

## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE HOLY FAMILY

### A Lesson in Parenting

When we hear stories about the Holy Family we are struck by the normality of Jesus' upbringing. Mary and Joseph behave like any parents of today. Secondly, we are struck by the love and tenderness that surrounds Jesus in his early years. The fact that he was born in a stable and grew up with no great wealth doesn't seem to matter. What matters is that Jesus grew up knowing that Mary and Joseph loved and cared for him.



Jesus would have been brought up in a Jewish tradition, and he would not have been expected to challenge this tradition. What is interesting for us to learn is, that by the tender age of twelve Jesus was developing a sense of who he really was. When Jesus causes his parents much distress by becoming separated from them to stay in the temple listening to the teachers, he tells Mary and Joseph, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be

busy with my Father's affairs?" Mary and Joseph don't quite understand what he means, but we are told, "Mary stored all these things in her heart." She had faith in her son, and she allowed him to become the individual she always knew he was.

Sounds easy doesn't it, yet thousands of parents today must be shaking their heads. It's not easy to let go and allow your child to be his or her own person, especially if you see them making all sorts of mistakes. Today's gospel is a lesson in parenting. Surround your children with love and caring. Pass down all the good Christian traditions you yourself have learned, then have faith and allow your child to be the person they need to be.

**Bitesize** – "A family is a place where minds come in contact with one another. If these minds love one another the home will be as beautiful as a flower garden. But if these minds get out of harmony with one another it is like a storm that plays havoc with the garden."  
~ Buddha, Indian philosopher & religious leader (563 BC - 483 BC)



**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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### 26<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021 – THE HOLY FAMILY – Year C

[Sunday in Christmas Octave, Weekday Year II, Psalter Week 1]

Mass Times for the Week			Intentions
Sun. 26 Dec.	9.00 am 11.00 am	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	Bridie Moorcroft The People of the Parish
Mon. 27 Dec.	10.00 am	St John	Ellen Harrington (Hannon)
Tues. 28 Dec.	-	Holy Innocents	<b>No Mass today</b>
Weds. 29 Dec.	10.00 am	St Thomas Becket	Anne Hannon (Hannon)
Thurs. 30 Dec.	10.00 am	6 <sup>th</sup> day of Octave of the Nativity	Terence Blakiston
Fri. 31 Dec.	10.00 am	7 <sup>th</sup> day of Octave of the Nativity	Anisha Cyriac (1/5)
Sat. 1 Jan.	-	Mary, Holy Mother of God	<b>No morning Mass</b>
Sun. 2 Jan.	6.00 pm 9.00 am 11.00 am	Second Sunday of Christmas	Josephine Cyriac (2/5) The People of the Parish Roger Borthwick & the Macdonald Family
Mon. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan.	<b>12 Noon</b>	Christmas Feria	<b>Servers' Mass</b>

**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*

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](http://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.

**Anniversaries this week:** Ivy O'Shea, Charlie Secker, Mary Reeder, Emeleene McClure, Charles Wilfred Hunt, Dorothy Pinner, Harry Dempsey, Helen Phyllis Coyne, Alda Dias, Caroline Rolfe. *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. 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 £202.20 towards the upkeep of our parish last weekend and for £40 for the Dependant Priests Fund.

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.

**Thank you:** thank you for all your cards and gifts and good wishes. I appreciate deeply your support and kindness.

**Servers' Mass.** As St. Stephen's Day was replaced by the Feast of Holy Family this year, I decided that Monday, January 3rd is the best day for our servers to renew their commitment and welcome at least one new member in to the Guild of St. Stephen. Mass will be at 12.00 midday on January 3rd 2022.

**Thank you** to the ladies and gentlemen who decorated the church for Christmas. It really has a positive and spiritual effect to move from the sombre colour of violet to the glorious colourful decoration that have been put in place for Christmas. They lift the spirit at the darkest time of the year. Thank you.

**Feast of the Holy Innocents 2021, December 28<sup>th</sup>** - *"When the wise men had departed, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.'"* Even today children still have plenty of 'Herods' to fear. Every newspaper, magazine and TV report describe children as victims of war, terrorism, slavery, abuse and of starvation. Today, on the Feast of the Holy Innocents we are called to reach out to those children who need our help.

**Solemnity of Mary Mother of God, January 1<sup>st</sup>** - Today we observe the solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. This is a natural theme having just celebrated the birth of her son Jesus. The birth of a child is always a sign of hope ... hope not just for the parents and immediate family, but also for the whole community. The lives of Mary and Jesus spell a vision of a hope, a vision of justice and peace, a vision of freedom and liberation, a vision of social change and concern for the common good. It spells a vision of God present in the poor child and the holy young woman of Nazareth; a vision of God to be found in all the people and things of our world and especially among the poor.



**World Day of Peace, January 1<sup>st</sup>** - On World Day of Peace, traditionally celebrated on January 1st, we look at some suggestions. We are asked to pray for peace in the Middle East. We are asked to visit another Christian church in our area as part of our commitment to Christian unity. We are asked to set aside time to pray for victims of torture and oppression. Finally, we are asked to prepare for Peace Sunday later this month. Upcoming dates: Peace Sunday – 16<sup>th</sup> January 2022; Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – 18<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

**Diary 2022 Through the Year with the Saints** - This hardback diary features a beautiful painting each month and a thought-provoking reflection by Fr Denis McBride that accompanies the saints throughout the year. This diary celebrates a few of the great known saints and the ones few have heard of. [*Pauline Books and Media, ISBN:9780852315996, £7.99*]

**Prayer for the Election of a Bishop** - God, eternal shepherd, who govern your flock with unflinching 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*.