

## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



**Hitting Hypocrisy Where It Hurts** - Imagine the scene. Jesus makes a whip and drives the money changers from the temple. Everywhere sheep and cattle are careering out of control. Doves are flapping up to the rafters.... coins and feathers everywhere and the money changers in an uproar. Jesus makes things clear. "Stop making my Father's house a market place!"

Do we feel an element of discomfort. How many parishes use the back of church to raise funds? How often do we stand at the back of church selling raffle tickets? How many years have we invited donations for votive candles, or sold newspapers, books, rosary beads, cards and statues? If Jesus walked in today, would he tip over our collecting boxes and reprimand us?

Perhaps, before we answer this question, we need to understand the context of today's reading. In Jesus' day it was expected that visitors to the temple should present a sacrifice, and for that purpose, the temple officials made it easy to purchase cattle and turtle doves. The second practical consideration was that because the Roman coinage was considered idolatrous by the Jews, the temple permitted money changers to exchange roman coins for tokens. The original system was not a bad idea, but it became corrupt. It was all too easy for the price of doves to become extortionate, and the exchange rate for tokens to come down on the side of the money changers. Soon it was the case that something that had originally been intended to oil the practicalities of worship in itself cheated would-be worshippers, especially those with little money. Jesus had a passion for exposing hypocrisy, and this was hypocrisy at its worst.

Jesus probably would not have a problem with us using the back of church for selling newspapers or raising funds. At the end of the day, it isn't buildings of worship in themselves that are of the greater importance, but what lies in our hearts and in our intentions. Our bodies are the real temples. Jesus challenged impurity at its roots, and the root of all impurity is wherever we have a thought or an idea that lacks integrity or smacks of hypocrisy.



**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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**7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021 – 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT – Year B**

[3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Lent, Weekday Year I, Psalter Week 3]

| Mass Times for the Week |                                |   | Intentions  |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Sat. 6 Mar.             | 6.00 pm                        | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent                      | Elizabeth & Eamonn Geoghan<br>(G. Mealy)                      |
| Sun. 7 Mar.             | 9.00 am<br>11.00 am            |   | The People of the Parish<br>Bridget Ody (Tinney)              |
| Mon. 8 Mar.             | 10.00 am                       | S Felix   | Holy Souls (2/2 Sillince)                                     |
| Tues. 9 Mar.            | -                              | Lent Feria  | <b>No Mass today</b>  |
| Weds. 10 Mar.           | -                              | Lent Feria  | <b>No Mass today</b> (Deanery Meeting)                        |
| Thurs. 11 Mar.          | 10.00 am                       | Lent Feria  | Joan Evans (Mealy)  |
| Fri. 12 Mar.            | 10.00 am<br>10.30 am           | Lent Feria<br>Stations of the Cross (Live-streamed) | P & H Intentions (2/10)                                       |
| Sat. 13 Mar.            | -                              | Lent Feria  | <b>No morning Mass</b>  |
| Sun. 14 Mar.            | 6.00 pm<br>9.00 am<br>11.00 am | 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent                      | Anna Easton (Mealy)<br>Holy Souls<br>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](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.

**Anniversaries this week:** Esther Rawe, Robert Patrick, Kenneth Gaylard, Robert Nimmo Nicol, Elizabeth Mary O'Donnell, Roy Smith, Michael John Irvine Barty, Henry Durham, Ronald Jack Heasman, Catherine Honora Hare, Charles Christie, Pauline Fenton, John Le Milliere, Deidre Brewer, Winifred Wake, Fr. John Joseph Ketterer (3<sup>rd</sup> Priest at Dereham), Peggy Free, Robert Shutt. *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:** There is still time to contribute to the **CAFOD Family Fast Day** Collection. The envelopes are still at the back of the church.

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.

**130 Club** - Renewal envelopes are available for members to collect from the pigeon holes in the church porch. There are a number of unallocated numbers and if anyone would like to take up one or more of these numbers, please let Marcia know. New Members are always welcome. Members are kindly asked to ensure that their renewals are returned as quickly as possible and before the end of March at the latest. Please either post your returns in the envelope provided, or drop them into the Presbytery letterbox. Thank you. There are still some winnings to be collected too.

**God Calls: This Lent: 'Adventure Course': Leave yesterday behind, and joyfully start this adventure full of life and love.** - The National Office for Vocation (NOV) is encouraging us to listen when God Calls this Lent. God Calls us to himself in a particular way during this special season. Use NOV's 'Adventure' course through the 40 days of Lent to renew your spiritual energy and live this important spiritual season in an intimate journey with Our

Lord. This is an excellent resource. Find out more at <https://www.godcalls.co.uk/godcalls-adventure>

**St. John Ogilvie, 11<sup>th</sup> March (1579-1615)** - John lived in an age when neither Catholics nor Protestants were willing to tolerate one another. Turning to Scripture, he found words that enlarged his vision. Although he became a Catholic and died for his faith, he allied himself with believers who embrace Christianity in all its diversity. A saint ahead of his time.... a saint who could lead us all in the ecumenical spirit fostered by the Second Vatican Council ... a saint whose example we could all adopt in creating unity between all believers.

**This Lent: Start every day with a prayer.** - On the way to work or school, sitting on the bus or lying awake in bed, start every day with a prayer. This is about prioritising God in your life, and the first step of deepening your relationship with Him.

**Chrism Mass 2021-** The Chrism Mass this year will be taking place on **Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Catholic Universe & Catholic Times Newspapers** are offering direct home delivery, post free. Please go to [www.thecatholicuniverse.com](http://www.thecatholicuniverse.com) or telephone 0161 820 5722 to subscribe. Special offers as follows: 3 months - £25.00; 12 months - £99.00; Digital copy – 12 months: £55.00; Digital & hard copy: £115 (Easter special offer).

**Bitesize** – “All of us are experts at practicing virtue at a distance.” ~*Theodore M. Hesburgh*

### 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.

Our Lady of Walsingham, Pray for us.

St. Felix, Pray for us.

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

