

## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY 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.

**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 Deacon:** Rev. Martin Sanderson  
**Parish Music team:** Judy Reid, Kathleen Edmunds & William Preddy.  
**Parish Safeguarding Representative:** Kathleen Edmunds

## Sacred Heart & St Margaret Mary



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**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent – Year A**  
[3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Lent, Weekdays Year I, Psalter Week 3]

### MASSES in the PARISH

<b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March</b>		
18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	Fred Murphy & Bill +
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March</b>		
09.00	MASS	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>
11.00	<i>MASS Live streamed</i>	For the People of the Parish
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March</b>		
10.00	MASS	Anisha Cyriac + (CC)
<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March</b>		
-	<i>No Mass today due to a Deanery meeting.</i>	<b>Lent Feria</b>
<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March</b>		
10.00	MASS	For Helena Jossy (Birthday thanksgiving) (CC)
<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March</b>		
10.00	<i>MASS &amp; ADORATION Live streamed</i>	<b>Lent Feria</b>
<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March</b>		
11.00	Stations of the Cross	For Valsamma Thomas (Birthday thanksgiving) (CC)
<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March</b>		
18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	<b>Lent Feria</b>
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March</b>		
09.00	MASS	For the People of the Parish
11.00	<i>MASS Live streamed</i>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent (Lætare Sunday)</b>
		John Perkins + (CP)
		Anne Hannon + (DH)

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

*For Live Streamed Masses 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 is available on the parish website from Friday each week.

**Anniversaries this week:** John Le Milliere, Deidre Brewer, Winifred Wake, Fr. John Joseph Ketterer (*3<sup>rd</sup> Priest at Dereham*), Betty Lynch, Deanne Andrews, Peggy Free, Robert Shutt, Maurice Anthony de Chenu, Stan Bennett, Eugenie Beckett, John Hogan, Charles Hixson, Thomas Donoghue, Janet Lennon, Margaret Cliffe. *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:** Shirley Liebenhals, Frances Saville King, Derek Williams, Patsy Gray, Collette Barro-Nessian, Betty Reavey, Marion Ring-Davies, Fr. Brendan, William Dunn, Pauline Buckland, Greta Cummings, Marco Johnson, Ena Marie Mifsud, Jose Pereira.

**Money Matters:** Offering for last Sunday: Plate £285.19 and CAFOD Fast Day: £127.88. Thank you.

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.** **Gift Aid forms** are available at the back of church. This will help to maximize our donations in the Parish.

**Weekday Morning Prayer & Rosary** – On Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday – Rosary at 09.00 and Morning Prayer at 09.30.

**Lenten Stations of the Cross** - Friday at 11.00 followed by soup and rolls.

**Lenten Meditation - 5:00 pm on Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> March** – A Lenten Meditation on Jesus' love for us and His THIRST for our love in response.



Parish Events this week		
Mon. 13 Mar.	14.00-16.00	<b>Monthly Tea Group</b> – Join us for a relaxing cuppa and a friendly natter. All welcome. Every second Monday of the month.
Weds. 15 Mar.	13.45	<b>Parish Finance Committee</b> - Presbytery
Weds. 15 Mar.	17.00-18.00	<b>First Communion Class</b> – Emmaus Room
Fri. 17 Mar.	19.15-20.30	<b>Altar Servers Group</b> – Emmaus Room

Parish Events this week		
Saturdays	10.00-11.30	<b>Youth Tennis</b> – Dereham Leisure Park
Sundays	After 1100 Mass	<b>Youth Club Chess &amp; Table Tennis</b> – Emmaus Room.

**Deanery Lenten Station Mass** – The Norwich Deanery Station Mass will be taking place on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> March at the Cathedral, Norwich commencing at 18.00 with Exposition and Confession, followed by Mass at 19.00, and afterwards a light buffet or soup at 20.00.

**Parish Lenten Reflection** – 1<sup>st</sup> April from 16.00 – 17.00.

**Chrim Mass 2023** - The Chrim Mass will be celebrated on **Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> April**, at **11:30** in the **Cathedral of St John the Baptist**. Depending on the number, transport will be considered. So, to those who are planning to attend, please write your names on the sheet provided at the back of the Church up until Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> March. There will be tea, coffee and hot cross buns served after the Mass.

**Reinstating the Parish Pastoral Council** - A box is placed at the back of the Church for us to nominate a name for the Chairperson of Parish Pastoral Council, only the Chairperson as we have already a Secretary and a Treasurer. On the 12<sup>th</sup> April at 1600, during our Parish Meeting, one of the top 3 nominees will be voted upon as the Chairperson of the Pastoral Council. Therefore, at this period, the Fabric Committee shall cease to continue and any Parish AiF Projects will be absorbed by the PPC.

**Parish Stewardship Programme 2023** - This is our Parish; each one plays an important role to propagate the Faith and to sustain the Community of Christ in ways necessary.

**Parish Open Forum** - This will be held on **Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> April, 1530 for 1600** in the Emmaus room. One of the agenda items will be the Parish Stewardship Programme which is sanctioned by the Diocese. A high time for the Parish to revisit and re-ignite the fire of enthusiasm to know, to love, and to serve Christ as a community formed by His Word.

**Parish Garden Club:** The Garden Club meets every Thursday at 1145 after the Adoration, starting this coming week, **16<sup>th</sup> March**. Looking forward for willing hands to take up your garden gloves and help maintain the order of our Parish grounds and garden.

**Repository** - St Patrick Day cards, Mother Day cards and Easter cards will be on sale at the back of church.

**Diocesan Vacancy for:** Chief Executive Officer for St John the Baptist Catholic Multi Academy Trust. Please see diocesan website for more details: <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/schools/school-vacancies/>