

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The Hypocrisy Trap



It's easy to be religious, but it's not easy to be Christian. It's easy to go to church, carry a bible and look prayerful, but it's not always easy to put faith into action. Even when we do put our faith into action it's hard not to want people to notice how good we are being.

Yet again the Pharisees are in Jesus' bad books. "... Do whatever they teach," Jesus advises, "but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they preach." Jesus accuses the religious leaders of hypocrisy. "They tie up heavy burdens hard to bear and lay them on the shoulders of others." "They do all their deeds to be seen by others." Jesus is telling us that if we start placing more emphasis on outer conduct rather than on inner character, we are hypocrites. We are hypocrites if we do good deeds not for the love of others but for love of the spotlight.

None of us set out to be hypocrites, so perhaps we shouldn't be quite so harsh on the Pharisees. Hypocrisy is a very easy trap to fall into. We are constantly dishing out advice as parents, as teachers, as counsellors and as best friends advice we are often guilty of not following ourselves. Hypocrisy is a very human failing. We want to be one thing but end up being another. Then instead of owning up to our weaknesses we pretend to be something that we're not and then want praise and admiration into the bargain!

Today Jesus gives us an all-important strategy for avoiding the hypocrisy trap. Stay humble! If we can develop a genuine motivation to look to the interests of others, we are less likely to crave personal glory.

Bitesize - 'Don't try to be different. Just be good. To be good is different enough.'
~Arthur Freed



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.
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Sunday 5th November 2023 – 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A [31st Week of the Year, Weekdays Year I, Psalter Week 3]

MASSES in the PARISH

Saturday 4th November	18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For the People of the Parish
Sunday 5th November	09.00 MASS	31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
	11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	+John Perkins (CP)
Monday 6th November		+Ken & +Brenda May (MK)
	10.00 MASS	Feria
Tuesday 7th November		+Hilda & +William Pritchard (CP)
	10.00 MASS	Feria
Wednesday 8th November		+Elaine Smith (JD)
	10.00 MASS	Feria
Thursday 9th November		Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
	10.00 MASS & ADORATION	+Harry Wilkes (EW)
Friday 10th November		St Leo the Great
	- No Mass today	
Saturday 11th November		St Martin of Tours
	18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	<i>In Remembrance of those whose funeral services or Masses are held in the parish</i>
Sunday 12th November		32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
	09.00 MASS	<i>Remembrance Sunday</i>
	11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	For the People of the Parish
		For the War Dead

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.

For Live Streamed Masses Search for Dereham Catholic Church on YouTube, or use the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCR-qWs-B40VTvbezZ83MxQ/videos?view=2&flow=grid>

The parish newsletter is available on the parish website from Friday each week.

Anniversaries this week: Pam Gayton, Fr. Brian Nightingale, Patricia Hawkins, Kathleen Carroll, Bill Bell, Maria Gee, Iris Scott, Doreen Edith Derere, Eileen Monaghan, John Francis McWilliams, Edith Howard, Delia Shelley. *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, Derek Williams, Patsy Gray, Colette Barrow-Nessian, Betty Reavey, Marion Ring-Davies, Fr. Brendan, William Dunne, Pauline Buckland, Gretta Cummings, Ena Marie Mifsud, Katherine Vella, Pauline Organ, Kevin Pugh, Joy Bussey, Diana Conney, John Richardson.

Money Matters: Offering for last Sunday: Plate £298.05. 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.

1800 Mass Saturday, 11th November 2023 - This Mass is dedicated in remembrance of those whose Funeral Services or Masses are held in the Parish during the year. Please remember them in your prayers, as some of their family members will be joining us at this Mass:

- +Jose Antonio Pereira
- +Peter Francis Brown
- +Frances Saville-King
- +Julian Spetch
- +Ken May

Remembrance Sunday: 12th November – Remembrance Sunday will be commemorated at the **1100 Mass** next Sunday.

Parish Music Practice - Judy Reid is happy to offer her time and talent to teach us hymns that will be used at the Mass. This will be happening twice a month. Dates and time will be confirmed in the coming weeks. Please, make time for this important aspect of the Liturgy, the Sacred Music.

Parish Events for the week 5 th – 11 th November	
Sunday: 1100	Children's Liturgy
Tuesday: 1900	Youth Club Chess & Table Tennis – Emmaus Room.
Thursday: 1730-1830	First Communion Class – Emmaus Room

Parish Events for the week 5th – 11th November

Friday: 10.00	Parish Gardening Club – Parish grounds & garden. Volunteers welcome.
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Congratulations to the Parish for the amount raised from the Parish Auction and Fundraising on Friday, 27th October, which amounts to over £2000. Especial thanks go to the Auction Team: Donal, Lorraine and Richard, and to Peggy, Stella and Ann for the food.

Also, thanks to our Flowers Team for last week's church flower decorations, and to our regular foodbank donors, Mass collection counters and the Greeters' Guild.

Posada – Families are invited to house the Posada at their homes for a night or two. Beginning on the first Sunday of Advent (3rd December) and finishing on 23rd December. There is still time to sign up to take part; a form is provided at the back of church (name & contact details only).

Liturgical Key Dates & Mass Times, November / December 2023 – There is a list on the notice board at the back of church and on the website of key Liturgical dates and Mass times during November and December 2023, including Christmas Mass times. Please make a note of these in your diaries.

Parish Christmas Party – Don't forget! The parish bring & share Christmas party will be taking place on **Thursday, 21st December at Yaxham Village Hall from 12 noon to 6.00pm.**

Pope Francis's Prayer Intention for November 2023 - This month Pope Francis tells us, "Your prayer gives me strength and helps me to discern and to accompany the Church, listening to the Holy Spirit." Knowing that popes are often "judged harshly" and will have to render "a serious account" of their ministry to God, Pope Francis asks his listeners "to judge benevolently" and "pray that the Pope, whoever he might be may receive the help of the Holy Spirit, that he may be docile to that help." We are asked to join in prayer, "...*We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfils his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.*"



Rise Up: A special event for young people and catechists on Saturday 11th November at St. John's Cathedral, Norwich - A special event for young people (Year 7 upwards), catechists and youth leaders to be empowered to *Rise Up* and celebrate World Youth Sunday in their own parishes, later in November. Amongst other activities, there will be live music, inspiring talks and good food! Organised by the Diocesan Youth Service. See www.rcdea.org.uk/youth for more details.