

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY



Moral Foundation - We've survived Christmas! All the toys that shot up in price just prior to Christmas are all in bits under the sofa and our children are playing happily with the cardboard boxes. Meanwhile we are living on turkey leftovers and whatever else is stuck to the back of the freezer. In all truth we are feeling a little calmer. Now is actually a better time to think about the Christmas meaning than Christmas day itself. Now that the pressure has lifted, we find ourselves with a bit of time to think about the Holy Family, and our how their values impact own family values.

In today's gospel we see Mary and Joseph presenting their new baby at the temple. They both knew that their child was destined for great things.

How would they prepare their child for the role he was born for? There's a famous quote by Martin Luther King Jr. It reads, "If we are to go forward, we must go back and rediscover those precious values – rediscover that all reality hinges on moral foundations, and that all reality has spiritual control" The spirituality that each of us holds today began in childhood, from a time we cannot even remember.

Mary and Joseph were simple folk who would bring up their son in exactly the same way regardless of whether he was destined to be a carpenter or the Messiah. We can all learn a valuable lesson from this about family values and parenting. We don't have to lavish expensive iPads and Xboxes on our children for them to know they are loved. Jesus was born into the poorest of circumstances but he grew up with parents who led by example in an atmosphere of love, wisdom and courage.

Whether our children are destined for greatness or not is irrelevant, today we are told to teach our children by our own good example. If we want our children to grow up in a particular way, we have to start by demonstrating it in our own lives from today.

Bitesize – "It's not that some people have willpower and some don't. It's that some people are ready to change and others are not." ~ *James Gordon, M.D.*



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.

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

PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART AND ST. MARGARET MARY
[Registered Charity 278742]

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Parish Music Leader: Michael King: Email: michaeljwking@gmail.com

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Kathleen Edmunds:

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27TH DECEMBER 2020 – THE HOLY FAMILY – Year B

[Octave of Christmas, Weekday Year I, Psalter Week 1]

Mass Times for the Week			Intentions
Sat. 26 th Dec.	6.00 pm	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	Paul Morris
Sun. 27 th Dec.	9.00 am 11.00 am		The People of the Parish Maria Keald
Mon. 28 th Dec.	10.00 am	Holy Innocents	Rose Rowan
Tues. 29 th Dec.	-	S Thomas Beckett	No Mass today
Weds. 30 th Dec.	10.00 am	Day 6 of Christmas Octave	Anna Easton
Thurs. 31 st Dec.	10.00 am	Day 7 of Christmas Octave	Francis Lynch (Morris)
Fri. 1 st Jan.	10.00 am	Mary, Holy Mother of God	Anthony Coleman (Nally)
Sat. 2 nd Jan.	-	SS Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen	No morning Mass
Sun. 3 rd Jan.	6.00 pm 9.00 am 11.00 am	Second Sunday of Christmas	Eugeniya Pilibaitiene Jeremiah & Norah Ryan The People of the Parish

All Celebrations of Mass are livestreamed on YouTube

CHURCH OPEN DAILY: *The Church is open daily until 4:00 pm*

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.

Anniversaries this week: Charles Wilfrid 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 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 Cummins and Patsy Gray.

Money Matters - Thank you for your offering for the day-to-day running of the parish which amounted to £963.80 last weekend and for £135.10 for the Apostleship of the Sea.

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.

Christmas: Thanks to all those who cleaned and prepared the church for Christmas and to those who have decorated it so beautifully. Thanks to our musicians, servers and readers who contribute to our celebrations at Christmas and throughout the year. I deeply appreciate your time and work. Thanks also for your many good wishes and for your very many cards and gifts. I would like to wish everyone and happy and healthy New Year.

Church Cleaning Rota 2021 – A new church cleaning rota has been prepared for the new year. Would cleaners please collect their copy from the back of church. Thank you.

Holy Innocents Day: Childermas, 28th December - Holy Innocents Day, once also known as 'Childermas', falls on 28th December. It commemorates King Herod's massacre of all male infants in and around Bethlehem under the age of two in an attempt to kill the young Christ. In the days when Christmas was less child centred, Childermas was a time for indulging children with treats and parties. Today is a day we might consider supporting a children's charity such as Barnardos, NSPCC, UNICEF, and Save The Children.

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, January 1st 2021 - The first day of the year is the day the Church sets aside for honouring Mary. Mary represents true discipleship. Mary exhibits a life of hearing, seeing, and telling of God's marvellous deeds. Mary inspires us to consider deeply the significance of events in our own lives. Do we journey through life oblivious to the world around us, or do we resolve to make some kind of impact? Maybe instead of making new year resolutions to lose weight or make more money, we should resolve this year to be more like Mary.



World Day of Peace (January 1st 2021)

Dates for your Diary:

Peace Sunday: 17th January

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: 18th January-25th January

Have a Happy 'Peace Making' New Year - No-one can solve all the world's problems. To try would be to dissipate one's energies and achieve nothing. The best thing we can do is to focus all our efforts and attention on just one problem and hope our endeavours will make a difference to it. There's no shortage of big issues; global warming, natural disasters, international terrorism, poverty, pollution, child exploitation, and famine to name just a few. The one thing that all these problems have in common is that the more money, resources and manpower you allocate to them the greater improvement you are likely to effect as a result. Fund raising, campaigning, and awareness raising are all good starting points. Happy New 'Peace Making' Year.

