

**Gospel Reflection for the Second Sunday of Lent
Beyond Fear**



If you are always eager and motivated and pro-active then this isn't for you. If you on the other hand suffer from bouts of lethargy, are often paralysed by feelings of fear, anxiety or self-doubt, then today's gospel carries a powerful message.

Most of us probably fall into the second category. We start a project in a flush of excitement and commitment, but when the hard work sets in and success eludes us, we become discouraged. We take on a big financial commitment thoroughly convinced that we can deal with it, but begin to have sleepless nights, dreading the bills and fearing the bank manager. We enter into new relationships and quickly get disappointed when elements of that relationship demand more of us than we thought. We embark on a challenging career but become fearful and filled with self-doubt. Take Heart! We are no different from the early disciples. Jesus had been telling his disciples what being the 'Messiah' really meant, and it didn't entail hurling the Romans out on their ear, it entailed dying on a cross. Is it any wonder the disciples were feeling discouraged! Jesus knew that his disciples needed to see beyond the fear. He knew that he needed to re-ignite a vision of the rewards of their work, and he knew that vision needed to stay with them always to motivate them in times when their ministry weighed heavy. In short, Jesus needed to remind them how important their job was, and so he gave them the spiritual experience we now call the 'transfiguration'. A vision of himself in a dazzling light flanked by Moses and Elijah and God's voice from the clouds... "This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him."

Like the early disciples, we have to look beyond our fears if we are to work through them. God gave each of us a talent, and with that a talent comes a vision of what we can do and what we can achieve. This is the vision we can call upon when we become bored or de-motivated. This is the vision that will carry us beyond our fear.

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
DEREHAM, NORFOLK**

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1ST MARCH 2015: 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

Weekend Masses – Page 151 of Parish Mass Book

Saturday	6.00 pm	Int. Priest's intention	<i>(Angelus)</i>
Sunday	9.00 am	Int. Priest's intention	
	11.00 am	Int. People of the Parish	<i>(Angelus)</i>

Confession/Reconciliation – 5.30 – 5.55 pm Saturday

Weekday Services

Mon.	No Mass today	
Tues.	10.00 am	E. Maguire - Lent Feria
	7.30 pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group in Emmaus room
Weds.	10.00 am	Requiem Mass for Magdolna Toth
Thurs.	10.00 am	The English Family (Fdn.) – Lent Feria
Fri.	10.00 am	Mona Murphy (Fdn.) – Lent Feria
Sat.	10.30 am	Albert Foley (Fdn.) – Lent Feria
	6.00 pm	Priest's Int. – 3rd Sunday of Lent

(Fdn.) = Foundation Mass

Divine Office – Psalter Week 2

Anniversaries this week:

Dorothy Anne Gordon, Michael Joseph Carroll, Thomas Arbuthnot, John Gaylard, Ernest B. Shaw, Esther Rawe, Robert Patrick, Kenneth Gaylard. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.*

Money Matters (*O yes, it does!*) – Collection last weekend was £503.97. Thank you very much. There will be a **retiring collection** at all Masses this weekend for **CAFOD**. Envelopes are at the back of the church.

Pope Francis's Prayer Intention for March



There is a lot in the news at the moment of an overstretched NHS, and the difficult financial decisions that face medics on a daily basis. There is a lot in the news about the advances in science, especially reproductive science, and the moral dilemmas that those advances can bring. Sometimes it is easy in our arguments about money and ethics to forget 'people'. This month we are invited to join in Pope Francis's prayer intention "....That those involved in scientific research may serve the well-being of the whole human person. "

1st March - Saint David's Day

Lent doesn't have to be a time of major change... doing the little things, but doing them well counts too. Adopt St David's philosophy .. "Be joyful, brothers and sisters. Keep your faith, and do the little things that you have seen and heard with me."

Women's World Day of Prayer 6th March 2015

World Day of Prayer is a global, ecumenical movement of Christian women joined together to observe a common day of prayer each year on the first Friday of March. A really useful day to think about the changing role of women in our parishes, and an invitation to pray for more opportunities and better recognition for the part women play.

Give one hour on Friday, 6th March 2015. Women from a different country each year prepare a service lasting about one hour. Please come and meet with others from Dereham to support this event. Time: **2.30 p.m.** Venue: **Toftwood Methodist Church, Shipdham Road.** Speaker: **Rev. Val Spencer.** Ladies from all churches are taking part. Mothers, please feel free to slip away to collect children from school. Pre-school children welcome. Light refreshments are available after the service. An offering is taken up for the Prayer Movement and Christian literature and education projects.

Fairtrade Fortnight - 23rd Feb - 8th March

You can get involved as little or as much as you want with this worthy cause, from selecting Fairtrade products in the supermarket, to hosting Fairtrade coffee mornings or getting involved in the Fairtrade Foundation campaigns. To get better involved, sign up to the campaigns newsletter at www.fairtrade.org.uk

Peace Actions for March

- On 'Women's World Day of Prayer' and on 'Mothering Sunday', send a card to a female family member letting them know how important they are.
- Remember, particularly during 'Fairtrade Fortnight', to add 'Fairtrade' products to your shopping basket .
- Make sure that what you do for Lent benefits others.
- Do something for World Water Day on March 22nd.

General Election

The Bishops have written a joint letter to all Catholics in England and Wales encouraging us to participate and vote in the election and offering some key issues and questions for reflection on where candidates stand. Copies are available at the back of the church. More information can be obtained from the Bishops' Conference website [Home / Catholic News - The Catholic Church for England and Wales](http://Home/CatholicNews-TheCatholicChurchforEnglandandWales/www.catholicnews.org.uk) - www.catholicnews.org.uk

Diocesan News - The Diocesan News for March is now available to take away from the back of church.

Diocesan Year Book – This should be available from 16th March.

Pope Francis's Guide to Lent Giving Up Indifference.

"What are you giving up for Lent?" It's a question we hear a lot round about now. In his annual Lenten message, the pope writes, "Indifference to our neighbour and to God represents a real temptation for us Christians. Each year during Lent we need to hear once more the voice of the prophets who cry out and trouble our conscience."

Pope Francis points to the globalization of indifference. He writes that "whenever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor. God's voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of his love is no longer felt, and the desire to do good fades. But when we fast from this indifference, we can begin to feast on love. Lent is the perfect time to learn how to love again. ..."

Bitesize

"You block your dream when you allow your fear to grow bigger than your faith."

Mary Manin Morrissey