annunciation of the Lord
Thurs.	10.00 am	Private Intention - Lent Feria
Fri.	10.00 am	Private Intention - Lent Feria
Sat.	10.30 am	Private Intention - Lent Feria
	6.00 pm	People of the Parish - Palm Sunday

Anniversaries this week:

Anna Platt, Alex Siedlecki, Margaret Bowles, Sheelah de Chenu, Basil Howard, Frank Broom, Hazel O’Connor, Helena Bennett, Michael Casey, Sidney Carter, Antonia Pereira.

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 £478.48 Thank you all very much.

The Weekly Newsletter – is always available to read via the parish website. It is updated every Friday.

Ministry to Priests – Each month I attend the Ministry to Priests Programme which meets at Clare Priory. It is a support group for the priests of the diocese, so I will be away overnight on Tuesday till Wednesday.

Annunciation of the Lord - March 25th - The Angel Gabriel gave Mary a choice. It was God's plan to use her as the bearer of his Son, but she didn't have to say 'yes'. Our Lenten practices are designed to make us more aware of the choices and direction in our lives. We pray that as Mary's 'yes' brought forth the Saviour of the world, so we too will have the courage and wisdom to say 'yes' to God's plan in our lives.

World Water Day (22 March 2015) - 'Jars of Change' Water Aid Lenten Appeal

Turn your small change in safe water this Lent. The idea is simple. Throw your loose change into a jar during Lent and donate it to Water Aid to help bring water to villages in Ethiopia. Donate online at www.wateraid.org/uk.

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March 2015) -

"Learning from historical tragedies to combat racial discrimination today" - This year's theme, "Learning from historical tragedies to combat racial discrimination today", aims to explore the root causes of racism and racial discrimination and will stress the essential need to learn the lessons history has provided in order to combat racism and racial discrimination today.

Here are a few concrete actions we can all implement on this day:

- Start examining long held beliefs about other races. Ask yourself, "Is that really true, or could I be stereotyping?"
- Learn more about different racial groups by reading a book, attending an event, or making friends with people from a different background.
- Stop telling jokes or laughing at jokes that 'put down' people of a particular race.
- Speak up when others make unfounded verbal attacks on neighbours of a different colour or culture.

Preparing for the General Election: a 2020 vision of the Good Society - For the past 40 years churches across the country have joined together to run hustings – public meetings where people can listen to and ask questions of their election candidates who hope to represent them in the UK Parliament. Meetings where people discuss how their decisions can create a 'good society, but what is a 'good society'? Read more at www.church-poverty.org.uk/hustings.

Palm Sunday – Please note that at the Saturday evening Mass and at the 09.00 am Mass, the palms will be blessed at the back of the church. At the 11.00 am Mass the blessing and the procession will take place in the usual way. I have ordered ready-made palm crosses this year as I did not know that there is a group of people with nimble fingers who usually make them.



Bitesize

"Dedicate some of your life to others. Your dedication will not be a sacrifice. It will be an exhilarating experience because it is an intense effort applied toward a meaningful end."

Dr. Thomas Dooley