

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



God's Helping Hand

It is tempting to think that today's gospel is about rushing about to see how many people we can convert. The wider implication holds a deeper meaning. Jesus is telling us that when we are feeling broken and disheartened, God is there to put us back on track.

We all know what it's like to face loss or the pain of defeat. We know that picking ourselves up is difficult impossible even. The last thing we want to do is to try again. To try again would only result in further pain and further disappointment. Peter must have felt something like this when he spent all night fishing only to pull up empty nets. When Jesus tells him to put out into deeper water and lay down the nets again, Peter is sceptical. The last thing he wants to do is set himself up for further defeat, but he trusts Jesus enough to give it one more 'try'. The rest of the story is an inspiration. Peter catches more fish than his net can carry. He recognises the hand of God and immediately feels unworthy. "Leave me Lord," he says, "I am a sinner." Fortunately, Jesus is not worried that Peter is a sinner, he can see Peter's true worth.

What if God was to notice your worth? What if he worked a miracle in a part of your life where you thought all was lost? Would you recognise God's hand, and would you give him credit? Being a fisher of men doesn't necessarily mean notching up conversions like an award-winning sales man. Being a fisher of men means letting other people know how your faith has helped you through difficulties. Being a fisher of men means letting other people know that God could put their lives back on track. We need to trust in God and recognise his helping hand.

Bitesize – "Sometimes you feel like giving up, but then you look at other people who have given up and the results aren't that good." ~Robert Brault



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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6TH FEBRUARY 2022 – 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year C

[5th Week of the Year, Weekday Year II, Psalter Week 1]

Mass Times for the Week			Intentions
Sat. 5 Feb.	6.00 pm	5 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Jane Cutter (Sanderson)
Sun. 6 Feb.	9.00 am 11.00 am		Ellen Harrington The People of the Parish
Mon. 7 Feb.	10.00 am	Feria	Calvin & Becky Cummings
Tues. 8 Feb.	-	Feria	No Mass today
Weds. 9 Feb.	10.00 am	Requiem Mass for Kathleen Enda Perrin	
Thurs. 10 Feb.	10.00 am	St Scholastica	Roberto & Nancy Santa Maria
Fri. 11 Feb.	10.00 am	Requiem Mass for Ellen Harrington	
Sat. 12 Feb.	-	Feria	No morning Mass
Sun. 13 Feb.	6.00 pm 9.00 am 11.00 am	6 th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Racial Justice Day)	Maneesa Cyriac Anna Easton (PM) The People of the Parish

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

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: George Howell, Brenda Secker, Joan Rooney, Ralph Keatley, Molly Sayer, Colin Halstead, Madeline Stanely, Maria Rupp, William Green, Henry Rawn, Patrick Flynn, Stella Daisy Hercock, Millie Boyer, Muriel Hope Drury. *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: Shirley Liebenhals, Frances Saville King, Derek Williams, Greta Cummings, Patsy Gray, Allan Michael Howard, Collette Barrow-Nessian, Betty Reavey, Marion Ring-Davies.

Money Matters: Thank you for your offering of £190.30 last weekend towards the maintenance 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.

Diary Dates for this week	
Sat. 12 Feb.	The First Holy Communion Class is on half-term break this week. Classes resume on 26 February.

Confirmation Catechesis - We are running a Confirmation group this September/October. Anyone interested and eligible please see either Michael King or Fr. Brendan so we can gauge interest and numbers.

Key Dates this Week for which our prayers are sought:

- 8th February – Day of Prayer for victims of trafficking and those who work to combat it.
- 11th February – World Day of Prayer for the Sick and Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes
- 7-14th February – National Marriage Week

Tuesday, 8th February – 8th February is also the feast of St Josephine Bakhita, the Sudanese Saint who was born near Jebel Agilere in South Darfur (Sudan) and at the age of nine, was kidnapped and sold into slavery. She suffered terribly at the hands of her kidnappers, so

much so that she forgot her birth name. Her kidnappers gave her the name 'Bakhita', which means 'Fortunate'. Finally, she was rescued by an Italian family and brought to Italy where she not only became a Christian but also felt the call to consecrate her life to God as a sister. She joined the Canossian Daughters of Charity and lived the rest of her life at Schio, a small village near Vicenza. She died on 8 February, 1947.

Covid-19: Guidance for Churches – January 2022 – Following the relaxation of rules by the Government, new guidance for Churches has been issued by the Bishops' Conference. The main changes are highlighted below. The full guidance can be found on the parish website and a copy has been posted on the church notice boards.

- The main form of virus transmission is via personal oral or nasal aerosol. Those attending an act of worship may continue to wear a face covering (both nose and mouth) whilst in the church building.
- There is no need for formal social distancing in church buildings, although those present should be sensitive to the needs of others around them.
- Churches should continue to ensure there is good ventilation, balancing this against the need for church heating, especially at this time.
- Mass books and other worship aids can be resumed with immediate effect.
- Whilst it is still good practice to sanitise hands on entry and exit of churches, there is no need for readers (or other ministers) to sanitise their hands before reading or performing other ministries in the church.
- All ministers of Holy Communion (clergy and lay people) should still sanitise their hands for the distribution of Holy Communion.
- Holy water stoups may be refilled but care should be seen that the water is changed regularly (at a minimum of once a week).
- Usual forms of church cleaning are sufficient.
- Congregational singing may continue and there is a general encouragement to wear face coverings while singing. However, it is recognised that not everyone will feel able to do this.
- Parish social activities can resume. It is recommended that the normal Health and Safety risk assessment for the activity and the space used for the activity is reviewed for these types of gatherings.

Energy Costs – Like everyone else, the parish is paying a lot extra for energy. Our supplier went bust a while back and we have a new supplier of gas at a much higher cost.

Prayer for the Election of a Bishop - God, eternal shepherd, who govern your flock with unflinching 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*.