

## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

### It's Tempting



What are you giving up for Lent? Chocolates .... smoking .... television ... wine? It's tempting to think that Lent is about saying a few extra prayers and giving up sweets or alcohol, but in truth, we are in serious danger of trivialising Lent. This forty-day journey with Jesus is so much more than resisting a few bad habits.

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained there for forty days to be alone and consider his priorities away from distractions. Whilst he was there, Satan confronted him with all the temptations we lesser mortals are great at falling for .... the promise of wealth, fame, power, and worldly success. Having overcome Satan's temptations, Jesus emerged all the stronger, and proclaiming God's gospel.

This Lent we are invited to share Jesus' wilderness experience. Over the next forty days, we are challenged to retreat into our own wilderness and face our demons. The power of evil seeks us out in our weaknesses. Lent is a time when we can strengthen the areas in our life that show weakness. Lent is a time when we can change our sinful habits, change our minds about the way we live and decide what we are really about. The wilderness is a place where we can be tested, where we can get to know ourselves better and grow in maturity.

The theme of today's gospel is the close link between the preparation by Jesus in the desert and the start of his preaching. Lent has an end result. What end result are we preparing for? In what ways could we emerge all the stronger by Easter? Could this Lent provide the starting point we need to change the direction in our lives?

**Bitesize** – 'Never mind searching for who you are. Search for the person you aspire to be.' ~Robert Brault, [rbrault.blogspot.com](http://rbrault.blogspot.com)



**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  
[kathleenedmunds@yahoo.com](mailto:kathleenedmunds@yahoo.com)

## Sacred Heart & St Margaret Mary



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### Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent – Year B

[1<sup>st</sup> Week of Lent, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week 1]

#### MASSSES in the PARISH

<b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February</b>		
1700-1730	<b>Parish Lenten Retreat:</b> <i>'Pastoral Strategies for an Apostolic Age'</i>	
18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For the People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February</b>		
09.00	MASS	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>
11.00	<i>MASS Live streamed</i>	+Thomas, Jennie & Michael Carolan +Freda & Harry Wilkes
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February</b>		
10.00	Service of the Word & Holy Communion	<b>Lent Feria</b>
<b>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February</b>		
10.00	MASS	<b>Lent Feria</b> +Colin Cummings
<b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February</b>		
10.00	MASS	<b>Lent Feria</b> +G. Maguire ( <i>Foundation Mass</i> )
<b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February</b>		
10.00	MASS & ADORATION	<b>The Chair of St Peter. Feast.</b> Dorothy & Maria Hynard (Thanksgiving)
<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February</b>		
11.30	Stations of the Cross & Lent Lunch (soup & a roll)	<b>Lent Feria</b>
17.30	Stations of the Cross	
<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February</b>		
18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	<b>Lent Feria</b> Prince Kurian (Thanksgiving)
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February</b>		
09.00	MASS	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> For the People of the Parish
11.00	<i>MASS Live streamed</i>	+Robert McCarthy

**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:** Robert McCarthy, Gerard Keogh, Mary Allison, Agnes Lilian Farrow, Grace Chipperfield, Margaret Kirk, Isabel Joan Hooper, Bridget Drury, Vera Farmer, Dora Ellen Heasman, Frances Watson, John Edwards. *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 £339.27. Offertory by Standing Order for January 2024 was £2,481.00. 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.

**Church Flowers for Easter –** There is a retiring collection after all Masses this weekend for flowers to decorate the church at Easter.

**CAFOD Lenten Fast Day, England and Wales, Friday 23rd February 2024 -** No one should have to risk everything to feed their family. This Lent Fast Day focuses on the fishermen of Liberia who risk their lives on stormy seas to feed their families. Your donations can buy signalling mirrors, GPS to track fish and help find safety in a storm, and life jackets. Your donations can help hard working people making a living safely. *Please take a donation envelope from the back of church, fill in the gift aid slip and return the envelope with your donation next week or soon after.*

<b>Parish Events for the week 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
Sunday: <b>No Children's Liturgy</b> – half-term holiday	
Tuesday: 1900	<b>Youth Club Chess &amp; Table Tennis</b> – Emmaus Room.
Thursday: Please note there is <b>no First Communion Class</b> – half-term holiday.	
Friday: Please note there is <b>no Altar Servers Group meeting</b> – half-term holiday	
<b>Friday Garden Club</b> – Volunteers are asked to please contact Sonia on 07985 521578 for next meeting date.	

**World Day of Prayer: 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2.00pm at Sacred Heart, Dereham –** If anyone could help with providing some cakes for this event, please contact Judy Reid (email: [judybreid@gmail.com](mailto:judybreid@gmail.com)).

**Church Heating System -** You will be aware that the church heating has been condemned. The Parish Finance Committee has considered the way forward in conjunction with the Chairman of the Parish Council. Given the lack of Parish resources and that all the Alive in Faith projects have been completed, it was agreed that the cost of replacing the heating system and the making good of the Church décor be met from the balance remaining in Alive in Faith fund. Quotations for the work are now being sought before submitting the scheme to the Diocese. Any Parishioners who wish to comment should contact Father Jay. A form is available at the back of the Church for you to sign up and for your suggestions.

**Chrism Mass Coach Hire or Commuting?** - Chrism Mass is scheduled for March 26th, 11:30am 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.

**Children's Easter Egg Hunt -** Last year, our Easter Egg Hunting was well-participated. This year, we shall have it on Easter Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 at the Presbytery Garden.

**Lent Talks: BBC Radio 4 Mondays at 11pm -** Six people well known in their fields reflect on the story of Jesus' ministry and Passion from the perspective of their own personal and professional experience.

**Politics at the Service of the Common Good -** Each year 'Churches Together in Britain and Ireland' offers a Lent resource for inter-church groups to engage together in study and prayer around a theme that is relevant to the Church on these islands, and often in a wider international context. It can also be used by individual congregations wishing to join with groups from other denominations in prayer during Lent around issues that are of shared concern, and by individuals seeking inspiration for their own prayer and reflection. This year CTBI is inviting participants to reflect on the question of how we might be called to engage as Christians with the political realities and processes that shape our society, impacting our own lives and the wellbeing of our communities. You will find the reflections at [www.ctbi.org.uk/lent-2024-reflections/](http://www.ctbi.org.uk/lent-2024-reflections/)



For last week's Church's flower decoration, we thank Myrna Kemp, our foodbank regular givers, Mass collection counters, church cleaners' team, and the greeters' guild.