

## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

### Insights

Today Jesus cures a man who has been blind from birth, but it is not the blindness of the man himself that is central to this story but the blindness of those around him. The Pharisees are pretty sure they know who Jesus is and they are fairly certain that he is not of God. Consequently, they are completely non-plussed by Jesus' miracle. They question the cured man over and over as though seeking some other explanation. The Pharisees are unable to believe the evidence before their eyes. They are just as blind as the blind man once was. They are blind to the truth because they refuse to see it.

Jesus chose to cure the blind man, not simply because he felt sympathy for him but because he wanted to display how God can work through any one of us. Jesus could see that the blind man would make a persuasive evangelist, and he was right. The cured blind man, unlike his frightened parents, spoke out boldly and persistently first proclaiming Jesus as a prophet, and then as he gained more insight, that this man was the Son of God. Even so, the short-sighted Pharisees were not convinced. Their belief that only Moses could act as spokesperson for God, rendered them totally myopic when it came to Jesus. Perhaps there is a lesson here for all of us. Are we so blinkered in what we believe and how we worship, that we are unable to see the broader picture that would allow our faith to move forwards?

Jesus' miracle and choice of subject teaches that God can work through any one of us. In the circumstances of our lives we can show others how God works. In our skills and talents we too can be evangelists, we just need the vision and a little bit of lateral thinking.

### Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday has been celebrated in the UK on the fourth Sunday in Lent from the 16th century. On this Sunday it was expected that families should attend their 'Mother Church'. This history is largely forgotten, but it remains an opportunity for us to show our mothers just how much we appreciate and love them. On Mother's Day we pray especially for all mothers and thank God for the care and love they give to their children. We ask God's blessing especially for mothers who struggle to protect their children against poverty and injustice.

**Bitesize** - 'A wise man can see more from the bottom of a well than a fool can from a mountain top. *Author Unknown*



**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



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**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**  
 [Sundays Year A, 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Lent, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week 4]

### MASSES in the PARISH

<b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Lent Feria</b>
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For the People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b>
09.00 MASS	Jasmine (Intentions) (JM)
11.00 <i>MASS Live streamed</i>	Mary Redman (Birthday Intentions) (DH)
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Lent Feria</b>
- No Mass	
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>St Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland (Feast)</b>
1000 MASS	Michael & Anna Mealy + (PM)
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Lent Feria</b>
1000 MASS	Angela Blows + (CP)
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (SOLEMNITY)</b>
1000 MASS	John Perkins + (CP)
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Lent Feria</b>
- No Mass	
<b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>Lent Feria</b>
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	Michael & Anna Mealy + (PM)
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b>
09.00 MASS	Noel McMahan + (LD)
11.00 <i>MASS Live streamed</i>	For the People of the Parish

**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:** Stan Bennett, Eugenie Beckett, John Hogan, Dorothy Edwards, Charles Hixson, Joan Wells, Thomas Donoghue, Janet Lennon, Margaret Cliffe, Andrea O'Connor, Margaret (Peggie) Jackson, Joy Lannon (CofE), Mary Roberts, Desmond Stone. *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 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026 Plate: £352.02.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:rexbaker27@btinternet.com)). This will help to maximize donations.

**Upcoming Parish events:**

<b>Diary for week Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March - Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2026</b>	
Sunday: 1100	<b>Childrens Liturgy</b> - Presbytery
Monday: 1900 - 2030	<b>AA Group Meeting</b> - Emmaus Room
Tuesday: 1830	<b>RCIA Meeting</b>
Thursday: 1730 - 1830	<b>First Communion Group</b> – Emmaus Room
Friday: 1130	<b>Stations of The Cross</b> – Chapel (followed by Lenten Soup) – All welcome
Friday: 1915 - 2030	<b>Altar Servers Stations of the Cross</b> - Followed by refreshments & Hot Cross Buns. All welcome.
<b>Parish Garden Club</b> – To volunteer, please contact Sonia on 07985 521578.	

**Mass Notice:** There will **not** be a Mass on Thursday 26 March 2026.

**+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 1100 in the Church. 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. His funeral will be on 27<sup>th</sup> March at 1100 in the Church. Our heartfelt condolences to Pat and the family as we commend Richard to the loving mercy of God.

**Deanery Lenten Station Mass** - 17<sup>th</sup> March at SJB Cathedral at 1800 hours.

**Stations of the Cross**, led by the Altar Servers, on the evening of Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 1915 hours. Followed by refreshments & Hot Cross Buns. All welcome.

**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 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.

**Stations of the Cross During Lent** – Continues throughout Lent every Friday at 1130. Followed by a Lenten soup lunch. All welcome.

**130 Club Draw for February 2026:**

1st Prize £20 – Ticket No.105, Teresa Kendall; 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize £15 – Ticket No.134 Philip Borthwick; 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize £10 – Ticket No.94, Roy Slee; 4<sup>th</sup> Prize £10 – Ticket No.77, Liam Dunne.

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

**Parish Family Day** - To celebrate our Diocese's Jubilee this year, Bishop Peter and the Marriage and Family Life Commission would like to encourage all parishes to hold a celebratory "FAMILY DAY!" in their own parish this summer (May - September).