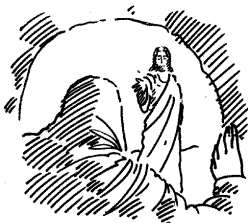


GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



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.

Bitesize – 'There are two ways to slide easily through life; to believe everything or to doubt everything. Both ways save us from thinking.'
~Alfred Korzybski, US (Polish-born) author, logician, & scientist (1879 - 1950)



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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SacredHeartDereham.org.uk

Sunday 26th March 2023 – 5th Sunday of Lent – Year A

[5th Week of Lent, Weekdays Year I, Psalter Week 1]

MASSES in the PARISH

Saturday 25th March	18.00	First MASS of Sunday	Bridget & William Murphy +
Sunday 26th March	09.00	MASS	5th Sunday of Lent
	11.00	MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	Jeremiah Ryan (UM)
Monday 27th March			For the People of the Parish
	10.00	MASS	Lent Feria
Tuesday 28th March			For Calvin & Becky (Sick)
	10.00	MASS	Lent Feria
Wednesday 29th March			Lilian Carter + (<i>Foundation Mass</i>)
	10.00	MASS	Lent Feria
Thursday 30th March			Sidney Carter + (<i>Foundation Mass</i>)
	10.00	MASS & ADORATION <i>Live streamed</i>	Lent Feria
			Mgr. Harry Wace + (<i>Foundation Mass</i>)
Friday 31st March			Lent Feria
	11.00	Stations of the Cross	
Saturday 1st April			Lent Feria
	16.00-17.00	Parish Lenten Reflection	
	18.00	First MASS of Sunday	For the People of the Parish
Sunday 2nd April			PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
	09.00	MASS	
	11.00	MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	Roger Borthwick +

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: Frank Broom, Hazel O'Connor, Eileen Brocklesby, Helena Josephine Bennett, Michael Casey, Sidney Carter, Antonio Pereira, Patrick Malone, Mary Godin, Margaret Hindle, Gladys Reeve, Rita Power, Vera Conway. *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, Gretta Cummings, Marco Johnson, Ena Marie Mifsud, Jose Pereira.

Money Matters: Offering for last Sunday: Plate £345.65. Thank you.

Gift Aid envelopes for Tax Year 2023 / 2024 are now available at the back of Church for collection. We have some changes this year regarding Christmas and Easter offerings made by Standing Order, as follows:

The Diocese Finance Office has informed us that as part of the Priests remuneration package, in addition to the normal loose plate and Gift Aid envelopes they will also receive one quarter of the Standing Orders donated in the relevant month (April / December). In view of this I have decided not to issue the usual numbered envelopes to those of you who contribute via Standing Order. However, should you wish to supplement your gift please use one of the generic Gift Aid envelopes at the back of church. There is no need to complete all the details on the envelope just your name printed clearly will suffice as I hold all the other relevant information. If you have any queries please email rexbaker@btinternet.com or phone 01362 694801.

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.



Parish Events this week		
Weds. 29 Mar.	17.00-18.00	First Communion Class – Emmaus Room
Thurs. 30 Mar.	11.45	Parish Gardening Club – Parish grounds & garden.
Fri. 31 Mar.	19.15-20.30	Altar Servers Group – Emmaus Room
Saturdays	10.00-11.30	Youth Club Tennis – Dereham Leisure Park

Parish Events this week		
Sundays	After 1100 Mass	Youth Club Chess & Table Tennis – Emmaus Room.

Film Showing: *Living, starring Bill Nighy* – This film will give us another perspective in our continuing reflection of Lent. Come and let us together watch Bill Nighy on **Wednesday, 29th March at 1600 in the Presbytery**. Popcorn and drinks provided.

Chrism Mass: Tuesday, 4th April at 11.30 in St. John's Cathedral, Norwich – We have booked a 33-seater coach and those who are joining, please put your name on the list at the back of church. Departure from the Church will be at 10.15, with return from the Cathedral at 13.00. There will be tea, coffee and hot cross buns served after the Mass. Any donations towards the cost of the coach hire would be welcomed.

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 sign up on the list provided at the back of the Church. Thank you.

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*)
- **1145** Children's Easter Egg Hunt in the Parish Garden

Easter Flowers – The Flower Ladies would be much delighted to decorate the Church with flowers this Easter and so there will be a special collection for this after all Masses next weekend (1st & 2nd April).

Parish Open Forum - This will be held on **Wednesday, 12th April, 1530 for 1600** in the Emmaus room. The election of a Chairperson for the proposed **Parish Pastoral Council** will take place at the meeting. 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.

Thank You – Peggy & George extend their very grateful thanks to everyone for their cards and good wishes on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary last week and to all those who helped make their celebration such a joyful occasion. Thank you.