

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

A Matter of Life and Death



Now more than ever in living memory we are all consumed by the need to stay well and to keep our friends and family well too. It's great news that our scientists have come up with a vaccine that will eventually help beat Covid. It's great news that we now have developed the means to save thousands of lives. Surely if Jesus was around today in person, he would give those scientists a big pat on the back. But perhaps Jesus would have something to add.

A vaccine might save us from getting ill and dying, but it cannot add to our lives. Our bodies are merely vehicles in which to get us through life. It is important to look after a vehicle, but what greater point is there in looking after a vehicle that isn't heading anywhere? What we do with our lives is more important than how long we can stay fit and well, however important that is to us as humans.

Jesus behaves unexpectedly in today's gospel. Having cured Simon's mother-in-law, the whole town turns up at his door eager for miracle cures, and Jesus obliges. This it would seem is his golden opportunity. This is his chance to have everybody eating out of the palm of his hand. Instead, Jesus gets up early and goes off to a deserted place, and when Simon comes looking for him, Jesus suggests that instead of returning to his new found fans, that they move on to the next village. This might seem odd to many, but it is to become apparent that curing the sick was not top of Jesus' agenda.

To achieve anything in this world our health of course is important, but Jesus didn't heal people simply to promote some health and fitness regime. Healing was only part of his primary ministry to teach. Jesus' healing miracles were signs of his identity and of God's power and compassion. His acts of healing were often to teach the importance of faith and discipleship.

Saint Bernadette made a prayer that we could do well to adopt. She said "Lord, I do not ask that I never be afflicted, but only that you never abandon me in affliction."



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.

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

PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART AND ST. MARGARET MARY [Registered Charity 278742]

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

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Kathleen Edmunds:

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7TH FEBRUARY 2021 – 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year B

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

Mass Times for the Week			Intentions
Sat. 6 Feb.	6.00 pm	5 th Sunday in Ord. Time	Stearman (fdn)
Sun. 7 Feb.	9.00 am 11.00 am		Holy Souls The People of the Parish
Mon. 8 Feb.	10.00 am	Feria	Nancy Santa Maria
Tues. 9 Feb.	-	Feria	No Mass today
Weds. 10 Feb.	10.00 am	S Scholastica	Jack & Ena Connolly (fdn)
Thurs. 11 Feb.	10.00 am	Feria	Joan Evans
Fri. 12 Feb.	10.00 am	Feria	P&H Ints. 1/10
Sat. 13 Feb.	-	Feria	No morning Mass
Sun. 14 Feb.	6.00 pm 9.00 am 11.00 am	6 th Sunday in Ord. Time	Henry Wiebe Neil Bradley (fdn) The People of the Parish

All Celebrations of Mass are live-streamed on YouTube

The Church is open daily until 4:00pm

Anniversaries this week: Brenda Secker, Joan Rooney, Ralph Keatley, Molly Sayer, Colin Halstead, Madeline Stanley, Maria Rupp, William Green, Henry Raw, Patrick Flynn, Stella Daisy Hercock, Millie Boyer, Muriel Hope Drury. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.*

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.

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 offertory gifts and donations for the maintenance of our parish. Last week the parish was able to lodge £1,021.96.

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.

Day of Prayer for the Prevention of Human Trafficking, 8th February - Every year, thousands of men, women and children fall into the hands of traffickers, in their own countries and abroad. Almost every country in the world is affected by trafficking, whether as a country of origin, transit or destination for victims. Trafficking is when a person is recruited or transported or harboured, by means of threat or coercion for the purpose of exploitation. The easiest thing we can do to combat trafficking and slavery is to be conscientious consumers. That's something we can all do. By buying 'Fairtrade' food and making sure the clothes we buy are ethically sourced we help eliminate trafficking in the supply chains.

Date for your Diaries! Wednesday, 17th February is Ash Wednesday.

World Day of Prayer for the Sick, 11th February 2021 - In his world message for World Day of the Sick Pope Francis concludes: "The commandment of love that Jesus left to his disciples is also kept in our relationship with the sick. A society is all the more human to the degree that it cares effectively for its most frail and suffering members, in a spirit of fraternal love. Let us strive to achieve this goal, so that no one will feel alone, excluded or abandoned."

Online Zoom Retreat Day: Positive Penance Preparation for Lent – A deeply personal approach inspired by the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius, on **Saturday, 13th February 2021, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm**. Please have a notebook & pen. For further information, contact Margaret-mary@sunflowerseedspirituality.com, Ignatian Spiritual Director & RCDEA Representative for the Bishops' Conference Spirituality Committee: www.sunflowerseedspirituality.com. To register for the day, go to: <https://drmchemistrytutor.ck.page/e45702b75b>

Vacancy - Headteacher required for September 2021, at Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Swaffham. Details of the post can be found on the Diocesan Website: <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/vacancies/headteacher/>

Pope Francis Prayer Intention for February 2021 - In his February message, the Pope asks for society to protect women who are the victims of violence. Although at least 155 countries have approved domestic violence laws and 140 have legislation regarding workplace sexual harassment, to give two examples, this does not mean that these laws always conform to international norms and recommendations, nor that they are applied and enforced. This month Pope Francis invites us to join in his prayer "... for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded by all."

Bitesize – "You are as important to your health as it is to you." ~Terri Guillemets

Prayer for the Election of a Bishop

"I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who shall do according to my heart and mind: I will establish a lasting house for him and he shall walk before me all my days."
(1 Sam 2:35)

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.

Our Lady of Walsingham, Pray for us.

St. Felix, Pray for us.

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



CAFOD Walk for Water: For your Lenten commitment this year, sign up to @CAFOD's Walk for Water. Ask your friends and parishioners to sponsor you to walk 10,000 steps a day and raise funds to help end water poverty, <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>