

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



The Good Shepherd - Today's gospel is for anyone who has ever felt unloved or insignificant. Today's gospel is for anyone who feels his or her life doesn't count for much. At some time or another that probably means most of us.

In biblical days shepherding was a highly dangerous business. Herds might consist of thousands of sheep, and shepherds had to be highly skilled in tending for the sheep and protecting them from wolves and robbers. The shepherd's care and courage were legendary. A good shepherd would not think twice about his own life in protecting his sheep. This is the image that Jesus chose for himself in today's gospel. He is the good shepherd. His leadership is a mixture of tenderness, strength and self-sacrifice. Jesus loves us so much that he would lay down his life. That's a powerful belief to take out into the world!

But what if we don't quite believe it? Surely there are too many of us to love and look after individually. People fall by the wayside all the time. We hear tragic stories of elderly people who die alone and are not discovered for days because no one cares enough to visit. We see down and outs sleeping in subways because their family and friends have given up on them. Can God really be looking out for each and every one of us? Surely there are too many of us to look after – to love individually. Not so! Jesus we're told would not let even one of his sheep go astray without coming to the rescue. He knows each and every one of us by name. If we are one of his, then he will recognise us and take care of us. That's another powerful belief to wake up with. The next time you are feeling lost and forgotten, try looking for the Good Shepherd's love in your life. God's help is always there when we look to him.

Bitesize – "Sometimes it seems like God is difficult to find and impossibly far away. We get so caught up in our small daily duties and irritations that they become the only things that we can focus on. What we forget is that God's love and beauty are all around us, every day, if only we would take the time to look up and see them."



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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25 APRIL 2021 – 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER – Year B

[4th Week of Easter, Weekday Year I, Psalter Week 4]

Mass Times for the Week			Intentions
Sat. 24 Apr.	6.00 pm	4 th Sunday of Easter	Anna Easton
Sun. 25 Apr.	9.00 am 11.00 am	<i>World Day of Prayer for Vocations</i>	The People of the Parish Prince Philip
Mon. 26 Apr.	10.00 am	Easter Feria	Rose Bere (Fdn)
Tues. 27 Apr.	-	Easter Feria	No Mass today
Weds. 28 Apr.	10.00 am	Easter Feria	Tim Salter (Fdn)
Thurs. 29 Apr.	10.00 am	S CATHERINE OF SIENA, Patron of Europe	Michael Carolyn (Cummings)
Fri. 30 Apr.	10.00 am	Easter Feria	Patsy Gray (PM)
Sat. 1 May	-	Easter Feria	No morning Mass
Sun. 2 May	6.00 pm 9.00 am 11.00 am	5 th Sunday of Easter	Roger Read (Cummings) The People of the Parish Mona de los Angeles Cota (1/2)

All Celebrations of Mass are live-streamed on YouTube

The Church is open daily until 6:00pm

Anniversaries this week: Theo Sandars, Peter Gormans, Fr. Guy (Vincent) Wace, Timothy Salter, Eddie Wilde, Roger Gerald Clancy, James Tinney, Mary Gatt, Sarah Courtney, Irene Barnes. *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

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 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: Jenny Rudd, Carol Whitesides, Shirley Liebenhals, Frances Saville King, Derek Williams, Greta Cummings, Patsy Gray, Allan Michael Howard.

Recently Deceased – Please remember Brenda Winandy in your prayers as she died during the week.

Money Matters: Thank you for your offering of £ last weekend for the day-to-day running of our parish. **Sunday, 25th April 2021: World Day of Prayer for Vocations** – There will be a retiring collection for the Diocesan Priests' Training Fund after all Masses today.

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.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament – In recent weeks we have been having Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for about 30 minutes before weekday Mass. It is an opportunity for adoration that people appear to appreciate and so I propose to continue with it. It will also be live-streamed.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations: "For each one of us the Lord has a vocation, that place God wants us to live our lives, but we must seek it." - "The Lord's call is not an intrusion of God in our freedom; it is not a "cage" or a burden to be borne. On the contrary, it is the loving initiative whereby God encounters us and invites us to be part of a great undertaking. He opens before our eyes the horizon of a greater sea and an abundant catch." God in fact desires that our lives not become banal and predictable, imprisoned by daily routine, or unresponsive before decisions that could give it meaning. The Lord does not want us to live from day to day, thinking that nothing is worth fighting for, slowly losing our desire to set out on new and exciting paths. If at times he makes us experience a "miraculous catch", it is because he wants us to discover that each of us is called – in a variety of ways – to something grand, and that our lives should not grow entangled in the nets of an ennui that dulls the heart. Every vocation is a summons not to stand on the

shore, nets in hand, but to follow Jesus on the path he has marked out for us, for our own happiness and for the good of those around us. ~ Taken from the Message of Pope Francis for the World Day of Vocations.

Inviting all Young People aged 13+ to the Ignite Festival Online – Join members of the Ignite Team for music, inspiring talks, workshops and prayer. **Saturday, 1st & Sunday, 2nd May, 7:00-8:30 pm**. For more information visit www.ignitefestival.co.uk

Mass for Marriage & Family Life - This year's Marriage and Family Life Mass will be both **live and livestreamed at the Cathedral on Saturday June 12th at 11am**. Certificates will be available for those celebrating significant wedding anniversaries in 2020 and 2021 (anniversaries of one year, five years and every multiple of five years thereafter). Please register to attend the event and/or for a certificate online at: <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/marriage-mass-registration/>. There will be a collection at the Mass for those who wish to help the Marriage and Family Life Commission in their work.

Community Allotment - A community allotment on Cemetery Road has recently been started to help those who feel isolated, are struggling with their mental health etc or for anyone who would like to garden with us. If you are interested, please contact Sim Saunders on 07715823131.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham 2021: Celebrating the Year of St Joseph and the Family – Bank Holiday Monday, May 3rd: 12 noon Mass, celebrated by Bishop Alan; 2.30pm Rosary & Benediction. For booking (required to attend in person) or to watch live-stream, see www.walsingham.org.uk

Newman Conversations: Join St Mary's University Provost, Prof John Charmley, in a unique Talking Heads session with the Director of the Institute of Theology and Liberal Arts, Dr Jacob Phillips. **Date:** Friday 30th April 2021. **Time:** 6pm-7pm. **Venue:** Online via Zoom. John and Jacob will be discussing the upcoming 'Newman Lectures' series, the first of which will be taking place in September 2021. St John Henry Newman's idea of a university sits at the heart of St Mary's teaching ethos, and John and Jacob will not only be drawing on the philosophy of Newman, but also on the important part he plays in informing the University's approach to Theology and the Liberal Arts. Places are free, but you do need to book, to attend. Follow this link to [Book a place](#)

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.

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.