

Gospel Reflection for the Third Sunday of Lent *(continued)*

But whilst we are pondering the fragility of our lives, Jesus reminds us that any one of us could die in similar circumstances. We only have to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. None of us can bank on living to a ripe old age, and so we must consider how well we are prepared to live and how well we are prepared to die.

At first, today's reading feels uncomfortable. The parable of the fig tree reads like a threat. The tree is not bearing any fruit and so the master commands that it should be axed. A compassionate gardener begs that the tree be given a second chance, and so the master grants another year. It feels like a threat... bear fruit or else! But Jesus knows that threats don't bring out the best in us. Like the gardener who tends the tree and nurtures it, so Jesus is there for all who need a second chance. For those of us who make a commitment to live life in a better way, Jesus is there to support and guide us towards our goals. The parable has moved from something that sounds like a threat to something that sounds like a promise.... something inspirational!

Lent is a time to address some begging questions. How many years have we spent making the same old mistakes? What must we do to make life different? It sounds obvious, but to achieve different results, we must do something different. We are invited to ask God for help in setting new priorities, and we must achieve results that reflect God's love for us, and our love for God.



Bitesize - The only difference between a rut and a grave is their dimensions.



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.

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

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



Sacred Heart & St Margaret Mary

Parish Administrator: Fr. Jaylord Magpuyo

35 London Road, East Dereham, Norfolk NR191AS

Tel: 01362 694066 Email: edsacredheart@gmail.com

Registered Charity No. 278742

www.sacredheartdereham.org.uk

Sunday 20th March – 3rd Sunday of Lent – Year C

[3rd Week of Lent, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week 3]

MASSES in the PARISH

Saturday 19th March

18.00 *First MASS of Sunday*

Michael Murphy

Sunday 20th March

09.00 MASS

Third Sunday of Lent

For the Parish

11.00 MASS *Live streamed*

William Murphy

Monday 21st March

10.00 MASS

Lent Feria

Freda & Harry Wilkes

Tuesday 22nd March

10.00 MASS

Lent Feria

William Murphy

Wednesday 23rd March

10.00 MASS

Lent Feria

Anisha & Ciji Cyriac

Thursday 24th March

10.00 MASS & ADORATION

Lent Feria

Valsamma Thomas (*Thanksgiving*)

Live streamed

Friday 25th March

17.30 Stations of the Cross

The Annunciation, Solemnity

Saturday 26th March

18.00 *First MASS of Sunday*

Lent Feria

Bridget Murphy

Sunday 27th March

09.00 MASS

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Stephen & Bernadette Mealy

11.00 MASS *Live streamed*

Barry Evans

14.00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Thursday after 10.00 Mass and Saturday at 17.30

EXPOSITION: Thursday after Mass and Sunday at 14.00

For **Live Streamed Masses** Search for **Dereham Catholic Church** on **YouTube**, or use the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCR-qWs-B40VTvbzezZ83MxQ/videos?view=2&flow=grid>

The parish newsletter is available on the parish website from Friday each week.

Anniversaries this week: Margaret (Peggie) Jackson, Joy Lannon, Mary Roberts, Desmond Stone, Anna Platt, Alex Siedlecki, Margaret Bowles, Sheelah de Chenu, Basil Howard, Frank Broom, Hazel O'Connor, Eileen Brocklesby. *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. Jay either by phone or by email.

Sick & Housebound [with GDPR Permissions] – Please pray for: Shirley Liebenhals, Frances Saville King, Derek Williams, Patsy Gray, Allan Michael Howard, Collette Barrow-Nessian, Betty Reavey, Marion Ring-Davies, Una Morris, Fr. Brendan.

Money Matters: Offering for last Sunday: Plate £409.64 and CAFOD £314.52. Thank you.

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 Rex Baker know if you would like to sign up to Gift Aid.

Gift Aid envelopes for Tax year 2022/23 are now ready for collection at the back of the church. Also for collection are the Easter and Christmas offering envelopes for those of you who contribute via bank transfer / SO. Please ensure that you use these envelopes and not put your offering in the loose plate so that we can be sure to claim the tax back. In the next few weeks, I will be preparing the claim for tax year 2021/22, therefore would you please let me know if your circumstances have changed, for example, if you are no longer a tax payer and/or you are paying less tax than your annual claim. Please would you also confirm if there are any changes to your name, address or post code. Many thanks for your continued support and generosity, last year's claim contributed £5123.80 towards our annual parish income. My contact details for any queries or changes are: email: rexbaker27@btinternet.com or telephone: 01362 694801.

130 Club Draw for February 2022 – 1st Prize £20 – Ticket No. 70, Anne Sibley; 2nd Prize £15 – Ticket No. 178, Pauline Organ; 3rd Prize £10 – Ticket No. 28, Kathleen Crowley; 4th Prize £10 – Ticket No. 69, Roland Terry; 5th Prize £10 – Ticket No. 15, Gloria Clark.

130 Club Renewals – The deadline for the return of subscriptions for the next year is 31st March. If you have not already done so, could you please ensure your renewal form is returned as soon as possible please. Thank you.

Diary Dates for this week		
Tues. 22 Mar.	2.30 pm	SVP Conference meeting – Emmaus Room
Sat. 26 Mar	10.30-11.30 am	First Holy Communion Class – Emmaus Room

Changes to Weekday Services – Please note there will be two Masses live streamed during the week - the 11.00 Sunday Mess and the 10.00 Thursday Mass. There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass on Thursdays and, starting from 27th March, also at 14.00 on Sundays. During Lent, there will be Stations of the cross at 17.30 on Fridays. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available after Mass on Thursdays and at 17.30 on Saturday. Please also note there is a new parish email address – edsacredheart@gmail.com

The Feast of the Annunciation, 25th March - On March 25th, nine months before Christmas, we celebrate one of the Church's most important feast days, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. It is interesting to reflect that God did not need any human being in order to do his work, however, he chose to redeem us in a way that included human participation through a humble young woman's consent.

Lenten Alms – This year our support is sought for Aid to the Church in Need, with particular reference to the Church in Syria, and to assist the people of Ukraine and the massive number of refugees. If you wish to give direct to Aid to the Church in Need, you can do so using the following link: <https://acnuk.org/our-campaigns/emergency-appeal-for-ukraine/>. The Lenten Alms Box will be placed on the table at the back of church at all Masses throughout Lent.

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



The Gardener, the Fig Tree and the Promise – When people die, especially in tragic or premature circumstances, we are left with a sense of injustice. There are some who will question what kind of God we have who can allow such unfairness. But the bottom line is that life simply isn't metered out to us in equal proportions. Death simply happens. There is no intent behind a natural disaster, and because there is no intent there can certainly be no injustice. In biblical days people imagined that fatal disasters and terminal illnesses were sent as some kind of punishment from God. Had the victims brought about their own fate by living sinful lives? What will Jesus' answer be? No, of course untimely death is not sent as a punishment!

..... *Continued overleaf/-*