

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 4TH SUNDAY 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 a 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.

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 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 19th March 2023 – 4th Sunday of Lent – Year A

[4th Week of Lent, Weekdays Year I, Psalter Week 4]

MASSES in the PARISH

Saturday 18th March	
18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i>
Sunday 19th March	
09.00	MASS
11.00	MASS <i>Live streamed</i>
Monday 20th March	
10.00	MASS
Tuesday 21st March	
10.00	MASS
Wednesday 22nd March	
10.00	MASS
Thursday 23rd March	
10.00	MASS & ADORATION <i>Live streamed</i>
Friday 24th March	
11.00	Stations of the Cross
Saturday 25th March	
18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i>
Sunday 26th March	
09.00	MASS
11.00	MASS <i>Live streamed</i>

For the People of the Parish
4th Sunday of Lent (*Lætare Sunday*)

John Perkins + (*CP*)
 Anne Hannon + (*DH*)

**ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BVM.
 Solemnity**

For a Special Intention (*CP*)

Lent Feria
 Albert Foley + (*Foundation Mass*)

Lent Feria
 Helen Coyne + (*Foundation Mass*)

Lent Feria
 Kath Davis+ & Family (*Foundation Mass*)

Lent Feria

**THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD.
 Solemnity**

Bridget & William Murphy +
5th Sunday of Lent

Jeremiah Ryan + (*UM*)

For the People of the Parish

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: Andrea O'Connor, Margaret (Peggie) Jackson, Joy Lennon, Mary Roberts, Desmond Stone, Anna Platt, Alex Siedlecki, Margaret Bowles, Sheelah de Chenu, Basil Howard. *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 £295.26. Offertory by Standing Orders for February 2023 totalled £1,516.00. Plus additional CAFOD Fast Day: £79.00. 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.

Parish Lenten Reflection – Saturday, 1st April from 16.00 – 17.00.

Deanery Lenten Station Mass – The Norwich Deanery Station Mass will be taking place on **Tuesday, 21st 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.



Mothering Sunday, 19th March 2023 - 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.



Parish Events this week		
Weds. 22 Mar.	17.00-18.00	First Communion Class – Emmaus Room
Fri. 24 Mar.	19.15-20.45	Confirmation Group – Emmaus Room
Saturdays	10.00-11.30	Youth Club Tennis – Dereham Leisure Park
Sundays	After 1100 Mass	Youth Club Chess & Table Tennis – Emmaus Room.

Parish Garden Club - The Garden Club meets **every Thursday at 1145**. If interested in joining, please write your name on the list provided at the back of church.

Easter Services 2023 – Please note the times of the Easter Services below:
NB: We need volunteers for the Triduum Services: if you can help, please put your names on the list at the back of the Church.

Chrism Mass - The Chrism Mass will be celebrated on **Tuesday, 4th April**, at **11:30** in the Cathedral of St John the Baptist. We have booked for a 33-seater coach and those who are joining, please write your name on the piece of paper provided at the back of the Church. Time of departure from the Church will be at 1015 and back from the Cathedral at 1300. There will be tea, coffee and hot cross buns served after the Mass. Any donation to cover the cost of the coach is welcomed.

Easter Triduum

- **Maundy Thursday, 6 April at 1930:** Mass of the Lord's Supper *followed by the watching at the Altar of Repose*
- **Good Friday, 7 April**
1030 Children's Stations of the Cross
1500 Solemn Liturgy of the Passion
- **Holy Saturday, 8 April at 2000:** Easter Vigil Mass
- **Easter Sunday, 9th April**
0900 Mass
1100 Mass (*Livestreamed*)

Children's Easter Egg Hunt - There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for children at 1145, right after the 1100 Mass on Easter Sunday in the Parish Garden.

Reinstating of the Parish Pastoral Council - A box is placed at the back of the Church for nominations for the Chairperson of Parish Pastoral Council. The election will take place during the Parish Open Forum.

Parish Open Forum - This will be held on **Wednesday, 12th April, 1530 for 1600** in the Emmaus room. One of the agenda items will be the **Parish Stewardship Programme** (to be launched on the weekend of 23-24 September) which is supported by the Diocese. A high time for the Parish to revisit and re-kindle the fire of enthusiasm to know, to love, and to serve Christ as a community formed by His Word.