

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



The Greater Point - When we read about Jesus' miracles, two big questions spring to mind. Does Jesus still cure people today? And ... why does Jesus cure some people but not others? Surely with his power he could cure everybody!

Jesus behaves unexpectedly in today's gospel. Having cured Simon's mother-in-law, the whole town turns up at his door eager for miracle cures, and Jesus obliges. This it would seem is his golden opportunity. This is his chance to have everybody eating out of the palm of his hand. Instead, Jesus gets up early and goes off to a deserted place, and when Simon comes looking for him, Jesus suggests that instead of returning to his new found fans, that they move on to the next village. This might seem odd to many, but it is to become apparent that curing the sick was not top of Jesus' agenda.

In some schools today, children are rewarded for a hundred percent attendance. Children come rushing home at the end of term waving certificates to prove that sickness has not kept them away from the classroom for one single day. But there are critics who would suggest that being in school every single day is not the important bit; it's what the pupil achieves whilst in the classroom that is of true importance. So it is with our lives. Our bodies are merely vehicles in which to get us through life. It is important to look after a vehicle, but what point is there in looking after a vehicle that isn't heading anywhere?

To achieve anything in this world our health of course is important, but Jesus didn't heal people simply to promote some health and fitness regime. Healing was only part of his primary ministry to teach. Jesus' healing miracles were signs of his identity and of God's power and compassion. His acts of healing were often to teach the importance of faith and discipleship.

Does Jesus still cure today? Perhaps the question is irrelevant. In asking it, are we missing the greater point? As mere mortals, our health is of paramount importance to us, but is it top of God's agenda? Saint Bernadette made a prayer that we could do well to adopt. She said "Lord, I do not ask that I never be afflicted, but only that you never abandon me in affliction."



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
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Sunday 4th February 2024 – 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B
 [5th Week of the Year, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week 1]

MASSES in the PARISH

Saturday 3rd February	18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For Hannah Jossy – Birthday thanks (CC)
Sunday 4th February	09.00 MASS	5th Sunday in Ordinary Time For the People of the Parish
	11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	+Anisha Cyriac (CC)
Monday 5th February	10.00 Service of the Word & Holy Communion	St Agatha
Tuesday 6th February	10.00 MASS	St Paul Miki & Companions For Assisi Abraham
Wednesday 7th February	10.00 MASS	Feria For Lissy Joseph's ints.
Thursday 8th February	10.00 MASS & ADORATION	Feria (Day of Prayer for Victims of Trafficking) For the Assisi Family
Friday 9th February	- No Mass today	Feria
Saturday 10th February	18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	St Scholastica +William & Bridget Murphy
Sunday 11th February	09.00 MASS	6th Sunday in Ordinary Time For the People of the Parish
	11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	+Bill Sibley (AS)

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 link on the parish website.

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

Anniversaries this week: Bernard O'Shea, Doris Marie (Babs) Dyer, Lynes Smith, Marian Longhorn, George Howell, Brenda Secker, Joan Rooney, Ralph Keatley, Molly Sayer, Colin Halstead, Madeline Stanley, Maria Rupp, William Green. *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, William Dunne, Pauline Buckland, Gretta Cummings, Katherine Vella, Pauline Organ, Kevin Pugh, Joy Bussey.

Money Matters: Offering for last Sunday: Plate £283.05 and £81.57 for the collection for Lepa. Thank you.

If you would like to make your regular offerings by Standing Order, the information you need is: Account name: **Catholic Church of Dereham**; Sort Code **40-20-08** and Account number: **11311115**. If you are a tax payer, please also consider **Gift Aid**. **Gift Aid forms** are available at the back of church.

130 Club Renewals – If you have not already done so, members are reminded to collect their renewal envelopes from the church letter rack and return their forms as quickly as possible and by 17th March at the latest. Anyone wishing to join the 130 Club, please contact Marcia by email at marciaslee@hotmail.com or Tel. 01362 690521 or 07786 914478.

Next Sunday is World Day of Prayer for the Sick, the Diocesan Day of Prayer for Engaged Couples and also a day of prayer for the Unemployed.

Annual Mass to Celebrate Our Lady of Lourdes with anointing of the sick will be taking place on **Saturday, 10th February at 11.45 a.m. at St. John's Cathedral, Norwich.**

Parish Lenten Retreat - This will take place on **Saturday, 17th February at 1700 to 1730** to be given by Fr Jay with the theme: *Pastoral Strategies for an Apostolic Age.*

Stations of the Cross Guide booklets - During the Friday Stations, these are available but please return it after as we have limited copies.

Modern Slavery Watchdog - A new group is forming in the Diocese to help to reduce modern slavery here. During 2022, in our Diocese alone, 746 souls were found enslaved and rescued. Police describe this number of enslaved people, as the tip of the iceberg. Pope Francis wants us to "find" enslaved people. All that means is learning (simply) to spot the signs and safely report them to the

Modern Slavery Helpline [08000 121 700](tel:08000121700). The new group is looking for young & older volunteers to join the group. No previous knowledge or experience required, just a wish to end slavery in our diocese. Please contact john_simong@hotmail.com to discuss possibly volunteering and read the leaflet about St Bakhita (regarded as the patron saint of Modern Slavery) at <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/caritas-east-anglia/modern-slavery> " *The Day of Prayer for the Victims of Human Trafficking is on Thursday this week, 8th February.*

World Day of Prayer, Friday 1st March 2024 – Many thanks to everyone who responded to the request for volunteers to help the parish host this event this year. We now have two Readers but more volunteers to help are needed. Please also note this annual event is open to all, men and women. If you can help, please contact Judy Reid (judybreid@gmail.com). For all volunteers, there will be a rehearsal on Tuesday, 27th February at 10.45 a.m.

Parish Events for the week 4 th – 10 th February	
Sunday: 1100	Children's Liturgy (for children <i>in Y1 to 1st Holy Communion age</i>)
Tuesday: 1900	Youth Club Chess & Table Tennis – Emmaus Room.
Thursday: 1730-1830	First Communion Class – Emmaus Room
Friday: 1915-2030	Altar Servers' Group – Emmaus Room

Pope Francis's Prayer Intention for February 2024: For the Terminally Ill - For the very sick or dying, there may be feelings of helplessness, confusion, anger, regret or fear. But for the Christian, the love of Jesus Christ can help to make sense of suffering, and give hope, comfort, peace and spiritual support. The Bible describes Jesus reaching out to the sick with compassion and tenderness: holding them, comforting them, offering them forgiveness and healing. We are taught that dying well is as important as living well. No one is forgotten by God. This month we are invited to join in Pope Francis' prayer intention "...that the sick who are in the final stages of life, and their families, receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment."



Church Cleaning Rota 2024 – The new rota for church cleaning is now available for team members to collect from the church letter rack.

giving
thanks

To our flower ladies for last week's Church's flower decoration, and thanks also to our foodbank regular givers, Mass collection counters, church cleaners' team, and the greeters' guild.

Bitesize – 'Diseases of the soul are more dangerous and more numerous than those of the body.' ~ Cicero