

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



A Sign of Better Things to Come.

If you were in Jesus' shoes and you were about to grab the world's attention with your first miracle, what might that first miracle be? Might you reverse global warming or end third world poverty? Jesus' first miracle was to turn water into wine at the Wedding of Cana. To many it seems a frivolous kind of miracle something akin to a party trick, but John relates the miracle with good reason. John's gospel is quite different in character from the other three. It's written in a very symbolic style, and it doesn't follow the same order, or record the same stories as the others. St. John is concerned in showing us signs, which gradually reveal the glory of God through Jesus. The author seems to be mainly interested in the significance of the deeds of Jesus. So, what is the significance of this miracle? John writes, "This is written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name." Suddenly confronted with enough wine to swim in, the disciples had no choice but to begin to believe in who Jesus really was. Neither would the symbolism have been lost on the people of the time. It was the people's belief that at the time of salvation God would provide a table for feasting for his servants and a cup that would never run dry. In short, the substance of the sign was of no consequence at all; it was the message the sign conveyed that was all-important.

The symbolism we read in this first miracle speaks of an old religion bogged down with oppressive rules and laws liberated by a new faith governed by love, compassion, joy, generosity, and abundance. Being a Christian is a very serious business, and as Christians we are asked to address life and death issues, but that doesn't mean we should trudge around with long pious faces. Jesus frequently likens the Kingdom of God to a feast, so smile.... the changing of water to wine is a sign of better things to come.



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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16TH JANUARY 2022 – 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year C

[2nd Week of the Year, Weekday Year II, Psalter Week 2]

Mass Times for the Week			Intentions
Sat. 15 Jan.	6.00 pm	2 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Marian Matthew (Cyriac 3/5) Annie & James Whittingham The People of the Parish
Sun. 16 Jan.	9.00 am 11.00 am		
Mon. 17 Jan.	10.00 am	St. Anthony	<i>To be announced (tba)</i>
Tues. 18 Jan.	-	Feria	No Mass today
Weds. 19 Jan.	10.00 am	Feria	<i>(tba)</i>
Thurs. 20 Jan.	10.00 am	Feria	<i>(tba)</i>
Fri. 21 Jan.	10.00 am	St. Agnes	<i>(tba)</i>
Sat. 22 Jan.	-	Feria	No morning Mass
Sun. 23 Jan.	6.00 pm	3 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	<i>(tba)</i>
	9.00 am 11.00 am		<i>(tba)</i> <i>(tba)</i>

**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

Anniversaries this week: Louise Bennett, Ellen Carey, Lily Rawding, Nell Jones, Stanley Meadows, Amy Garvey, Arthur Longhurst, Frances Kelly, Joan Blakistone, Robert Anderson, Perpetua Cecine Triggs, Gwen Dawes, Betty McGee. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.*

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.

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 offering of £325.11 last weekend and for £1,266.00 by Standing Order in December for the day-to-day running of our parish and also for a further £7.15 for the Christmas Offering.

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 Draw for December 2021 - Quarterly Prize £100 - Ticket No. 101, Rebecca Baker; 1st Prize £20 – Ticket No. 190, Margaret Ferreira; 2nd Prize £15 – Ticket No. 34, Pamela Evans; 3rd Prize £10 – Ticket No. 18, Catherine Evans; 4th Prize £10 – Ticket No. 179, Andrew Cwiczek; 5th Prize £10 – Ticket No. 91, Colette Barrow-Nessian.



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.

Holy Communion Class – Saturday, 15th January at 10.30-11.30 a.m. in the Emmaus Room.

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.

Synodal Path – The Synodal Path for the Diocese is available online and is waiting for your response! You can contribute by completing the online survey questions on the Diocesan website or through the Parish website, or click here to begin the survey - <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/synodal-pathway/>. Don't forget to include the name of your Parish. Responses need to be completed by 8th March 2022 and will then become part of

the Diocese's submission. If you need any help, you can contact the parish representative, Ken Summerford (email: ksummerford@gmail.com)

Peace Sunday, 16th January 2022 - Dialogue between Generations: Education, Work and Dialogue: Tools for Building Lasting Peace.

Peace Sunday follows the international World Day of Peace and is celebrated on the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time. In 2022 this falls on 16 January. The theme is taken from Pope Francis' message for the 55th World Day of Peace. Pax Christi, the international Catholic movement for peace, takes the lead in providing resources for Peace Sunday. Its National President, Archbishop Malcolm McMahon of Liverpool, says: 'This year has been one of unprecedented and continuing challenges. We are all conscious of the need to restore and rebuild our communities here and around the world, accepting that we need new ways of working and relating to each other.' The Christian message of peace, through reconciliation, justice and nonviolence, can offer hope and direction in these times. *"... We have been heartened by the outpouring of empathy and action that surrounds the current migrant crisis, but unless we combine this with work to stop the causes of war, the global arms trade and our part within it; the billions spent annually on war and war preparations – we will not win peace."* (Most Rev Malcolm McMahon OP)



Christian Unity Week, 18th -25th January 2022: 'We Saw His Star in the East' - *Materials for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2022 have been prepared by the churches of the Middle East.* Serving the Gospel today requires a commitment to the human being, especially the poorest, the weakest and those marginalised. It requires from the churches transparency and accountability in dealing with the world, and with each other. This means churches need to cooperate to provide relief to the afflicted, to welcome the displaced, to relieve the burdened, and to build a just and honest society. This is a call for churches to work together so that young people can build a good future according to God's heart, a future in which all human beings can experience life, peace, justice, and love.

Bitesize – "Some are born who never need them / Others still who never read them / signs." ~Neil Diamond, *Signs*. US singer & songwriter (1941 -)

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*.