

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



True Love Never Gives Up

It doesn't matter how far we've travelled from God, there is always a way back. The parable of the Prodigal Son is great comfort for those of us whose lives are in such a mess that we can see no glimmer of hope. But does that mean that the parable is not relevant for the rest of us?

The wonderful thing about the seemingly simple parable that Jesus tells us today, is that it is really two parables rolled into one. Whichever part of the story speaks loudest to us is dependent upon the son with whom we most identify. The story of the wayward son, who squandered his father's money and then returns home for forgiveness, speaks to anyone who has turned away from God but wants to put his or her life on track again. This parable is for anyone who has made bad decisions without much thought of the consequences. Bad decisions take us in the wrong direction and we might only realise it when we finally hit rock bottom. Only then might we admit the truth to ourselves; only then might we confess "I can't carry on like this... something has to give... something must change!"

If our sympathies lie with the prodigal son's older brother, then this parable speaks to us from a different point of view. The parable is for all who judge others as unworthy of our respect or companionship. This parable is for all those who lack empathy. Like the older son who resents his brother's welcome home party, we disappoint God when we resent others being given a second chance, or when we are unable to forgive.

The one character in the story that is beyond reproach is the father. Like God, the father is loving and compassionate. The father's love enables him to look beyond the transgressions of his younger son. Similarly, the father is patient and understanding towards his self-righteous son. The father is ready to forgive even before he is asked to forgive. The father doesn't give up on either son. His love is exemplary.

Today we can further our Lenten journey by not putting ourselves above others, by not being judgmental and by allowing others their second chance in life just as we may one day need our second chance.



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 Website: <http://www.sacredheartdereham.org.uk>

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

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Kathleen Edmunds:

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31ST MARCH 2019 – 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (Lætare Sunday) - Year C

[4th Week of Lent, Weekday Year I, Psalter Week 4]

Mass Times for the Week			Intentions
Sat. 30 th Mar.	6.00 pm	4 th Sunday of Lent [Parish Mass Book p168]	Priest's Int. The People of the Parish Roger Borthwick
Sun. 31 st Mar.	9.00 am 11.00 am		
Mon. 1 st Apr.	10.00 am	Lent Feria	Bob Shutt (Bussey)
Tues. 2 nd Apr.	-	Lent Feria	No Mass today – PP's day off
Weds. 3 rd Apr.	12.30pm	Requiem Mass for Bob Shutt	
Thurs. 4 th Apr.	10.00 am	Lent Feria	Bob Shutt (Tinney)
Fri. 5 th Apr.	10.00 am	Lent Feria	Catherine Macdonald
	10.30am	Stations of the Cross	
Sat. 6 th Apr.	-	Lent Feria	No morning Mass.
Sat. 6 th Apr.	6.00 pm	5 th Sunday of Lent	Special Int. Bob Shutt (Perkins) The People of the Parish
Sun. 7 th Apr.	9.00 am 11.00 am		

Music for 4th Sunday of Lent – Setting: Belmont Mass (incl. Mem. Acclam. 2)

Entry: 6pm – Angelus (said); Hymn 934 – Dear Lord and Father of mankind ...

Psalm: 6pm & 9am (said) *R.*: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

11am (sung) R.: Taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord

Offertory: Hymn 211 – Our Father, we have wandered ...

Recessional: 11am – Angelus (said); Hymn 892 – The Lord hears the cry of the poor ...

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

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

Anniversaries this week: Margaret Hindle, Gladys Reeve, Rita Power, Vera Conway, Iain Walton, Ricci (Frederica) White, Maria Madalena Santana, Stephanie Grange, Roger Borthwick, Edith Graydon-Carter, Harold Chapman, Gordon William Lloyd and Harry Knight. *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: David Peek, Janet Yardley, Jenny Rudd, Peter Gormans, Sarah Chaudri, Rita Smith, Carol Whitesides, Catherine (Kay) Garrard, Robert Nicol, Eileen Brocklesby, Neville Hibberd, Shirley Liebenhals and Brenda May.

