

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Believe or Leave

Like a barrister, St. John sets Jesus' case before us. He sets it out in measured bite sizes so that we can digest one fact before moving onto the next. We see Jesus healing people and curing the sick. We see him present us with a sign of his divinity in the feeding of the five thousand. We see Jesus teaching people about the more enduring bread sent to nourish us spiritually, and finally we learn that Jesus himself is that living bread come down from heaven to give us everlasting life. The case is complete, but the audience have a

sticking point. There were those amongst Jesus' disciples who could not accept that Jesus had come down from heaven, and they turned their backs and left. What was Jesus to do? Should he call them back and make the truth easier for them to understand? Should he work another miracle to convince them that little bit more? No! Jesus turns to those who are left and gives them a choice, they have heard what he has said about eating and drinking his flesh and blood, and now they have a choice. So, are they going to remain his followers or are they too going to turn their backs. The same choice is levelled at us today. We can believe or we can leave?

Difficult choices always have something in common; there is always some kind of sticking point. To make a difficult choice we often need a missing piece of information, or a new perspective. Peter gives us that perspective. "Master," he says, "to whom shall we go. You have the words of eternal life." To Peter, the choice was easy. To Peter there was really no choice to be made. Who else was there to follow but Jesus?

We make the same choice as Peter every week in Mass when we celebrate the Eucharist. In celebrating the Eucharist we make a choice to follow where Jesus may lead.

Bite Size

"If you limit your choices only to what seems possible or reasonable, you disconnect yourself from what you truly want, and all that is left is a compromise." *(Robert Fritz)*

**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>*

23RD AUGUST 2015 – 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Weekend Masses – Page 123 of Parish Mass Book

Saturday	6.00 pm	Fr Philip Shryane
Sunday	9.00 am	Kathleen Thackery
	11.00 am	People of the Parish

Music for Sunday Masses - Setting: Dom Gregory Mass

Processional 6pm – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 934 – Dear Lord and Father of mankind...

Offertory Hymn 940 – Lord, for tomorrow and its needs ...

Communion *Instrumental Interlude at player's discretion ..*

Recessional 11am – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 846 – Amazing grace! How sweet the sound..

CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION - Saturday at 5.30 - 5.55 pm

Mass Times for the Coming Week (21st week in Ordinary Time) *[Psalter Week 1]*

Mon.	10.00 am	John Perkins - St Bartholomew
Tues.	No Mass today	- Feria
	7.30 pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group – in Emmaus Room
Weds.	10.00 am	John Perkins (Baker) - Feria
Thurs.	10.00 am	John Perkins (Nicol) - St Monica
Fri.	10.00 am	John Perkins (Borthwick) - St Augustine
Sat.	10.30 am	- Beheading of St John the Baptist
	6.00 pm	Kathleen & Michael Carroll - 22 nd 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: Adrian Sheath, Damian Ring-Davies, Mary Hayter, John McGowan, Jack Stearman, Marley Coe, Jenetta Elizabeth Smith, Francis Gray, Doris Jarvis and Patrick McMahon. *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 £431.20 and the Lenten Alms collection was £185.79. Thank you all very much.

100 Club July Draw - 1st. Prize - £20 Peter Luke; 2nd Prize £15 - Chris Sayer; 3rd Prize £10 - Eileen Brocklesby; 4th Prize £10 - Collette Barrow-Nessian and 5th Prize £10 - Enda Perrin.

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 and Michelle Smith.

Acknowledgement: Catherine, Michael and Claire would like to thank everyone for the support we have been given over the last few months, message of sympathy, Mass cards and all who attended John's Requiem Mass. Thank you all very much indeed.

Apostleship of the Sea: Rita Knocker has very kindly agreed to look after and forward religious items to the Port Chaplain for us. Quite a lot of items have been donated so far.

A new Mass setting - I have purchased another setting for the music for the Mass: The next one will be The Belmont Mass. It is easy to learn and has a simple plain song sound. The musicians will be getting their full music copy and will introduce it gradually so that it become familiar to all of us.

Saint Monica - 27th August - A Christian saint and mother of Saint Augustine, Monica's parents brought her up as Christian and married her to an older, pagan man named Patricius. He was a man with a great deal of energy, but also a man given to violent tempers and adultery. Augustine reports that Patricius beat St. Monica. Furthermore, her mother-in-law was against her and caused a lot of trouble. Long years of prayer, coupled with a strong, well-disciplined character, Monica finally converted her hot-tempered husband, her cantankerous mother-in-law and her brilliant but wayward son, Augustine. Monica is the patron saint of wives, mothers, and abuse victims.

Dereham Churches Quarterly Fellowship Evening: The next combined fellowship evening is to be held on Tuesday 1st. September at Cowper Congregational Church at 7.30 pm. All welcome. There are some leaflets at the back of the church.

Norfolk Churches Trust Bike Ride: 12th September – A reminder that the annual sponsored bike ride takes place on Saturday, 12th September between 9am – 5pm. Participants can raise money for their own church and for the Trust and you can choose your own route, visit as many churches and chapels as you wish, by bicycle, horse, car or on foot. Sponsorship forms are available for anyone wishing to take part. As in previous years, volunteers on the day to stamp visiting participants' forms and to offer hospitality would be welcomed – if you can help, please sign up for one (or more!) of the half-hour time slots on the list at the back of church. Thank you.

Saturday 10th October - 10.00am to 3.30pm - An Introduction to Silent Prayer, led by Magdalen Houlihan - Some of us seem to stumble upon Silent Prayer. We are not aware that we are looking for prayer. Perhaps we do not know what we are looking for; we only know that there is a yearning within that is not being satisfied, a yearning for completeness, for spirituality. This “prayer of quiet” crosses all religious denominations and is no respecter of boundaries. Through this practice many are discovering the meaning of Jesus words: “My peace I give you”. This day will offer you a pathway into silence and towards a deeper relationship with God. A full programme for the day is posted on the notice board at the back of church and copies will be available nearer the time for those wishing to attend.

A Prayer: The following prayer was published in The Tablet last week. It was written by Fr. Peter Rookey and published in 'A Treasury of Prayers' by Dinal Proctor (The Columba Press) :

*“Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit, go back into my memory as I sleep.
Every hurt that has been done to me, heal that hurt.
Every hurt that I have ever caused to another person, heal that hurt.
All the relationships that have been damaged in my whole life that I am not aware of,
heal those relationships.
But Lord, if there is anything that I need to do,
if I need to go to a person because he is still suffering from my hand,
bring to my awareness that person.
I choose to forgive, and I ask to be forgiven.
Remove whatever bitterness may be in my heart, Lord
and fill the empty spaces with your love.”*