

## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



### True Authority

Today Mark tells us how Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. He tells us how amazed the people were at how he taught and at the authority in his teachings. His authority was powerful enough to expel demons even. You'll notice that Mark doesn't tell us what Jesus taught but only how he taught and the impression he made. So why did people

sense authority in Jesus' presence, and why was it so compelling?

When we think of authority we tend to think of bosses, leaders or the legal profession. We think of rules, laws and boundaries. We equate authority with enforcement and for the most part we don't like it very much. Perhaps Jesus' brand of authority was compelling because it wasn't any of these things. Jesus' brand of authority wasn't about the exclusion that the scribes and Pharisees were so fond of but of total inclusion. Jesus' authority was routed in the value of every man woman and child over any out-dated rule or redundant tradition.

We do not have the benefit of listening first hand to Jesus' teaching, but it is testament to his authority that we still read his words twenty centuries after he spoke them. There are still lessons to be learned for those who believe Jesus can add something to our world and change us forever. There are still demons in our lives, and Jesus' teaching still has the authority to drive them out.

**Bitesize** – If you wish to know what a man is, place him in authority. ~*Yugoslav Proverb*



**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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### 31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2021 – 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year B

[4<sup>th</sup> Week of the Year, Weekday Year I, Psalter Week 4]

Mass Times for the Week			Intentions
Sat. 30 Jan.	6.00 pm	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ord. Time <i>Racial Justice Day</i>	Martin Sanderson (70 <sup>th</sup> Birthday) (UCM)
Sun. 31 Jan.	9.00 am 11.00 am		Susanna Meeks (Reid) The People of the Parish
Mon. 1 Feb.	10.00 am	Feria	Drury (fdn)
Tues. 2 Feb.	-	Presentation of the Lord	<b>No Mass today</b>
Weds. 3 Feb.	10.00 am	Feria <i>Blessing of throats after Mass</i>	UCM (1/5)
Thurs. 4 Feb.	10.00 am	Feria	Seabrooke (fdn)
Fri. 5 Feb.	10.00 am	S Agatha	Johnny Ly
Sat. 6 Feb.	-	Ss Paul Miki & Comps.	<b>No morning Mass</b>
Sun. 7 Feb.	6.00 pm	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ord. Time	Stearman (fdn)
	9.00 am 11.00 am		Holy Souls The People of the Parish

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

**Anniversaries this week:** Reginald Walter Bowles, Alice Page, Victor Rawding, Patricia Cox, Patrick Carroll, Alfred Edward Macdonald, George Maguire, Benjamin Wyand, Stanley Snellgrove, George Gay, Mary Hirst, Bernard O'Shea, Doris Marie (Babs) Dyer, Lynes

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)

**MASS LIVE STREAM** – 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 (incl. back copies) is available to view on the parish website from Friday onward each week.

Smith, Marian Longhorn, George Howell. *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, Una McWeeny, Derek Williams, Greta Cummings and Patsy Gray.

**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.



**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.

**Foundation Mass Intentions:** I now have the list of Foundation Masses for 2021. All of the Foundation Masses for last year were celebrated. Where a specific date for a Mass is requested, I will try to celebrate it on that day. These have been put in the diary accordingly. However, I cannot guarantee these dates as circumstances may change during the year. It is possible that a funeral may be arranged for one of these dates. In that case the Foundation Mass Intention will be moved to the next available date. Foundation Masses are noted in the bulletin with thus: (fdn).

**Presentation of the Lord, February 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Simeon had waited all his life to see Jesus. The Holy Spirit had promised him that he would live long enough. When Mary and Joseph presented the baby at the temple, Simeon said, "Now, Lord, you have kept your promise, and you may let your servant go in peace. With my own eyes I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples." Seeing Jesus satisfied Simeon's life. We are prompted to ask what would satisfy us in our lives. Are the goals we set worth a lifetime of wanting, as Simeon's was?



**Candlemas, February 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Observed on February 2nd, Candlemas celebrates what is now called the Presentation of the Lord, when the infant Jesus was taken to the Temple by his parents according to Jewish custom. Candlemas Day occurs 40 days after Christmas and marks the end of the Christmas cycle. The name Candlemas comes from the traditional observance of blessing candles and distributing the candles to worshipers. The candles recall the lights of Christmas. The candles also symbolize Simeon's words to Mary and Joseph in Luke 2:32 that Jesus would be "a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel."



**Saint Blaise, 3rd February** - Many Catholics might remember Saint Blaise's feast day because of the Blessing of the Throats that took place on this day. Two candles are blessed, held slightly open, and pressed against the throat as the blessing is said. Saint Blaise's protection of those with throat troubles apparently comes from a legend that a boy was brought to him who had a fishbone stuck in his throat. The boy was about to die when Saint Blaise healed him. St Blaise is the patron of throat illnesses

**Care For our Common Home: Why should the UK double tree cover in 2021?** - We have all been watching the floods in the news, and we all know that we are not doing enough to tackle climate change. There's so much we have to do, but an easy part of the solution is to plant more trees and it's something we can all do. Trees play an incredible role in combating climate chaos by removing planet-wrecking emissions from the air around us. Despite their importance, just 13% of the UK's total land area has tree cover (compared to an EU average of 35%). 'Friends of the Earth' believe one of the best solutions to protect our environment and achieve net zero emissions (removing as many emissions as we produce) is to double UK forest, but government targets currently fall well short. If you seriously care about planting more trees, petition online at [www.friendsoftheearth.uk/trees](http://www.friendsoftheearth.uk/trees)

#### Prayer for the Election of a Bishop

*"I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who shall do according to my heart and mind: I will establish a lasting house for him and he shall walk before me all my days."  
(1 Sam 2:35)*

**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.**

**Our Lady of Walsingham, Pray for us.  
St. Felix, Pray for us.**

**All Holy Martyrs and Saints of East Anglia, Pray for us.**