Money Matters: Thank you for your offering of £478.32 last weekend for the maintenance of our parish.

CAFOD - There will be an optional collection for CAFOD at the end of each Mass this weekend to help relieve the suffering from Cyclone Idai in Africa. As a matter of interest there are now much fewer retiring collections during the year as the Council of Priests and the Diocese reduced a lot of Second Collections to Optional Collections. These collections are now marked as Optional in the Diocesan Year Book.

Diary Dates for this week -		
Mon. 1 st Apr.	2.00pm	Mother Teresa's knitting group – Emmaus Room. New members always welcome to join for a knit & natter.
Tues. 2 nd Apr.	7.30pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group - Emmaus Room
Thurs. 4 th Apr.	6.30pm	Music selection & practice – Presbytery & Church. All volunteers welcome to sing or play.
Fri. 5 th Apr.	11.00am	SVP 'First Friday' Coffee Morning. After Stations of the Cross. All welcome.
Sat. 6 th Apr.	Saturday Club is on school holidays – classes resume 27 th April.	

Patrick Monaghan will be leaving us sooner rather than later. In some circles they would say that he is leaving 'to spend more time with his family'. It Patrick's case it is true and he has found a place to live in closer to his immediate family. The exact date of his departure is not known yet but is likely to be very soon after Easter.

Chrism Mass: Tuesday, 16th April - There are still plenty of seats on the coach for the Chrism Mass. Please sign the list at the back of the church.

Offertory Envelopes – A reminder if you have not already done so for all those who use envelopes for their weekly offertory to please collect them from the back of church. Those who pay by Standing Order please pick up your white envelope, also at the back of the church, which contains the offertory envelopes for the Easter and Christmas offering to enable us to claim the gift aid.

Parish Gift Aid Scheme - Please would parishioners who are members of the parish gift aid scheme let Rex Baker know if there have been any changes in your personal circumstances regarding the payment of income tax (or change of address) for the financial year 2018-2019. In the absence of any such information, it will be assumed that you are still a tax payer and the parish will reclaim tax from HMRC on the offertory donations you have made during this financial year.

If there are any parishioners who pay tax and are not part of the gift aid scheme and are willing to sign up again please let Rex know or ask Fr Brendan. This is a great way for the parish to get additional funds from the tax reclaim benefits; Last year the parish reclaimed circa £5,000. With this scheme you do not need to commit to a fixed amount as it will just be based on your total annual contribution.

Contact details for Rex Baker are telephone number: 01362 694801 or [email rexbaker27@btinternet.com](mailto:rexbaker27@btinternet.com)

IGNITE FESTIVAL, 4th & 5th May 2019 – All young people in Year 8 upwards are invited to come and experience their faith in a new and dynamic way at the **Ignite Festival**. The weekend will include inspiring talks, passionate prayer, live music, and lots of fun stuff including sumo suit wrestling! Organised by the Diocesan Youth Service. See [www.ignitefestival.co.uk\[1\]](http://www.ignitefestival.co.uk[1]) for more information.

Interested in joining the IGNITE Team? The Diocesan Youth Service is looking for people age 18-30 to join the Ignite Team, sharing the Gospel Message with young people in a way they can relate to. These are full-time positions, with food, accommodation and a monthly allowance provided. Ideal as a 'gap year'. For more information see [www.rcdea.org.uk/youth\[2\]](http://www.rcdea.org.uk/youth[2])

Lent Prayer: We pray for world leaders, that the Holy Spirit may guide them to speak out against hunger and poverty in our world and take action to build a better future. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lenten Alms Box - There will be a box at the back of the church throughout Lent - to receive your Lenten Alms. This year the proceeds from across the Diocese will be divided equally between Aid to the Church in Need and The Cambridge Nazareth Trust.



Bitesize – “To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you.”
~ Lewis B. Smedes