

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Unless A Grain of Wheat Falls



'Eat drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die.' In a life-or-death situation, human nature would always prompt us to hold on to life no matter what the consequences, but in today's gospel a grain of wheat is used to teach us a valuable lesson. The selfless grain of wheat falls and dies to enable a fresh harvest. What point is there in choosing life, if that life boils down to nothing more than self-preservation? On the other hand, what great value death, if that sacrifice gives others life. Many of us fail to understand why Jesus perceived the necessity of going to Jerusalem where he knew he would die. Wouldn't it have made more sense for him to bypass Jerusalem and carry on teaching into his dotage? Jesus however, isn't about to compromise his purpose.

Jesus determines to give his life so others can find true life. This is what Christianity is all about. Jesus teaches us that we must 'die to self' before we can be of any use to God. Letting one's own ambition die to be replaced by God's plans for us? 'Dying to self'? Could we be blamed for not feeling enthused? How many of us really see the wisdom in ditching our own exciting life plans to go around being holy? Perhaps we need to think again about how exciting our ambitions really are. Perhaps sacrificing our own agenda and recognising God's plan in our lives could be the best and most exciting thing that ever happened to us. Perhaps sacrificing something of ourselves for a greater purpose could put us in touch with who we really are.

"Eat drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die." This epitomizes everything as Christians we are not!

Bitesize - "Don't compromise yourself. You're all you've got." ~Janis Joplin



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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Sunday 17th March 2024– 5th Sunday of Lent – Year B

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

MASSSES in the PARISH

Saturday 16th March	18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	+Nell Bradley (<i>Foundation Mass</i>)
Sunday 17th March	09.00 MASS	5th Sunday of Lent
	11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	+Mgr. Harry Wace (<i>Foundation Mass</i>) For the People of the Parish
Monday 18th March	10.00 Service of the Word & Holy Communion	Lent Feria
Tuesday 19th March	10.00 MASS	St Joseph, Spouse of BVM +John Perkins (<i>CP</i>)
Wednesday 20th March	10.00 MASS	Lent Feria +Anisha Cyriac (<i>CC</i>)
Thursday 21st March	10.00 MASS & ADORATION	Lent Feria Helena Jossy birthday ints. (<i>CC</i>)
Friday 22nd March	11.30 Stations of the Cross & Lent Lunch	Lent Feria
	19.30 Stations of the Cross (<i>Led by Altar Servers</i>)	
Saturday 23rd March	18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	Lent Feria For the People of the Parish
Sunday 24th March	09.00 MASS	Palm Sunday of the Passon of the Lord +Jeremiah Ryan (<i>UM</i>)
	11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	

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: Charles Hixson, Thomas Donoghue, Janet Lennon, Margaret Cliffe, Andrea O'Connor, Margaret (Peggie) Jackson, Joy Lannon, Mary Roberts, Desmond Stone, Anna Platt. *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, Greta Cummings, Katherine Vella, Pauline Organ, Kevin Pugh, Joy Bussey, Peter Knight and Dorothy Edwards.

Money Matters: Offering for last Sunday: Plate £310.42, plus £10 CAFOD Fast Day. 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.

Volunteers for the Easter Triduum 28th – 30th March 2024 - There are forms provided for you to sign up wherever you may help in our Easter Triduum celebrations.

Convalidation Announcement - Brian and Shirley Liebenhals will tie the ecclesiastical knot on the 6th April 2024, 1430 at our Church for a Convalidation. We include them in our prayers for better health in the succeeding weeks as we wish them joyful years ahead.

AiF Projects: Meeting on the 3rd April 2024 - The Finance and AiF Projects Committees will be having a meeting on the 3rd April, 1900 at the Presbytery. This is to discuss and finalize the heating, flooring and interior decoration quotations to be submitted to the Diocesan Finance.

Coach for the Chrism Mass on the 26th March 2024 - To those who will be joining the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral, pick up time from our Church will be **0945 for 1000** and return will be at **1400** for you to enjoy the hot cross buns after Mass at the reception. Donation for the coach is expected, no fixed amount but if you can give more out of your generosity as we have paid £375 already, that will be appreciated.

Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers Training and Re-training - Inviting those who have signed up to volunteer for Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers, or are

interested in these roles, please attend the training and retraining on the 27th April, 1430 at the Church. Lectors are advised to come at least 5-minute before the Mass to prepare yourself to avoid reading the wrong readings.

Parish Events for the week 17th – 23rd March	
Sunday: 1100	Children's Liturgy (for children in Y1 to 1st Holy Communion age)
Tuesday: 1900	Youth Club Chess & Table Tennis – Emmaus Room.
Wednesday: 1430	Queen of Peace Prayer Group – Emmaus Room. All welcome.
Thursday: 1730-1830	First Communion Class – Emmaus Room
Friday: 1915-2030	Altar Servers' Group – Emmaus Room (& to lead Stations of the Cross)
Friday Garden Club – Volunteers are asked to please contact Sonia on 07985 521578 for next meeting date.	

St Joseph, Husband of Mary, 19th March - Joseph was wholeheartedly obedient to God ... in marrying Mary, in naming Jesus, in shepherding the precious pair to Egypt, in bringing them to Nazareth, in the undetermined number of years of quiet faith and courage. The Bible pays Joseph the highest compliment in calling him a "just" man. This just man lived his life by faith, seeking to do good in every concrete circumstance of life a model for fathers everywhere.



Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal - We have all been shocked and saddened by the devastating conflict in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory. After weeks of intense conflict, over 18,000 Palestinians and 1,400 Israelis have been killed, thousands more injured, and over 1.9 million people in Gaza are displaced. Food, water and fuel are in increasingly short supply. Families need urgent help. **You can donate online at www.cafod.org.uk/give/donate-to-emergencies/israeli-palestinian-crisis-appeal**

Radio Maria England - A Catholic voice by your side bringing listeners opportunities to pray with others on-air, opportunities to learn about Catholic events in the country and learning from speakers who will support you as you grow in your faith. Listen on www.RadioMariaEngland.uk or download the FREE mobile app, "Radio Maria Play."



We thank all our parish volunteers for their help each week, including our foodbank regular givers, Mass collection counters, church cleaners' team, and the greeters' guild.