

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Back from the Brink - 'Dysfunctional' is a word we hear a lot nowadays. Parents who drink, gamble or who neglect their children are deemed 'dysfunctional'. Those who take drugs, steal or spend aimless and less than useful lives are labelled dysfunctional. As a society we are often guilty of shunning the dysfunctional, fearing them or even despising them. For those of us who have been labelled as dysfunctional we sink into an abyss of loneliness and desperation. There are those of us who know what it is like to have sunk so low that there seems no way back.

The leper in today's story knew no way back from the affliction that had ostracised him from society ... no way back that is, until he heard of Jesus. The leper kneels before Jesus and begs for a cure, and moved by pity Jesus makes him well again, commanding him not to rush off and tell everyone. Of course, the leper cannot keep Jesus a secret. The ex-leper has not just been healed of an illness; he has been rescued from an existence where he could not function at any level. Now the ex-leper can return to his home, his community and his loved ones. For the ex-leper his life has been transformed. His life had been restored, but restored with a meaning it didn't have before. The ex-leper has been made whole, emotionally, spiritually and physically. How can he keep his tremendous joy to himself?

Today we are asked to put ourselves in the place of the leper. Jesus asks us to look at our lives and ask ourselves what is missing. What is it that can isolate us? What is it that builds barriers? What makes us live lives of bigotry, fear, anger, jealousy, frustration, insecurity, pain or misunderstanding? What is missing from our lives that could make us function as a whole? Might it be purpose, determination, humility, courage, forgiveness, mission ... God?

When God brings us back from the brink of isolation, it is hard to feel anything but joy, and if that joy is contagious, is there any better way to promote Jesus' desire for living life in wholeness?



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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14TH FEBRUARY 2021 – 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year B

[6th Week of the Year, Weekday Year I, Psalter Week 2/Week 4 (from Weds.)]

Mass Times for the Week			Intentions
Sat. 13 th Feb.	6.00 pm	6 th Sunday in Ord. Time	Henry Wiebe
Sun. 14 th Feb.	9.00 am 11.00 am		Neil Bradley (fdn) The People of the Parish
Mon. 15 th Feb.	10.00 am	Feria	Robert Anderson (UCM)
Tues. 16 th Feb.	-	Feria	No Mass today
Weds. 17th Feb.	10.00 am 7.30 pm	ASH WEDNESDAY (Fast & Abstinence)	Sheila Goldsmith (Winstanley) Holy Souls
Thurs. 18 th Feb.	10.00 am	Lent Feria	Robert McCarthy
Fri. 19 th Feb.	10.00 am	Lent Feria	Freda & Harry Wilkes
Sat. 20 th Feb.	-	Lent Feria	No morning Mass
Sun. 21 st Feb.	6.00 pm 9.00 am 11.00 am	1st Sunday of Lent	Patsy Gray Holy Souls 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: Joseph McHendrie, Nell Bradley, Antero Ribeiro, Mary Frances Martin, Alice Wyand, Michael Triggs, Joan Bedwell, Robert McCarthy, Gerard Keogh, Mary Allison, Agnes Lilian Farrow. *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-B40VTvbzeZ83MxQ/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, Derek Williams, Greta Cummings and Patsy Gray.

Money Matters: Thank you for your offering to the parish during January of £892 by Direct Debit or Standing Order.

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.

130 Club January Draw: 1st Prize £20: Ticket 150, Penny Howell; 2nd Prize £15: Ticket 30, Simon Salter; 3rd Prize £10: Ticket 107, Donal Hannon; 4th Prize £10: Ticket 11, Anne Nicol; 5th Prize £10: Ticket 79, Catherine Perkins. The prizes for the draw can be claimed in the sacristy.



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.

Tuesday is Shrove Tuesday; therefore, Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. There is a second Mass on Ash Wednesday at 7.30 pm. Blessed Ashes will be distributed at each Mass. Come and see how it's done while observing the Pandemic Restrictions.

Teenage Glow: The Ignite Team invite all aged 13 to 19 to **Glow**, an afternoon online event with other young people featuring inspiring workshops, lively music and powerful prayer. **Saturday, 27th February, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.** Register now at www.rcdea.org.uk/youth or contact igniteteam@rcdea.org.uk for more information. All welcome – why not bring a friend?!

CAFOD Lent Appeal: Abdella lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. It takes him ten hours a day to collect water. He says his life is being wasted as he has no time for anything else. Give today to reach vulnerable communities around the world with water and to provide other vital support. Donate online at www.cafod.org.uk/lent or by using a CAFOD envelope. You can also give via text. Text LENT to 70460 to donate £10*. *Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message you'll be opting in to hear more about CAFOD's work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text LENTNOINFO to 70460. For more information, please see CAFOD's Privacy Policy: www.cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice

Day of Prayer for the Unemployed, 14th February - Being unemployed is hugely demoralising. Flicking through pages of job adverts and feeling that you can't do any of them is soul destroying. Knowing that Covid has left thousands without a job has only added to the pressure. There's a lot of good advice out there for the unemployed, but the most important thing to believe is that God sees your qualities and skills even if you can't see them yourself, and that God presents opportunities when you are least expecting them.

Day of Prayer for Racial Justice: What Kind of Love? 14th February - Love is so much more than the fluffy sentiments we find inside a Valentine card. Real love is about putting ourselves in someone else's shoes and doing something meaningful to help them. Today we are asked to consider, "... What kind of love enables injustice to continue and even flourish?"

Bitesize – "Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." ~ *World Health Organization, 1948*

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.