

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Pitfalls of A Prophet

There's an old saying, "An expert is someone who carries a briefcase and works two hundred miles from home." The saying finds resonance in Jesus' own words, "No prophet is accepted in his own native place." In today's reading Jesus is invited to preach back in his hometown synagogue. At first, Jesus' audience are impressed, but then they start to mutter to each other. Surely this is just the son of Joseph the carpenter! When this truth dawns on them they are enraged and drive him out of town. It doesn't matter how successful or famous or distinguished one has become, once you return home you will always be that little runny nosed seven year old who refused to wash behind his ears.

The readings over the Epiphany season are all about humankind coming to understand who Jesus is and what he is about. In particular, the readings tell us how this understanding is communicated. Jesus was an excellent communicator, but not even he was free of prejudice. The business of communicating with others on the subject of God is not without problems and pitfalls.

There is nothing elite about being a prophet. A prophet is anyone who stands up and speaks the truth. As Christians we are all required to stand up for the truth. There is plenty of injustice in the world to speak out against, but before speaking out, we are warned of the pitfalls. Today's gospel warns us of the pitfall of familiarity breeding contempt. What other pitfalls might we encounter in speaking out? It is easy for instance to imagine that everyone's faith should be the same as one's own. Might we misjudge the mood, readiness or interest of our audience? Might we be tempted to patronize, or worse, bore our listeners?

For two thousand years inspirational communicators have stood up in Jesus' wake and amplified his words. Today we are invited to choose our own words, weigh up our audience, examine the pitfalls and add our voice.

Bite Size

"Familiarity breeds contempt, while rarity wins admiration."

Apuleius, Roman philosopher, rhetorician, & satirist (124 AD - 170 AD)

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

PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART AND ST MARGARET MARY [Reg. Charity 278742]

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31ST JANUARY 2016 - 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday Masses – Page 132 of Parish Mass Book

Saturday	6.00 pm	Donor's Int.
Sunday	9.00 am	English (Fdn. *)
	11.00 am	People of the Parish

Music for Sunday Masses - Setting: Belmont Mass

Entry 6pm – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 877 – Will you come and follow me ...

Offertory Hymn 921 – This is my will, my one command ...

Communion *Instrumental Interlude/Sacred silence ...*

Recessional 11am – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 801 – Love divine, all loves excelling ...

CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION - Saturday at 5.30 - 5.55 pm

Weekday Mass Times (4th week in Ordinary Time) [Psalter Week 4]

Mon.	10.00 am	O'Donohue (Fdn. *) - Feria
Tues.	10.00 am	Persecuted Christians – Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas)
	7.30 pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group – in Emmaus Room
Weds.	10.00 am	Donor's Int. - Feria
Thurs.	No Mass Today	- Feria
Fri.	10.00 am	Donor's Int. - St Agatha
	5.45 pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Silent Adoration
	6.15 pm	Evening Prayer (Vespers)
Sat.	10.30 am	Donor's Int. - St Paul Miki & Companions
	6.00 pm	Coyne (Fdn. *) - 5 th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Day of Prayer for the Unemployed)

*Fdn. = Foundation Mass

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

Anniversaries this week: Reginald Walter Bowles, Alice Page, Victor Rawding, Patricia Cox, Alfred Edward Macdonald, English Family, George Maguire, Benjamin Wyand, Stanley Snellgrove, George Gay, Mary Hirst, Bernard O'Shea, Doris Marie (Babs) Dyer, Lynes Smith, Marian Longhorn and George Howell. *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.

Sick List - Please pray for: Michelle Redmond, Joan Blakiston, David Peek, Michael Reavey, Sheila Christie, Robert Nicol, Doreen Kanssen, Shirley Liebenhals, Sarah Chaudri, Anne & Derek Williams, David & Anna Thompkins, Michelle Smith, Rita Smith, Rhonda Darby, Collette Barrow-Nessian, Eileen Brockleby, Pat Howe, Kathleen (Jenny) Rudd and Pat Grout.

