

## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### The Power of Empathy



In the 1870's, the idyllic sunny island of Molokai might not have been one of your top holiday destinations. Molokai was a settlement where the government kept segregated all persons afflicted by leprosy. It was here that a young priest named Joseph Damien de Veuster (Fr. Damien), at his own request arrived at the settlement to preside as its resident priest. There were then six hundred lepers many rendered helpless by the disease. For a long time, Fr. Damien was the only person to bring them the help they needed, both spiritual and practical. After twelve years of this heroic service he eventually contracted the disease himself. At the age of forty-five he stood before his brethren and addressed them, "My dear brethren .... my fellow lepers. ... I am one of you now."

In today's gospel Jesus is called upon to cure a leper. Jesus could have done this with a few words, but he does more than this ... he reaches out and heals the leper not only with words but the touch of his hand. This might seem a small detail, but the simple gesture speaks volumes. The gesture tells us that Jesus was setting aside the stigma that accompanied this terrible disease. Jesus is able to take on the leper's condition and know his needs. We call it empathy, an empathy essential for true compassion. This is the example that we see Fr Damien live to the letter.

To learn from Jesus' example, we do not have to rush off and find a leper colony as Fr Damien did. There are plenty of social lepers everywhere we look. There are all sorts of social misfits that we stigmatise and push to the edges of our society. If we are to learn by Jesus' example, we have to employ all our powers of empathy before we can even begin to make changes.

That Jesus uses his powers to cure leprosy is amazing, but more important is how we can learn from this miracle in changing the lives around us.

**Bitesize** - 'People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.' ~ *Bonnie Jean Wasmund*



**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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## Sacred Heart & St Margaret Mary



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SacredHeartDereham.org.uk

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B**  
 [6<sup>th</sup> Week of the Year, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week 2]

### MASSES in the PARISH

<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February</b>	18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	+William & Bridget Murphy
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February</b>	09.00 MASS	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
	11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	For the People of the Parish
<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February</b>		+Bill Sibley (AS)
	10.00 Service of the Word & Holy Communion	<b>Feria</b>
<b>Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February</b>		<b>Feria</b>
	10.00 MASS	+Breda & Paschall Byrne (PM)
<b>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b>		<b>ASH WEDNESDAY.</b> Fast & Abstinence.
	10.00 MASS	+Joan & Barry Evans (PM)
	19.00 MASS	+Juliana & Dominic Morrisroe (GC)
<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February</b>		<b>Lent Feria</b>
	- No Mass today	-
<b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February</b>		<b>Lent Feria</b>
	11.30 Stations of the Cross	
	17.30 Stations of the Cross	-
<b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February</b>		<b>Lent Feria</b>
	18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For the People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February</b>		<b>First Sunday of Lent</b>
	09.00 MASS	+Thomas, Jennie & Michael Carolan (GC)
	11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	+Freda & Harry Wilkes

**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:** Henry Raw, Patrick Flynn, Stella Daisy Hercock, Millie Boyer, Muriel Hope Drury, Joseph McHendrie, Nell Bradley, Antero Ribeiro, Mary Frances Martin, Alice Wyand, Michael Triggs, Joan Bedwell. *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 £250.66. Thank you.

**130 Club Draw for February 2024** - 1<sup>st</sup> Prize £20 – Ticket No. 91, Colette Barrow-Nessian; 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize £15 – Ticket No. 48, Robert Kuczma; 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize £10 – Ticket No. 20, Dorothy Wheeler; 4<sup>th</sup> Prize £10 – Ticket No. 188, Chris Sayer; 5<sup>th</sup> Prize £10 – Ticket No. 21, Eleanor Teale.

**Donations for New Heating System in the Church** – Following an inspection, the gas-fired heating system in the Church is now deemed unsafe for use and has been condemned. So, we are raising funds for the new system to be installed as a matter of urgency. A box is available at the end of the Church for donations.

**Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2024** – Today is being kept as:

- World Day of Prayer for the Sick,
- Day of Prayer for the Unemployed and
- Diocesan Day of Prayer for Engaged Couples.

We are asked to pray especially today for all these intentions.

**Ash Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024** – The Season of Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday** and Masses will be at 1000 and 1900. Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence.

**Change to Mass Times this Week** – Please note there will be no Mass on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> February to allow for the installation of the new windows at the back of the church that day.

**Friday Stations of the Cross** begin this week on 16<sup>th</sup> February – mornings at 1130, followed by soup & rolls; and again at 1730, to be led by different Parish committees (a form is provided for the dates at the back of church). There are Stations of the Cross books available for use as guides during the Friday Stations but please return these to the box for use each week, as copies are limited.

<b>Parish Events for the week 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
Sunday: 1100	<b>Children's Liturgy</b> (for children <i>in Y1 to 1st Holy Communion age</i> )
Monday: 1400-1600	<b>Tea Buddies</b> – Monthly get-together for a friendly natter over a cuppa – Emmaus Room. All welcome. Every second Monday of the month.
Tuesday: 1900	<b>Youth Club Chess &amp; Table Tennis</b> – Emmaus Room.
Thursday: 1730-1830	<b>First Communion Class</b> – Emmaus Room
Friday: 1130	<b>Stations of the Cross</b> , followed by soup & rolls.
Friday: 1730	<b>Stations of the Cross</b>
Saturday: 1700-1730	<b>Parish Lenten Retreat</b> – to be given by Fr. Jay on the theme: <i>Pastoral Strategies for an Apostolic Age.</i>

**Walk with Me: A Journey of Prayer for Lent 2024** - Copies of this Lent booklet are available at the back of church, cost £1.

**CAFOD Family Fast Day** – Envelopes are available at the back of church for the CAFOD Family Fast Day for Lent on Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February. There will be a retiring collection for this after all Masses on the weekend 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> February.

**Easter Flowers Retiring Collection** – There will be a special retiring collection after all Masses on the weekend on 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> February for our Easter flower decorations.

**House Masses during Lent** – During the Wednesdays of Lent from 21<sup>st</sup> February to 6<sup>th</sup> March we shall be having a house Mass at 1900. If you would like to hold a Mass, please sign up on the form at the back of church.

**World Day of Prayer: Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024** – This year's theme is '*I beg you, bear with one another in love*' and comes from the Christian women of Palestine. In Dereham this year, the service is being hosted here at Sacred Heart at 2.00pm. Judy Reid is co-ordinating the arrangements and if you can assist in any way, please contact Judy (email: [judybreid@gmail.com](mailto:judybreid@gmail.com)). For all volunteers, there will be a rehearsal on Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> February at 10.45 a.m.

**Chrism Mass Coach Hire or Commuting?** - Chrism Mass is scheduled for Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> March at 11:30 a.m. at St John the Baptist Cathedral in Norwich. A 33-seat coach is available for £375. Considering our Church's upcoming heating expenses, please indicate if you wish to join the coach. If there's insufficient interest, we may need to arrange individual commuting. A form is available at the back to sign up.



We thank Myrna Kemp for last week's flower decorations in the church. Thanks also to our foodbank regular givers, Mass collection counters, church cleaners' team, and the greeters' guild.