

## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS



### Called to Witness

People often declare that their faith is a private and a very personal thing. Of course, our faith is very personal, but does that mean it should be private? In keeping our faith private we are missing a very important opportunity. How often has our own faith taken a little leap forward because of something we have heard or something we have read? Similarly, there may be something you have heard or learnt that would help someone else. You might not consider yourself a theologian, but there might be something seemingly small that you could contribute that would make a big difference to someone else.

Someone else's testimony is the way we learn. Without the internet, books, Catholic papers, TV documentaries, homilies and the testimonies of friends and family, how would we develop our faith? Without the work of missionaries, teachers and parents, how would our faith have been handed from generation to generation? Without the gospel writers, how would Jesus' work and God's word be remembered? Without John the Baptist and the first disciples, how else would Jesus' identity have been known?

Bearing witness is essential. Without witnesses we would know nothing of Jesus. Staying quiet and making religion a private matter is simply not an option. There are still those that would benefit from Christ's teaching either directly or indirectly. If Christianity is something very important to us, why be reticent about sharing it? If bearing witness to Christ can change lives, shouldn't we make our voices ever more persistently heard by friends, neighbours, family, politicians, community leaders TV producers and anyone else with the willingness and the know-how to bring about change?

Like John, we are called in our baptismal promises to be witnesses to the work of Christ. We are called to be witnesses in every circumstance of our lives.



**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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### 2<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY 2022 – 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS – Year C

[2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Christmas, Weekday Year II, Psalter Week 2]

Mass Times for the Week			Intentions
Sat. 1 Jan.	6.00 pm	2nd Sunday of Christmas	Josephine Cyriac (2/5) The People of the Parish Roger Borthwick & Macdonald family
Sun. 2 Jan.	9.00 am 11.00 am		
Mon. 3 Jan.	<b>12.00 noon</b>	Christmas Feria	<b>Servers' Mass</b>
Tues. 4 Jan.	-	Christmas Feria	<b>No Mass today</b>
Weds. 5 Jan.	10.00 am	Christmas Feria	Ellen Harrington (Perkins)
<b>Thurs. 6 Jan.</b>	<b>10.00 am 7.30 pm</b>	<b>The Epiphany of the Lord</b>	The People of the Parish Holy Souls
Fri. 7 Jan.	10.00 am	Christmas Feria	Covid-19 Sick
Sat. 8 Jan.	-	Christmas Feria	<b>No morning Mass</b>
Sun. 9 Jan.	6.00 pm 9.00 am 11.00 am	<b>The Baptism of the Lord</b>	NHS Staff The People of the Parish Bill Sibley

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

*The Church is open daily until 5:00pm*

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:** Ellen (Nell) Raiteri, Robert Clark, Eira Whitehouse, Patricia Gravestock, John Doherty, Rev. Bernard Warwick, Joseph Sadowsky, Matthew Murphy, Frank Pike, Philip Ward, Lillian Carter, Len Smith, Kathleen Strayton. *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, Ellen Harrington, Betty Reavey, Marion Ring-Davies.

**Money Matters:** Thank you for your generous Christmas offering of £1041.10 and for your Sunday offering of £148.10 for the day-to-day running of our parish.

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.

**Thank you** to everyone who attended our Christmas Masses and again at the weekend. It was lovely to see everyone. In addition to those in the church at least another hundred people participated at Mass through livestreaming in their homes. On average at least seventy people participate in our weekend masses every week. The hidden, prayerful life of our parish. I would like to thank you all for your cards and gifts and everyone a very happy and healthy New Year.

**Retreat:** I am going on retreat from Monday Jan. 10 to Jan. 14th. Fr. Michael Stack has kindly agreed to receive all telephone calls to the parish telephone line for the duration.

**First Holy Communion Classes** resume on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> January – 10.30-11.30 a.m. in the Emmaus Room.

**Feast of the Epiphany, Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January** - Most of us get through life relying on the



knowledge we already have. Today's challenge is to look for something new. Knowing where to look for our own guiding star is up to us, but one thing is for sure, if we are not looking for revelation, we will never find it. If we carry on doing the same things, we will only get the same results.

**Pope Francis's Prayer Intention for January 2022** - You don't need to be much of an expert to know that a lack of inter-religious understanding leads to a lack of empathy. At worst, a lack of empathy can lead to religious discrimination, and at its very worst, discrimination can even lead to persecution. It is true that the basis of most world religions has values such as love and kindness and peace by which to live our lives. So, if living by a universally agreed set of values is central to all beliefs, how do we find it so difficult to get along? How is it that our brothers and sisters across the globe are persecuted for what they believe in? How is it that we shun those of other beliefs in our own communities? This month we are invited to join in Pope Francis's prayer intention *"...for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family."*



**New Year Resolutions 2022** - There's a saying that goes, "If God is your co-pilot, swap seats!" It has resonance for all of us who think that God is simply there to assist us, instead of handing our lives over to him. Perhaps if we break our new year resolutions year after year, we are making the wrong resolutions, or not asking God to shape our resolutions. Now is the time to reconsider the direction in which our lives are travelling.

**Bitesize** – "It's not that some people have willpower and some don't. It's that some people are ready to change and others are not." ~James Gordon, M.D.

**Prayer for the Election of a Bishop** - 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*.

