

## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



**Filling the Void** - Money can't buy happiness, but neither can poverty. We need money to pay the bills and so we spend most of our lives striving to earn it. Then when we've got enough to pay the bills, it's nice to have a little extra for birthdays and Christmas and for holidays. Money doesn't buy happiness, but it can certainly buy security and comfort. The trouble is striving to earn money can become an end in itself. There comes a point where we are left uncertain as to whether we are working to live, or living to work. Money can easily become a

trap where however much we have, there always seems a need for more. Enough it seems is never enough. The thirst for money is a thirst that cannot be quenched. We only have to look at the lives of the rich and famous, in some cases very tragic lives, to know that material pursuits don't bring happiness. However hard we strive, if material pursuits are our only goal, there will always be a void in our lives. Jesus tells us that only God can fill this void. "Do not work for food that perishes," he tells the Galileans, "But for the food that endures for eternal life."

In today's gospel reading we hear how the crowd followed Jesus because they were impressed that he had fed five thousand with only five loaves and two fishes. They followed him because they wanted more. But Jesus knew that they had missed the point. "You are looking for me not because you saw signs," he says, "but because you ate the loaves and were filled." The true bread, he tells them, is the bread of God, which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. Then Jesus takes the crowd one step further, he tells them that to share in the bread of eternal life they must believe in the one that God sent.

This must have been hard for the Galileans to take in, but in retrospect easier for us. We look around at those who live by Jesus' teaching, and observe that these people seem content with their lives. ... happy even. In what ways are the rest of us working for the food that endures for eternal life?



**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 [Registered Charity 278742]

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### 1<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2021 – 18<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year B

[18<sup>th</sup> Week of the Year, Weekday Year I, Psalter Week 2]

Mass Times for the Week			Intentions
Sat. 31 July	6.00 pm	18 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	Holy Souls The People of the Parish Joao Lobo & Thanksgiving
Sun. 1 Aug.	9.00 am 11.00 am		
Mon. 2 Aug.	10.00 am	Feria	Those on the Parish Sick List
Tues. 3 Aug.	-	Feria	<b>No Mass today</b>
Weds. 4 Aug.	10.00 am	St John Vianney	Diocesan Priests
Thurs. 5 Aug.	10.00 am	Feria	Holy Souls
Fri. 6 Aug.	10.00 am	THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD	Anisha Cyriac (1/3)
Sat. 7 Aug.	-	Feria	<b>No morning Mass</b>
Sun. 8 Aug.	6.00 pm 9.00 am 11.00 am	19 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	Holy Souls The People of the Parish Teresa Revell

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - from 9.25 a.m. – 9.55 a.m.  
before each weekday Mass.**

*The Church is open daily until 6:00pm*

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](http://www.universalis.com)

**ALL MASSES ARE LIVE STREAMED ON YouTube –**

Search for **Dereham Catholic Church** on YouTube, or use the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCR-qWs-B40VTvbezZ83MxQ/videos?view=2&flow=grid>

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

**Anniversaries this week:** Joanna Sokalska, Harrington Garrett, Jack Filby, Iris Reavey, Maria Isabel Ferriera, Patrick Thomas Warden, Pope Paul VI, Peggy Pratt, Sybilla Hopkins, Peggy Malone. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.*

**Hospital Visits:** If you or any member of your family is admitted to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital and would like to have a visit from a Catholic Priest, please inform a nurse on the ward and contact will be made through the Chaplaincy. If you are admitted to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in King's Lynn, please contact Fr. Peter Rollings at the Presbytery on 01553 772220. If you would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick before going into hospital, please contact Fr. Brendan either by phone or by email.

**Sick & Housebound [with GDPR Permissions] – Please pray for:** Carol Whitesides, Shirley Liebenhals, Frances Saville King, Derek Williams, Greta Cummings, Patsy Gray, Allan Michael Howard, Collette Barrow-Nessian, Terri Sanderson.

**Money Matters:** Thank you for your offering of £209.70 last weekend for the day-to-day running of our parish and for £5 for the recent Stella Maris collection.

For those who would like to make their regular offerings by Standing Order, the information you need is: Account name: **Catholic Church of Dereham**. The Sort Code is: **40-20-08** and the Account number is: **11311115**. If you are a tax payer, please also consider **Gift Aid**. This is a great way for the parish to get additional funds from the tax reclaim benefits scheme; with this scheme you do not need to commit to a fixed amount as it will just be based on your total annual contribution. Let Fr. Brendan know if you would like to sign up to Gift Aid.



**Newsletter by Email** - Please let Fr. Brendan know if you would like to receive the parish's weekly bulletin by email. We have a GDPR compliant list of names for this purpose.

**Welcome** to our visitors who join us for Mass during the holidays. It is always a joy to welcome people from different parishes and places to join with us for Mass.

**Parish priest's holiday.** I have been able to book a flight and will be on holiday from August 24th to September 8th. Fr. Michael Stack has very kindly agreed to celebrate the Sunday Masses for me while I am away and he is also able to celebrate some weekday Masses too.

**Feast of the Transfiguration, 6th August** - The first and single most important factor in staying motivated is to have a vision. Having a vision gives us a reason to act. As Christ's disciples we might motivate ourselves with a vision of a world without poverty or war ... or simply to improve the life of one other person. The Feast of the Transfiguration invites us to stay motivated as disciples in the belief that we will one day enjoy the place God has prepared for each of us.



### **Pope Francis's Prayer Intention for August 2021: Reform in the Light of the Gospel** - Pope



Francis's monthly prayer intention for August is directly for the Church, and that it might reform herself in the light of the Gospel. When we hear that something is directed at 'the Church' are we inclined to feel some distance?

Do we think of 'the Church' as a collection of bishops in some way off office in Rome? Do we ever think of ourselves as the Church? Of course, each and every one of us is the Church and therefore Pope Francis's monthly intention is for each and every one of us to live by the gospels. The first thing to do is actually read the gospels. For those of us who don't much like reading, the shortest gospel is by Mark and can be easily read in two hours. For those of us who find the language of the Bible a little 'dry' the first thing to do is buy a commentary. A word of caution though, lots of commentaries can actually be harder to read than the Bible itself, so consider investing in a commentary written for teenagers or students. This month Pope Francis asks us to join in his monthly prayer intention "*... for the Church, that She may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.*"

**Norfolk Churches Trust Sponsored Bike Ride 2021** - This year's sponsored bike ride will be taking place on **Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2021**. You can find all the details of this and last year's event in the Norfolk Churches Trust Newsletter on the parish website.



**Remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki** - On August 5th 1945, Hiroshima became the first city in the world to suffer a nuclear attack. On August 9th Nagasaki became the second city to be hit by an atomic bomb. The Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemorate the bombings every year. "*To remember the past is to commit oneself to the future. To remember Hiroshima is to abhor nuclear war. To remember Hiroshima is to commit oneself to peace.*" (Pope John Paul II, Hiroshima, Japan, 1991)

**Bitesize** – 'I cannot afford to waste my time making money.' ~ Louis Agassiz

### **Prayer for the Election of a Bishop**

*O God, eternal shepherd, who govern your flock with unfailing care, grant in your boundless fatherly love a pastor for your Church who will please you by his holiness and to us show watchful care. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.*

St. Felix: Pray for us.

St. Fursey: Pray for us.

St. Edmund: Pray for us.

All Holy Martyrs and Saints of East Anglia: Pray for us.