

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

Life Changing

The most unsettling parts of the Bible are the bits where Jesus doesn't do exactly what we expect. Today Jesus' good friends Mary and Martha send him a message to come quickly because their brother Lazarus is dying. We would expect Jesus to drop everything and go quickly to their house. Instead, he hangs around for a couple of days and does nothing. What can he be thinking of? In truth, the delay is an essential part of the story. If Jesus had simply raised Lazarus from feeling unwell the story would have lacked poignancy, and no one would have had their faith significantly deepened that day. That Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead has a dramatic and profound impact on all not least Lazarus himself.

We might have expected Lazarus to have more to say on the matter. We might wish that he had shared a couple of life after death experiences with us, but it seems that Lazarus and his experiences are not really the point of the story. The main point of the story is Jesus' ability to transform the meaning of life and death for those who trust in him. Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." In bringing Lazarus back to life, Jesus shows the crowds that death need hold no fear for those who place their trust in him.

It is truly life changing to know that we are invited to place this much faith in God. It is life changing to know that God can handle any situation in which we find ourselves, and that he knows how to lead us through it. All we have to do is focus our faith on God rather than our own imagined solutions. Expect surprises. Expect delays. Expect a God who can guide us through life with all its challenges.

The Annunciation of the Lord - 25th March

The Angel Gabriel gave Mary a choice. It was God's plan to use her as the bearer of his Son, but she didn't have to say 'yes'. Our Lenten practices are designed to make us more aware of the choices and direction in our lives. We pray that as Mary's 'yes' brought forth the Saviour of the world, so we too will have the courage and wisdom to say 'yes' to God's direction. From today, live life a little differently. Live life a little better.

Bitesize - 'Everyone must choose one of two pains: The pain of discipline or the pain of regret.' *Jim Rohn*



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 22nd March 2026 – 5th Sunday of Lent
[Sundays Year A, 5th Week of Lent, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week 1]

MASSES in the PARISH

Saturday 21st March	Lent Feria
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	Michael & Anna Mealy + (PM)
Sunday 22nd March	Fifth Sunday of Lent
09.00 MASS	Noel McMahon + (LD)
11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	For the People of the Parish
Monday 23rd March	Lent Feria
1030 MASS	Terri Sanderson + Funeral Mass
Tuesday 24th March	Lent Feria
1000 MASS	Mia Pereira-Losasso (Birthday)(SSP/CL)
Wednesday 25th March	THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD (SOLEMNITY)
1000 MASS	Graham Nixon + (LT)
Thursday 26th March	Lent Feria
- No Mass	
Friday 27th March	Lent Feria
1100 MASS	Richard Grout + Funeral Mass
Saturday 28th March	Lent Feria
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For the People of the Parish
Sunday 29th March	PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
09.00 MASS	Kevin Kariyattu + (KK, AD,NT)
11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	Rejeena Joy (NT, AD, KK)

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: Anna Platt, Alex Siedlecki, Margaret Bowles, Sheelah de Chenu, Basil Howard, Kathleen Mohan, Frank Broom, Hazel O'Connor, Eileen Brocklesby, Betty Reavey, Helena Josephine Bennett, Michael Casey, Sidney Carter, Antonio Pereira. *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, Ken Wood.

Money Matters: Offerings for the week was as follows:
Sunday 15th March 2026 Plate: £377.54.

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 22 nd March - Saturday 28 th March 2026	
Sunday: 1100	Childrens Liturgy - Presbytery
Monday: 1900 - 2030	AA Group Meeting - Emmaus Room
Tuesday: 1830	RCIA Meeting
Thursday: 1730 - 1830	First Communion Group – Emmaus Room
Friday: 1215	Stations of The Cross – Chapel - All welcome
Friday: 1915 - 2045	Confirmation Group Meeting – Emmaus Room
Parish Garden Club – 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 1030 am 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.

+Richard Grout - Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord. We pray for the repose of the soul of Richard Grout, the husband of Pat Grout. His funeral will be on 27th March at 1100 in the Church. Our heartfelt condolences to Pat and the family as we commend Richard to the loving mercy of God.

+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. Her Funeral Mass will be on the 30th March at 1500.

Stations of the Cross During Lent - On Friday 27th March will be immediately after the funeral of Richard Grout, at approx 1215. No soup afterwards. 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.

Easter Triduum (April)

- 2 Apr 26 Maundy Thursday: 1930 Mass of the Lord's Supper
- 3 Apr 26 **Good Friday:** 1030 Children's Stations of the Cross
1500 Celebration of the Lord's Passion
- 4 Apr 26 Holy Saturday: 2000 Easter Vigil
- 5 April Easter Sunday

Lenten Alms - This year, our Lenten Alms will be directed to support the vital work of Aid to the Church in Need. As part of our works of charity during Lent, please consider contributing to this appeal, helping to support persecuted and suffering Christians around the world. Donation may be given directly to the Charity.

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.

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).

Plant Sale – Helen Wood will be holding a plant sale in the Church car park on the weekend of 16th/17th May 2026.