

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE THIRD WEEK OF LENT

Breaking Down Barriers.

“Are you hiding anything?” It’s an uncomfortable question that probably invites a heated denial from most of us; yet most of us are probably hiding something. We might be trying to shrug off a nagging guilt or an unforgiving sin. We might be trying to forget an episode in our lives where we behaved unwisely. We might be trying to cover up the agony of a failed relationship or putting a brave face on a lifetime of loneliness and rejection. How many of us are covering up weaknesses and flaws in our character? Most of us are trying to hide something, yet we would all acknowledge that burying something isn’t the best way to find healing or improvement.

The woman at the well in today’s gospel was struggling through life with a great deal of baggage. Firstly she was a woman with a lesser role in society, not only that, but a woman without a husband and to add insult to injury, a woman with a bad reputation. Secondly the woman was a Samaritan, a foreigner, and as such, regarded by most as a person to be avoided altogether. Jesus puzzles the woman. He is a man and he is a Jew, in other words, the very last person she would have expected to strike up a conversation. Life had taught the woman to expect something very different. Life had taught her to expect contempt and rejection. Is this why we keep our own failings under wraps? Do we, like the Samaritan woman expect our friends family and work mates to be unforgiving and uncompromising if they knew the real us?

God’s love is like a sprinkler system spreading Christ’s unconditional life giving water without prejudice or judgement. Lent is the time to unravel all our hidden pain and set it before God. Lent is the time to take a leaf out of Jesus’ book, to see the pain in the lives of others and break down the barriers that society has built.

Stations of the Cross During Lent - We encourage everyone to join us for Friday Stations of the Cross, at 1130 on Friday mornings during Lent. The Stations observance will be followed by a Lenten soup lunch. Any monetary donations from attendees will be given to the charity ‘Aid to the Church in Need’. If anyone would like to volunteer to make soup, could they please contact Donal. If you prefer to pray privately, Stations of the Cross booklets are at the back of the church. **Walk With Me** booklets, for contemplation of Lent, are available at £1.

Bitesize - ‘I myself am made entirely of flaws, stitched together with good intentions.’ *Augusten Burroughs, Magical Thinking*



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.

Permanent Deacons: Revs Martin Sanderson & Richard Jones (deaconrick@gmail.com)
Parish Music team: Judy Reid, Kathleen Edmunds & Paul McIntee.
Parish Safeguarding Representatives: Paul McIntee

Sacred Heart & St Margaret Mary



Parish Priest: Fr Jay T. Magpuyo
 35 London Road, Dereham, Norfolk, NR191AS
 Tel: 01362 694066. Email:
edsacredheart@gmail.com
 Registered Charity No. 278742
www.sacredheartdereham.org.uk



Sunday 8th March 2026 – 3rd Sunday of Lent

[Sundays Year A, 3rd Week of Lent, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week 3]

MASSES in the PARISH

Saturday 7th March	Lent Feria
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For the People of the Parish
Sunday 8th March	Third Sunday of Lent
09.00 MASS	Hannah (Birthday Intentions) (CC)
11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	Maria de los Angeles Coto + (SS)
Monday 9th March	Lent Feria
- No Mass	
Tuesday 10th March	Lent Feria
1000 MASS	Michael & Anna Mealy+ (PM)
Wednesday 11th March	Lent Feria
1000 MASS	T & M O'Donoghue + (Fdn)
Thursday 12th March	Lent Feria
1000 MASS	Michael & Anna Mealy + (PM)
Friday 13th March	Lent Feria
- No Mass	
Saturday 14th March	Lent Feria
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For the People of the Parish
Sunday 15th March	Fourth Sunday of Lent
09.00 MASS	Jasmine (Intentions) (JM)
11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	Mary Redman (Birthday Intentions) (DH)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Thursday after 10.00 Mass and Saturday at 17.30
EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION: Thursday after Mass

Rosary & Morning Prayer are said weekdays before Mass from 09:15.

Please note the 18.00 and 11.00 weekend Masses are normally sung.

For Live Streamed Masses Search for Dereham Catholic Church on YouTube, or use the link on the parish website.

The parish newsletter is available on the parish website from Friday each week.

