

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE NATIVITY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST



Born for A Purpose

There's a new baby on the way and excited parents will start to make plans. They will choose the baby's name, and what colour to paint the nursery. Some parents will already be planning which school they shall put the new baby down for and will even be harbouring secret university hopes. Fond mothers-to-be will be imagining dance classes and music lessons. Indulgent dads will have decided which football team the baby will support. The baby's future is already decided before he or she is even born. John the Baptist's family must have felt a little like this. We don't know what plans they might have made, but we do know that they had hoped to name the new baby Zacharias after his father. God however had other plans. God chose the name 'John' for the new baby through the mediation of an angel. That God chose John the Baptist's name tells us that he had already carved a destiny for the baby. John was born for a purpose.

Nowadays we tend to see John as a subsidiary player to Jesus. But for people at the time, John was the better known of the two. The gospels present John without explanation, as if everybody should recognise him. John's mission had two facets. First of all, he called people to repentance and baptism. Secondly, he prepared the way for Jesus. In a way he was God's spokesperson. But that's not where it all ends. God's project of salvation is still to be carried out and it doesn't necessarily take a great prophet like John. A prophet is simply a spokesperson, a job each of us could undertake to varying degrees. Like John, each of us is born for a purpose. The ministry of John the Baptist continues in each of us.

Bitesize – 'Every action of our lives touches on some chord that will vibrate in eternity.' ~ *Edwin Hubbel Chapin*



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

[Reg. Charity 278742]

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Parish Music Leader: Michael King – email: michaeljwking@gmail.com

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Kathleen Edmunds –

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24th JUNE 2018 – THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Sunday Masses		Intentions
Saturday, 23 rd June	6.00 pm [Mass Book p164]	Donor's Int.
Sunday, 24 th June	9.00 am [Mass Book p167]	Pamela Barnwell
	11.00 am [Mass Book p167]	People of the Parish

Music for Sunday Masses - *Setting: The Belmont Mass*
Entry: 6pm – *Angelus (said)*. Hymn 779 – O God, you search me and you know me
Psalm R.: (11am sung) – *I thank you for the wonder of my being.*
Offertory: Hymn 609 – In bread we bring you, Lord ...
Communion: *Instrumental Interlude/Sacred silence ...*
Recessional: 11am – *Angelus (said)*. Hymn 406 – O praise ye the Lord ...

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

Weekday Masses [12 th week of year – Ps. Week 4]			Intentions
Mon.	10.00 am	Feria	Francis Buxton (Wilkes)
Tues.	No Mass	Dedication of the Cathedral	
Weds.	10.00 am	Feria	Freda Wilkes
Thurs.	10.00 am	St Irenaeus	Special Int.
Fri.	10.00 am & 7.30pm	SS PETER & PAUL. Solemnity	Josie Waring People of the Parish
Sat.	10.30 am	Feria	Francis Buxton (Monaghan)
	6.00 pm	13 th Sunday in Ord. Time	Donor's Int.

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

Anniversaries this week: Maureen Jacobs, John Zuhlke, Barry McGrath, Fernando Sentieriro, Anthony Joseph O'Connor and Richard Downing. *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.

Money Matters – Thank you for last weekend's collection for the maintenance of the parish which came to £477.16 and for £146.04 which went to Life Charities. Don't forget that if you pay tax, you can increase your donation through Gift Aid by allowing the parish to reclaim the tax you have already paid. As Dell Boy put it so well: 'You know it makes sense.' Please ask for the form to fill in and use the numbered envelopes thereafter. **This weekend**, there is a retiring collection at all Masses for Peter's Pence.

Diary Dates for this week –		
Tues. 26 th June	7.30pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group, in Emmaus Room
Sat. 30 th June	11.00am	Saturday Club meets, in Emmaus Room

SS Peter & Paul, Friday, 29th June – The Solemnity of SS Peter & Paul is a Holy Day of Obligation and Masses are at 10.00am and 7.30pm.



We become attached to the celebrities in our TV soaps, but the directors are always keen to point out, that no celebrity is greater than the show itself. It is very easy on this feast day to get caught up by the larger than life personalities of Peter and Paul. This is understandable ... both men lived and died with a passion that we imagine beyond us lesser mortals. But it's in imagining that we are lesser mortals that we defeat the example of these great men. Neither man

would have wanted to be put on a pedestal. Neither man would want us to imagine that their examples were impossible to emulate. Neither man would want to be a celebrity. Both men went to their deaths proclaiming that Jesus was the Son of God. Both Peter and Paul wanted Jesus' legacy to touch every generation and they would be the first to say that the work of the Church is down to each and every one of us, not just a couple of celebrities.

Sacred Heart School, Swaffham - The Daughters of Divine Charity are celebrating the Foundation of their Congregation. A 3-day event has just taken place in Vienna, the birthplace of the Congregation. Bishop Alan has invited us to rejoice with him at the Cathedral. The Mass is on **Thursday, 5th July 2018 at 11.30am**, followed by a free BBQ

in the garden. All are invited to join the Swaffham Congregation on their special day. The Sisters would also like to thank all those who voted for 'Bad Habits, Holy Orders' for the Radio Times Faith Award. They did not win as that position went to the film series 'Broken' featuring Sean Bean. They were, however, pleased to be nominated and to go to Lambeth Palace.

International Lunch, 8th July - Due to insufficient numbers, we are reluctantly cancelling the international lunch on 8th July. When we booked this date last year, we did not know it would clash with the First Communion day.

National Grandparents Pilgrimage, Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Sunday, 22nd July 2018, led by Bishop Alan Hopes. See the poster at the back of church for more details.

Interested in joining the Ignite Team? - Are you leaving school or university this summer, in between jobs or would like to do something 'different'? The Diocesan Youth Service is looking for people age 18 - 30 to join the Ignite Team from September 2018 - August 2019 (full time). The team share the Gospel Message with young people in a way they can relate to including using music, drama and tech. Accommodation, food, and a monthly allowance are provided. email: igniteteam@rcdea.org.uk

Diocesan Summer Camp 2018 - This year, the Diocesan Summer Camp will be at Moreton Hall School in Bury St Edmunds. Parishes are being encouraged to support and participate in this very enjoyable annual event for children. Any parent/guardian needing assistance with costs, is encouraged to contact a member of the Planning Team. Telephone Lorraine Furmedge on 07765 411170 or email: diocesansummercamp@gmail.com.

Christians Against Torture, 26th June - The **International Day in Support of Victims of Torture** is held annually on 26th June to speak out against the crime of torture and to honour and support victims and survivors throughout the world.

The Angelus

Ÿ. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary. **R.** *And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.*
Hail Mary ...

Ÿ. Behold the handmaid of the Lord. **R.** *Be it done unto me according to thy word.*
Hail Mary ...

Ÿ. And the Word was made Flesh. **R.** *And dwelt among us.* Hail Mary ...
Ÿ. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God. **R.** *That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.* **LET US PRAY:** *Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made known by the message of an angel may, by His Passion and Cross, be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ, Our Lord. Amen.*