

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Eternal Life is this

'Eternal life is this: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent ...'

Today we are privy to Jesus' prayer made on our behalf at the close of his ministry on earth. In this prayer, we are reminded that Jesus had finished the work that he had come to do. Jesus had made God's name known, so that all could share in eternal life. However, for this to happen, we have to carry the baton and keep Jesus' teaching alive in a world bursting with conflicting values.

On this Sunday we celebrate World Communication Day, and it feels a timely opportunity to consider the task we have been set. The first disciples continued Jesus' mission without planes, trains, without a postal service, without TV or radio and without the internet. Yet thanks to these early disciples we are all very familiar with the promise of eternal life, even though these words were spoken over two thousand years ago.

Today we are set a very particular challenge. Because of the Coronavirus pandemic we are asked to bring Christ's teachings to others, without leaving our homes. We are tasked with keeping Jesus' teaching alive by the use of social media, websites, radio, TV and by platforms such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams. Suddenly we are all becoming experts on platforms from which we can host Bible groups, prayer meetings, live streamed Mass and even virtual 'coffee mornings', (albeit you need to provide your own coffee and biscuit). We can publish our own books on KDP, produce our own films on YouTube, mount our own campaigns digitally using websites and online petitions. The opportunities for evangelising in our twenty-first century are boundless and exciting.

In the 'old normal' we might have protested that we were all far too busy to take on the important task of evangelisation. However, with the 'new normal', and with most of us still stuck at home, the time is ripe for Christians everywhere to reach out with fresh imagination and the determination of Jesus' very first disciples.



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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Parish Music Leader: Michael King: Email: michaeljwking@gmail.com

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24TH MAY 2020 – 7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER – Year C

THE CHURCH REMAINS CLOSED AT THIS TIME

Mass Times for the coming week		
7 th Week of Easter, Weekday Year II, Psalter Week 3		
<i>Although celebrated without a congregation, the times of Mass are as follows:</i>		
Sunday, 24th May	11:00 am	7 th Sunday of Easter
Monday, 25th May	12:00 Noon	S Bede the Venerable
Tuesday, 26th May	12:00 Noon	S Philip Neri
Wednesday, 27th May	12:00 Noon	S AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY
Thursday, 28th May	12:00 Noon	Easter Feria
Friday, 29th May	12:00 Noon	Easter Feria
Saturday, 30th May	12:00 Noon	Easter Feria
Sunday, 31st May	11:00 am	PENTECOST

PRAYER OF ST. AUGUSTINE

O Thou who art the light of the minds that know Thee; the life of the souls that love thee, and the strength of the wills that serve Thee; help us so to know Thee, so to love Thee that we may fully serve Thee, whom to serve is perfect freedom.

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

Anniversaries this week: Florence Sayer, Thomas Eden, John Joseph Nally, Annie Murtagh, Joan Pagano, Hilda Crick, Alexandro Eldred, Irene Jackowski. *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: Oh yes, it does! Thank you for your Standing Order/Direct Debit contributions which amounted to £569.00 in March and £569 in April. Other monies were also banked this week which included the Easter Offering so far and cheques for the weekly collection. The parish also received a cheque for £126.35 as a late payment for the Sponsored Cycle Ride. If you would like to set up a Standing Order or Direct Debit for your offering towards the maintenance of our parish the details you need to inform your bank are: **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.

Thoughts. *The parish newsletter is available online to everyone via the website, but if you wanted or would like to have it sent directly to your inbox each week, this could be easily arranged. A list can be compiled with your permission and the newsletter sent directly to you each week. Please let me know your thoughts on this. The paper version will be printed again when the church reopens anyway.*

World Communications Day 2020 – World Communications Day 2020 falls on 24th May as much of the world remains in lockdown as we attempt to recover from the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. The way we communicate in situations of self-isolation and separation has shifted from hand shaking, hugging and close contact to encounters through phone, tablet and computer screens. The virtual has replaced the physical. This year's theme seems to fit perfectly with our virtual world. In his World Day message, Pope Francis asks us to consider how 'story' can become part of our fabric. Jesus, who is "the quintessential storyteller – the Word," he said in the message, spoke of God "not with abstract concepts but with parables, brief stories taken from everyday life", so that "the story becomes part of the life of those who listen to it, and it changes them." "God has

become personally woven into our humanity, and so has given us a new way of weaving our stories."

Day of Prayer for Missing Children, 25th May – There is nothing we all want to hear more than a happy conclusion to a missing child case. But for many parents around the world the pain of uncertainty endures year-in and year-out. On this day we are all asked to pray for missing children and their families. We pray for a happy conclusion or, where this is not possible, at least for closure and eventual peace.

Café (Catholic Faith Exploration): [CAFE@HOME](https://faithcafe.org) is a recent initiative from the CaFÉ organisation providing downloadable courses to assist parishes and groups to spiritually nourish people in the midst of this terrible virus crisis and it is proving very helpful around the country. A recent addition is a free downloadable series 'Saints – Helping us Today': 6 sessions exploring how the age-old wisdom of the Saints provides practical help in this time. Journey with St Therese of Lisieux, St Benedict, St Francis of Assisi, St Patrick, St Ignatius of Loyola and St Catherine of Siena. It is one of an older series of courses so the download definition is not to the current TV-quality standard, but the wisdom and teaching of the Saints is as strong as ever and the location filming is very enjoyable. More information can be found at: <https://faithcafe.org/collections/saints-helping-us-today> or go to <https://faithcafe.org/pages/cafe-at-home>



Looking for a new challenge in September? The Diocesan Youth Service is seeking applications from 18-35-year olds to join the Ignite Team for 2020-2021. Spend a year sharing the Gospel message with children and young people across East Anglia, developing new skills and growing in your faith. Accommodation, food and other living expenses are provided plus a £200 monthly allowance. Ideal as a 'gap year' (can be extended). For more information visit www.rcdea.org.uk/youth or email Ciaran on igniteteam@rcdea.org.uk.

Bitesize – "Some stories are true that never happened." ~ *Elie Weisel*

REGINA COELI

Queen of heaven, rejoice, Alleluia.

For he, whom you did merit to bear, Alleluia.

Has risen as he said, Alleluia.

Pray for us to God, Alleluia.

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, Alleluia.

For the Lord has truly risen, Alleluia.

Let us pray: O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech you, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, his mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.