

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Dirty Hands



Could it be true that at one stage or another we have all been guilty of hypocrisy? It's hard to get through life without finding that our actions and our words don't quite marry up. We know the tell tale signs all too well. We go to the polling booth to vote, or commit our opinions to 'Facebook', and experience a slight discomfort. It's a discomfort we know of old, but have become very good at ignoring. It's the discomfort that comes of saying one thing but doing another. It's the discomfort that comes of teaching something but not practising it. The discomfort is telling us that we might be guilty of hypocrisy. In today's gospel Jesus warns us against religious hypocrisy. Is there a danger that we have all become very good at saying the right things, but of doing something else?

Today we see Jesus voicing exasperation with rules that had become burdensome, unimportant and hypocritical. In biblical days there were a great many traditions and rules on the proper way to prepare food. There were rituals regarding the washing of hands, pots, and bowls. The Pharisees challenge Jesus on allowing his disciples to eat with dirty hands, but Jesus shocks the Pharisees by suggesting that their man made laws are irrelevant. Without actually throwing the rulebook out of the window, he suggests that we concern ourselves with matters of greater importance. Outer appearances are all well and good, but what lies beneath? What really matters is what comes from our hearts. "Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person," he tells them, "but the things that come out from within are what defile."

Key to guarding against hypocrisy is to remember before condemning others, that our own hands mightn't be as clean as we think. The person who goes to church on Sunday and appears to be doing all the right things, is not necessarily a good person if he or she doesn't do good deeds during the rest of the week. Similarly, the person who breaks man made laws is not necessarily a bad person. Jesus tells us to use what is in our hearts when it comes to moral yard sticks, and not the rules made by others. What really matters is how well we listen to what is in our hearts, and how well we act upon it.

Bite Size

"The golden rule is that there are no golden rules."

George Bernard Shaw, Irish dramatist & socialist (1856 - 1950)

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

Parish Priest: Fr. Brendan Moffatt - email: brendanmoffatt@yahoo.co.uk

Address: The Presbytery, 35 London Road, Dereham NR19 1AS

Telephone: 01362 694066.

Parish website: <http://www.sacredheartdereham.org.uk>

Permanent Deacon: Rev. Martin Sanderson – Tel: 01362 822590

email: dcnmsanderson@hotmail.com

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

30 AUGUST 2015 – 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Weekend Masses – Page 126 of Parish Mass Book

Saturday	6.00 pm	Kathleen & Michael Carroll
Sunday	9.00 am	Mary & Gerald Reeder
	11.00 am	People of the Parish

Music for Sunday Masses - Setting: Dom Gregory Murray Mass

Processional 6pm – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 887 – God, whose almighty word ...

Offertory Hymn 892 – The Lord hears the cry of the poor ...

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 (22nd week in Ordinary Time) [*Psalter Week 2*]

Mon.	10.00 am	John Perkins (MW & AW) - Feria
Tues.	No Mass today	- Feria
	7.30 pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group – in Emmaus Room
Weds.	10.00 am	In Thanksgiving - Feria
Thurs.	10.00 am	Hilda Pritchard – St Gregory the Great
Fri.	10.00 am	- Feria
Sat.	10.30 am	- Feria
	6.00 pm	- 23 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (<i>Racial Justice Day</i>)

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: Alfred Chapman, John Power, Charles Victor Mann, Elizabeth Keatley, Norah Greenlee, Conal O'Donnell, Albert Foley, Hector Frosdick, Doris Evelyn Edith Henderson, Evelyn Maguire and James Robins. *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 £433.99. Thank you very much.

Diary Dates for this week –

- Weds., 2nd September – SVP meets at 7.30pm in the Emmaus Room
- Friday, 4th September – SVP 'First Friday' Coffee Morning - 10.45am (after Mass)

Saturday Club – Parents please note that Saturday Club begins its new term on 12th September.

First Holy Communion Programme – Application forms for admission to the First Holy Communion Programme for next year are now available from the sacristy.

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.

Sponsored Cycle Ride (Norfolk Churches Trust) – 12th September – A list is now at the back of the church for those who can spare an hour to sign the forms for the riders on the day. You will meet lots of lovely people during the day.

World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation - 1st September - Created by Pope Francis, this day of prayer “will offer individual believers and communities a fitting opportunity to reaffirm their personal vocation to be stewards of creation” and reflect upon “the adoption of appropriate lifestyles.”

A time of quiet prayer for healing at Clare Priory - On Thursday September 10th (between 7.00pm and 8.30pm) we have another of our evenings entitled “Come to me all who are burdened and I will give you rest”. These evenings offer you the opportunity to experience quiet prayer for healing of the hurts of life. It will be a peaceful and reflective time with the opportunity, for those who wish, to be prayed with individually

in silence. And there will be no expectation for you to say anything or take part in anything you may just sit quietly. To book a place please phone Kathy at the Priory. 01787 277326. We do need to know the number to expect.

Christian Gap Year - "There is a vast range of gap year possibilities available today with many Christian organizations offering a whole variety of jobs in a variety of countries all over the world." These days there are many Christian Gap Year opportunities, which give young people a chance to express their faith in a number of ways. These may involve administration, youth work, evangelism, working with children, working in the community, working in school or teaching English in foreign countries.

Finding Christian Gap Year opportunities - There are a number of secular websites who deal with gap year opportunities for a variety of other organisations, but what about Christian Gap Year opportunities? Fortunately, there are a few resources out there that provide this 'umbrella' service. 'Year for God' and 'OSCAR' are two of these and are both good places to start your search.

LET YOUR GOD LOVE YOU

Be silent.
Be still.
Alone. Empty.
Before your God.
Say nothing.
Ask nothing.
Be silent.
Be still.
Let your God
Look upon you.
That is all.
He knows.
He understands.
He loves you with
An enormous love.
He only wants to
Look upon you
With his love.
Quiet. Still be.
Let your God - love you.

I came across this many years ago at Clare Priory and it really speaks to me. I hope you enjoy it and use it as a way in to silent prayer. I don't know who composed it.