

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

A Greater Purpose



Living through the pandemic has felt like ‘life on hold’ for many of us. For many of us, living through the pandemic has prompted us to rethink how we should be spending our lives. How best should we spend the time we have left? In a life-or-death situation, human nature would always prompt us to hold on to life no matter what the consequences, but in today’s gospel a grain of wheat is used to teach us a valuable lesson. The selfless grain of wheat falls and dies to enable a fresh harvest. What point is there in choosing life, if that life boils down to nothing more than self-preservation? On the other hand, what great value death, if that sacrifice gives others life. Many of us fail to understand why Jesus perceived the necessity of going to Jerusalem where he knew he would die. Wouldn’t it have made more sense for him to bypass Jerusalem and continue teaching into his dotage? Jesus however, isn’t about to compromise his purpose.

Jesus determines to give his life so others can find true life. This is what Christianity is all about. Jesus teaches us that we must ‘die to self’ before we can be of any use to God. Letting one’s own ambition die to be replaced by God’s plans for us? ‘Dying to self’? Could we be blamed for not feeling enthused? How many of us really see the wisdom in ditching our own exciting life plans to go around being holy? Perhaps we need to think again about how exciting our ambitions really are. Perhaps sacrificing our own agenda and recognising God’s plan in our lives could be the best and most exciting thing that ever happened to us. Perhaps sacrificing something of ourselves for a greater purpose could put us in touch with who we really are.

As Christians, living through the pandemic has taught many of us to look for a greater purpose whatever age we might have reached.

Bitesize – “Don't compromise yourself. You're all you've got.”
~Janis Joplin, Corrie Ten Boom

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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21st MARCH 2021 – 5th SUNDAY OF LENT – Year B

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

Mass Times for the Week			Intentions
Sat. 20 Mar.	6.00 pm	5 th Sunday of Lent	Joan Evans (Mealy)
Sun. 21 Mar.	9.00 am 11.00 am		Monica Juby (McWilliams) The People of the Parish
Mon. 22 Mar.	10.00 am	Lent Feria	Dorothy Dimelow
Tues. 23 Mar.	- 5.00 pm 6.00 pm	Lent Feria Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by Deanery Station Mass – live-streamed from St John’s Cathedral Norwich	No Mass today
Weds. 24 Mar.	10.00 am	Lent Feria	Patsy Gray (1/2 Bussey)
Thurs. 25 Mar.	10.00 am	THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	Pamela Mealy (Mealy)
Fri. 26 Mar.	10.00 am 10.30 am	Lent Feria <i>Day of Prayer for survivors of sexual abuse</i> Stations of the Cross (<i>live-streamed</i>)	Mark Mealy (Mealy)
Sat. 27 Mar.	-	Lent Feria	No morning Mass
Sun. 28 Mar.	6.00 pm 9.00 am 11.00 am	PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD	Jeremiah Ryan (Morris) Monica Juby (Baker) The People of the Parish

*All Celebrations of Mass are live-streamed on YouTube
The Church is open daily until 4:00pm*

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

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.

Anniversaries this week: Mary Roberts, Desmond Stone, Anna Platt, Alex Siedlecki, Margaret Bowles, Sheelah de Chenu, Basil Howard, Frank Broom, Hazel O'Connor, Eileen Brocklesby, Helena Josephine Bennett, Michael Casey. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.*

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, Patsy Gray, Brenda Winandy, Allan Michael Howard.

Money Matters: 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.

Gift Aid - The boxes of Gift Aid envelopes for Tax Year 2021/2022 are now available at the back of Church for collection. Obviously in the last year I have noticed that several of you who usually contribute using GA envelopes have moved over to Standing Orders and Internet Banking. Therefore, I have made the assumption that you will continue to contribute in this manner and will not require offertory envelopes in the future. However, I will leave you envelopes to collect at the back of Church for use in respect of Easter and Christmas offerings. I hope this makes sense but if you have any issues please either call or email me. Telephone 01362 694801 e-mail rexbaker27@btinternet.com. Many thanks for your continued support. Last year's Gift Aid claim amounted to £5006 being returned to us which is substantial part of the parish income.

130 Club Membership Renewals – A reminder for any member who has not yet done so, to please collect their renewal envelopes from the pigeon holes in the church porch. Thank you.



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.

National Day of Reflection for Covid-19 and Day of Prayer: Tuesday, 23rd March 2021 – A Statement has been issued by the Presidency of the Bishops' Conference on the National Day of Reflection for Covid-19. Tuesday 23 March, the anniversary of the first national lockdown, will be marked with a minute's silence at midday. At 8pm, people are encouraged to create a 'beacon of remembrance' on their doorsteps by beaming phones, candles and torches into the night sky. Prominent buildings and landmarks will also be lit up across the UK. Cardinal Nichols and Archbishop McMahon stress that prayer is an essential part of this reflection and remembrance: "For all who live by faith in God, reflection and prayer always go hand in hand. Prayer completes reflection. Reflection informs prayer. Prayer opens our life to its true horizon. Without prayer we live in a foreshortened world and are more easily swamped by its clamour and tragedy. Throughout this difficult year, so many have been inspired by prayer, so much effort sustained in prayer, in every place. So let us make the 23 March truly a day of prayer." A full copy of the Statement can be found on the parish website.



Chrism Mass 2021- The Chrism Mass this year will be taking place on **Tuesday, 30th March at 12 noon**. There will be a booking system (via Eventbrite) for lay people and it is hoped there will be some representatives from across the Diocese. The Cathedral will ensure everything is in place for safe gathering. The Mass will be live-streamed.

Times of Mass etc. for The Sacred Triduum

Maundy Thursday (1 st April)	7.30 pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper
Good Friday (2 nd April)	10.00 am	Stations of the Cross
	3.00 pm	Solemn Liturgy of the Passion
Holy Saturday (3 rd April)	8.00 pm	Easter Vigil

As Good Friday is likely to be the most attended, tickets must be booked through Eventbrite (<http://www.sacredheartdereham.org.uk/easter>). Please do not book a ticket if you are uncertain about attending. Places/tickets are limited.

On Palm Sunday (28th March), blessed palms will be distributed at the end of Mass. There will not be any processions. There will not be an Altar of Repose on Maundy Thursday.

Last year, all the Easter ceremonies were in private. This year we are allowed to hold them but with restrictions. I am sure everyone will understand. Everything will be live-streamed as is usual now.

Prayer for the Election of a Bishop

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.