Anniversaries this week: 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, Deirdre Brewer, Winifred Wake, Fr John Joseph Ketterer (3rd priest Dereham), Betty Lynch, Deanne Andrews, Peggy Free, Robert Shutt, Maurice Anthony de Chenu. *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. Jay either by phone or by email.

Sick & Housebound [with GDPR Permissions] – Please pray for: Derek Williams, Patsy Gray, Colette Barrow-Nessian, William Dunne, Pauline Buckland, Katherine Vella, Frank Vella, Pauline Organ, Pat Grout, George Mealy, Peggy Mealy, Richard Allison, Marion Ring-Davies, Patsy Thompson, Ann McWilliams, Margaret Glendon-Doyle, Mila Kaunaite, Anne Sibley, Pat Sutton, Hillary Bushell, Ann Williams, Matthew Williams.

Money Matters: Offerings for the week was as follows:
Sunday 1st March 2026 Plate: £375.88.

Bank Details. Our new banking details are: The Sacred Heart Church, S/C 52-41-29, A/C 44725132. Please use these details for any new BACS payments. There is no need to alter your standing orders yet - your current standing orders will be forwarded automatically. Watch the newsletter for information in January. Any queries please send to treasurer@sacredheartdereham.org.uk. If a tax payer, please consider Gift Aid (forms at back of church, or contact Rex Baker: Telephone 01362 694801 or email rexbaker27@btinternet.com). This will help to maximize donations.

Upcoming Parish events:

Diary for week Sunday 8th March - Saturday 14th March 2026	
Sunday: 1100	Childrens Liturgy - Presbytery
Monday: 1400 - 1600	Tea Buddies – Monthly get together for a cuppa & a chat (all welcome)
Monday: 1900 - 2030	AA Group Meeting - Emmaus Room
Thursday: 1730 - 1830	First Communion Group – Emmaus Room
Friday: 1130	Stations of The Cross – Chapel (followed by Lenten Soup) – All welcome
Friday: 1915 - 2030	Confirmation Group Meeting – Emmaus Room
Parish Garden Club – To volunteer, please contact Sonia on 07985 521578.	

+Terri (Kathleen Teresa) Sanderson - Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord. We are deeply saddened by the passing of Terri, the beloved wife of Deacon Martin. Her Funeral Mass will take place on the 23rd of March at the Church; further details will follow. We pray for the repose of her soul and extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to Deacon Martin and the Sanderson family at this difficult time.

+Angela Blows - Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord. We likewise pray for the repose of the soul of Angela Blows, who has been a devoted parishioner for many years. Funeral details will follow.

+Richard Grout - Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord. We also pray for the repose of the soul of Richard Grout, the husband of Pat Grout. He was actively supporting our Parish, as Pat was a member of the defunct Fabric Committee. His funeral details will be announced in due course.

Convalidation of Mila and Graham Frost - 7th March at 1330 at the Church

We joyfully announce the marriage of Mila and Graham Frost, who will be united in the Sacrament of Marriage on 7th March at 1330 in the Church. We pray that their union may be graciously blessed by God and that their life together may be filled with love and fidelity. May the Lord guide and strengthen them always in their married life.

Stations of the Cross, led by the Altar Servers, will be observed on the evening of Friday 20th March at 1915 hours. All welcome.

Chrism Mass - 31st March SJB at 1130 - We are encouraged to join the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral on 31st March at 1130 in St John the Baptist Cathedral. If you could arrange your own transport to Norwich, that would be great.

**Fr Peter Leeming | Funeral Mass details are as follows:
Thursday 19 March**

5pm: *St Edmund's Church, Bury St Edmunds*

Mgr Peter's body will be received into the church, and a Vigil Mass for the Dead will be celebrated.

Friday 20 March

Mgr Peter's body is moved to the Cathedral.

10am: *Cathedral Church of St John the Baptist, Norwich*

Requiem Mass celebrated by Bishop Peter.

2pm: *Felixstowe Cemetery*

Interment.

We continue to keep Mgr Peter in our prayers.

Volunteers Required for Holy Week and Easter Vigil – Gerry McCarthy has left a list at back of the church from which to choose your preferred time/s.