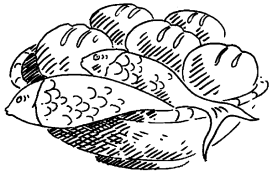


GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Does God Provide?

A senior policy researcher for Oxfam said, "The world produces more than enough food to feed everyone. Meeting the calorie needs of every person living with hunger would take less than 3 per cent of today's global food supply." That's an astonishing statistic. It's a sobering thought to realise that for the 868 million people who go hungry every

day, the problem is not actually a food shortage. The reason that people go hungry is that we just don't seem capable of distributing food fairly and in safety. Even if we could distribute the food fairly, the people who are going hungry couldn't afford to buy it. Solutions to conquering hunger and starvation are elusive, but that doesn't give us the excuse to give up.

The feeding of the five thousand is a story that's very familiar to us all. In it we learn to trust in God. We are taught that Jesus is more than sufficient for our needs. When Jesus instructs his disciples to take the five loaves and the two fishes and share them amongst the five thousand, he is teaching them a lesson in faith, trust and reliance. We are being told how to live our lives. We must give up our will for God's. We must trust God to direct our lives and rely on him to know what's best for us. When we pray "Not my will God but yours," we are opening up the way for God's wisdom to replace all that negative thinking.

Putting our trust in God however, isn't an excuse for us to sit back expecting God to magic tonight's tea onto the table. We still need to work to share God's abundant provision fairly around the planet. That might mean supporting communities in third world countries, by funding equipment or being more pro active about campaigning for fair trade deals. It might mean campaigning for peaceful solutions in war torn areas. Does God provide? God has already provided. We have food in abundance, but to save the 868 million people who are struggling to believe in that abundance, we have to work with God in keeping our part of the deal.

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

26 JULY 2015 – 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Weekend Masses – Page 112 of Parish Mass Book

Saturday	6.00 pm	
Sunday	9.00 am	Freda Wilkes
	11.00 am	People of the Parish

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

Processional 6pm – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 475 – Gather us in ..

Offertory Hymn 609 – In bread we bring you, Lord ...

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

Recessional 11am – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 779 – O God, you search me ..

CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION - Saturday at 5.30 - 5.55 pm

Mass Times for the Coming Week (17th week in Ordinary Time) [Psalter Week 1]

Mon.	10.00 am	- Feria
Tues.	No Mass today	- Feria
	7.30 pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group – in Emmaus Room
Weds.	10.00 am	St. Martha
Thurs.	10.00 am	- Feria
Fri.	10.00 am	In Thanksgiving - St. Ignatius of Loyola
Sat.	10.30 am	- St. Alphonsus Liguori
	6.00 pm	- 18 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: Elizabeth Sapcote, Errol Alexander Patrick Cowell, Thomas Losco-Bradley, Olga Secker, Doris Webster, Naomi Dance, Margaret Leonard, Ellen Storey, Charles Martin, Winifred Mary Fuller, Anthony Eskdale and Anna Taylor. *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 £491.51. Thank you very much. Today, there is a retiring collection for Day for Life charities.

By Baptism, we welcomed Mia Victoria Willow Sharp into the community of the Church.

Sick List – Please pray for Michelle Redmond.

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.

Sound System - This is now working again. We have new microphones and a new amplifier and a new mixing board. The electronic equipment is locked safely in a purpose built cupboard in the sacristy. If it needs to be adjusted, the engineer will come and do it. The radio mic is also operative.

Parish Council - Before everyone goes away on holidays it would be good to think about our Parish Council. It has not met since I moved here six months ago and it is time to think about it. Do we want one? what kind of council do we want? Is there a constitution? Who should be on it and how often should it meet? Can it do anything, have any influence, be creative? I know what I do not want and that is a committee that thinks up more things for me to do. Please give it some thought over the Summer and come back with a vision for Sacred Heart Parish Council.

Day for Life – 26th July 2015 (England and Wales) - Cherishing Life – Accepting Death
“How great a lie ...to make people think that lives affected by grave illness are not worth living!” (Pope Francis) - At the end of life, there are two thoughts which can help guide us all: The first is that we love life. Every person is loved by God and every life is a precious gift never to be destroyed or neglected. It is wrong to hasten or bring about death. God will call us in his good time. The second is that we accept death. This means there is no obligation to pursue medical treatment when it no longer has any effect or, indeed, harms the patient, or where the risks or burdens of the treatment outweigh the likely benefits. Read more about the principles of Catholic teaching on End of Life Decisions at www.dayforlife.org/Home/2015-Materials/End-of-Life-Decisions.

Assisted Dying Bill - On Friday 11 September 2015 the House of Commons will be debating and voting on a Private Member's Bill to legalise assisted suicide. Follow this link: www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/Featured/Assisted-Dying-Bill/Q-A to find some answers to frequently asked questions about the law and ethics of assisting suicide in the light of Catholic teaching. There is also a link on this page enabling you to contact your local MP requesting that they vote against the bill.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Rome: 6th – 10th June 2016 – Bishop Alan is inviting the Diocese to join him on pilgrimage to Rome in the Holy Year of Mercy and to begin our celebrations of the 40th Anniversary of the foundation of our Diocese. Full details and booking forms are available at the back of church or can be obtained from Pilgrimage People who are dealing with the organisation. All enquiries should be directed to Pilgrimage People on 0800 6123423 or email: info@pilgrimagepeople.org.

Saint Martha - July 29th - Jesus liked to stay at the house of Martha, Mary and Lazarus, his friends at Bethany, when he was in Judea. One of these visits has ever remained dear to Christian memory. On that occasion Martha, busily serving the Master, asked Him to persuade Mary to help her. Without in any way reproaching Martha, Jesus explained to her that certain souls, called by God, should choose a better part still — the primary duty of listening to Him and contemplating Him. Some of us are more like Martha - and some of us are more like Mary; but there is in all of us a built in need to combine the two within us, for without sitting and listening to God our work for God can only lead to anxiety and anger and angst, -and without doing the work our faith is clearly nothing.

Summer Holiday Fairtrade Cotton - Lots of us care about how we look – and buying clothes made with Fairtrade cotton means we can be a follower of fashion and at the same time help low paid cotton farmers around the world. The price of cotton has slumped in the last 30 years, even though the cost of producing it has risen and that means farmers in places like India, Kyrgyzstan and West Africa are struggling to survive. Buying products made from Fairtrade Cotton ensures that the farmers receive a fair and stable price for their cotton. When you are shopping for your summer holiday clothes... Keep a look out for the Fairtrade logo.

Pamphlets in the porch - I have left a number of Catholic pamphlets in the porch which are free to take away. They were given to me some years ago by Catholic people at RAF Lakenheath. They are all good teaching aids.

Bite Size

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make straight your paths.” (Proverbs 3: 5-6)