Money Matters – The collection last weekend was £494.72 and the retiring collection for the Catholic Association for Racial Justice was £135.05 . Thank you all very much.

Diary Dates for this week –

- Fri. 5th Feb. – SVP 'First Friday' Coffee Morning – after morning Mass
- Sat. 6th Feb. – Saturday Club meets - 11.00am in Emmaus Room

World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life - 2nd February - In 1997, Pope John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is normally attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd. Today the Universal Church unites in prayer for all men and women in consecrated life and asks the Lord of the harvest to inspire and call our present generation of young Catholics to follow Jesus in religious life. Today you are invited to pray for someone you know who is living the consecrated life or presently discerning a vocation as a religious brother, sister or priest. Keep them in your prayers today!

Presentation of the Lord - February 2nd - Simeon had waited all his life to see Jesus. The Holy Spirit had promised him that he would live long enough. Seeing Jesus satisfied Simon's life. We are prompted to ask what would satisfy us in our lives. Are the goals we set worth a lifetime of wanting, as Simeon's was?

Candlemas - February 2nd - Candlemas is a traditional Christian festival that commemorates the ritual purification of Mary forty days after the birth of her son. The Feast of Purification is called 'Candlemas' because that was the day on which the year's supply of candles for the church were blessed. Christians were observing 'Candlemas' in Jerusalem as early as the fourth century A.D. By the middle of the fifth century, candles were lit on this day to symbolize that Jesus Christ was the light, the truth and the way.

The Blessing of St Blaise - 3rd February - For many decades Catholics sought this annual 'St. Blaise blessing' for their throats: "Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from ailments of the throat and from every other evil. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Lenten Stations – Lent will be here soon. February 10th is Ash Wednesday and I would like to suggest to the various groups in the parish that they take on the Stations of the Cross for one week. We have: the UCM, the SVP, Altar Servers, Catechists and prayer group(s). Each group could choose a time, a day, a style of doing the Stations. The Stations are a devotion, not a liturgy and can be done in any way you like.

Union of Catholic Mothers – Members are asked to note that the next meeting of the Union of Catholic Mothers falls on 10th February, which is Ash Wednesday. It was decided at the last meeting, that the meeting would be held directly after the morning Mass, and that members would bring their own packed lunch. This meeting will include the AGM.

Parish Meeting - On Sunday, 14th February, following the 11.00am Mass. Please put your name on the list for catering purposes for the shared lunch, which is to be prepared by the UCM. Please keep your items for the agenda coming in.

Lunchtime Concerts in the Cathedral - There is a programme of concerts to be given in St John's Cathedral, Norwich, on Wednesdays at 1.00pm and the details of the February programme are: - 3rd February: Judy Ball (Soprano and Pupils)
- 10th February: *No performance – Ash Wednesday*
- 17th February: Anna Prosser (Mezzo-Soprano)
- 24th February: Ben Schilperoort (Bass-Baritone)

Admission is free but there is a retiring collection.

Diocesan Charismatic Renewal Day – "Journeying": an enriching Day of Prayer, Teaching and Renewal on Saturday, 27th February 2016, from 10.00am to 4.30pm at Bowthorpe Church Centre, Norwich NR5 9AA. Led by Tim Stevens, a retired Senior Detective, now working full time for Catholic Faith Exploration. Drinks provided. Packed lunch needed. Childcare is available – to book a place for your child (and for more details of the day) contact Philip Waters, Chair of the Diocesan Service Team, on 07910157584.

Teacher Vacancies - Executive Head Teacher: St Benet's, Beccles and St Edmund's, Bungay, Catholic Primary Schools. Head Teacher: St Benedict's School, Bury St Edmunds. Also vacancies at St Alban's High, especially the post of Head of RE. Please see the Diocesan website for more details - www.rcdea.org.uk; or see the adverts on the notice-board at the back of Church.