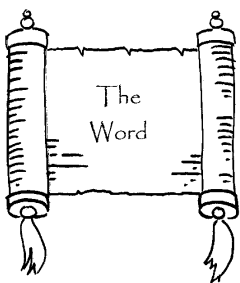


GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS



Great Beginnings

All the best books have great beginnings, and St. John's gospel is no exception. The gospel begins with an eighteen-verse introduction, which we call 'The Prologue'. The prologue contains intriguing themes such as creation, life, and truth. Through it all, John refers to Jesus as the 'Word'. If John had been writing today, would he have used different language? To us the word 'Word' is simply a means of expression. In John's day the word 'Word' had greater implication. To understand today's gospel, we need to know that in Hebrew Scriptures the 'Word' had a power of its own. The 'Word' was not just a sound or an expression, but something with its own life. The 'Word' was an agent of creation. We can see this for ourselves in Genesis. 'God said, "Let there be light," and light appeared.' God's 'Word' has the power to create. To call Jesus the 'Word' was to attribute to him the ability to make things happen.

We can bring our own understanding of the 'Word' to help us understand this gospel. Our own understanding of words is of language, understanding and communication. Perhaps to describe Jesus as the 'Word' is to imply that he was sent as a communication between God and us.

How would we have recorded the beginning of Jesus' public ministry? We may have been tempted to record his great deeds as any well-trained newspaper reporter may have done. We may have been tempted to place him in a political or historical context worthy of any great public figure. John however, begins his gospel by placing Jesus fairly and squarely at the centre of creation itself. The story starts with the bold statement that Jesus is the meaning behind creation, life and truth. It's a great beginning. Can we put down John's gospel; tell ourselves this has no relevance in our lives or do we keep turning the pages.



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]

Parish Priest: Fr. Brendan Moffatt – Telephone: 01362 694066

Email: Brendan.Moffatt@rcdea.org.uk

Address: The Presbytery, 35 London Road, Dereham NR19 1AS

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

Permanent Deacon: Rev. Martin Sanderson: Tel: 01362 822590

Email: martin.sanderson@rcdea.org.uk

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

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Kathleen Edmunds:

Email: kathleenedmunds@yahoo.com

3RD JANUARY 2021 – 2ND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS – Year B

[2nd Week of Christmas, Weekday Year I, Psalter Week 2]

Mass Times for the Week			Intentions
Sat. 2 Jan.	6.00 pm	2 ND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	Eugeniya Pilibaitiene Jeremiah & Norah Ryan The People of the Parish
Sun. 3 Jan.	9.00 am 11.00 am		
Mon. 4 Jan.	10.00 am	Christmas Feria	Calvin & Becky Cummings
Tues. 5 Jan.	-	Christmas Feria	No Mass today
Weds. 6 Jan.	10.00 am 7.30 pm	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	Holy Souls The People of the Parish
Thurs. 7 Jan.	10.00 am	Christmas Feria	NHS Hospital Staff
Fri. 8 Jan.	10.00 am	Christmas Feria	Holy Souls
Sat. 9 Jan.	-	Christmas Feria	No morning Mass
Sun. 10 Jan.	6.00 pm 9.00 am 11.00 am	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	Pat & Enda Clarke (Perrin) Holy Souls The People of the Parish



Epiphany

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

DAILY MASS LIVE STREAM – 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 (Deacon), Joseph Sadowsky, Matthew Murphy, Frank Pike, Philip Ward, Lillian Carter, Len Smith, Kathleen Strayton, Jane Elizabeth Winifred Oaksford and James Tinney. *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: Jenny Rudd, Carol Whitesides, Shirley Liebenhals, Frances Saville King, Una McWeeny, Derek Williams, Greta Cummings and Patsy Gray.

Money Matters: Thank you for your Christmas offering of £1,074.24 and for last week's offering of £528.50 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.

I would like to wish everyone a very happy and healthy New Year. I expect that all of us are of one mind in wishing for a safe and a healthy New Year for all of our families, friends and colleagues at home and abroad.

Feast of the Epiphany, Wednesday, 6th January - Today the Church commemorates the first manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. We call it the 'Epiphany' a word derived from the Greek meaning 'to appear' or 'to be shown forth'. The Epiphany is about searching for meaning purpose and revelation. The Magi were men of great learning, intellect and wealth, yet they weren't prepared to sit back and imagine they knew it all. Guided by a star and motivated by a hunger for truth, they stepped out of their comfort zone and set out across the desert not knowing what they would find or how long it would take. It was a journey of faith and great courage. Today's gospel reading is an invitation for all God's people to step out of their old way of life and search for something new.

Pope Francis's Prayer Intention, Human Fraternity January 2021 - It's a sad truth that religion through the centuries has actually contributed to world conflict as much as it has striven to create peace. But it is also true that all religions have common foundations, and people all over the world whatever their religion and whatever their background want the same things. Everyone needs love, respect, work, food, shelter and freedom. Because we all want the same things, it makes sense that we should look for ways to work together. This month Pope Francis invites us to join in his prayer intention for January 2021, "... *May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.*"



Peace Actions for January 2021

- Make a visit to another Christian church in your area as part of your commitment to **Christian Unity Week**, between 18 - 25 January in 2021.
- Try to mark **Holocaust Memorial Day** (27th January). Resources are available from the Council for Christians and Jews or Beth Shalom Holocaust Centre
- Remember to pray for peace in the Middle East around Epiphany time.

Care for Our Common Home

Christmas Recycling: Christmas is a fantastic time of year, but it can take its toll on the environment. Did you know we throw away 1 billion cards and enough wrapping paper to reach the Moon every year? The Woodland Trust gives us a couple of ideas for recycling our Christmas waste.

Christmas cards: After cutting off any glitter or other unrecyclable embellishments, Christmas cards can be put in household recycling in most areas. Before recycling, consider whether you can get any more use out of your cards. You could get creative and upcycle them into decorations or gift tags for next Christmas.

Wrapping paper: Wrapping paper recycling depends on what material it's made from. Anything with glitter or foil is an instant no-no. If you're not sure, a quick and easy way to check is the scrunch test. Scrunch the paper into a ball. If it stays closed, it's recyclable - though any plastic tape, ribbons and tags need removing first. Never throw away a gift or bottle bag. Just remove the label and re-use next year.

Putting Unwanted Gifts to Good Use - At this time of year our local charity shops are urging us to donate our unwanted Christmas presents. Charities are on the lookout for any un-needed items to sell on to fund vital work. Every year people receive presents that are the wrong size, or just not to their taste. These unwanted presents can make an extraordinary difference to our charity shops. Don't leave your unwanted gifts to gather dust, put them to good use.

Bitesize – "We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day."

~ Edith Lovejoy Pierce