

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

If You Could Choose A Miracle?



If you were in Jesus' shoes and you were about to grab the world's attention with your first miracle, what might that first miracle be? Might you reverse global warming or end poverty? Jesus' first miracle was to turn water into wine at the Wedding of Cana. To many it seems a frivolous kind of miracle something akin to a party trick, but John relates the miracle with good reason. John's gospel is quite different in character from the other three. It's written in a very symbolic style, and it doesn't follow the same order, or record the same stories as the others. St. John is concerned in showing us signs, which gradually reveal the glory of God through Jesus. The author seems to be mainly interested in the significance of the deeds of Jesus. So what is the significance of this miracle? John writes, "This is written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name." Suddenly confronted with enough wine to swim in, the disciples had no choice but to begin to believe in who Jesus really was. Neither would the symbolism have been lost on the people of the time. It was the people's belief that at the time of salvation God would provide a table for feasting for his servants and a cup that would never run dry. In short, the substance of the sign was of no consequence at all; it was the message the sign conveyed that was all-important.

The symbolism we read in this first miracle speaks of an old religion bogged down with oppressive rules and laws liberated by a new faith governed by love, compassion, joy, generosity, and abundance. Being a Christian is a very serious business, and as Christians we are asked to address life and death issues, but that doesn't mean we should trudge around with long pious faces. Jesus frequently likens the Kingdom of God to a feast, so smile.... the changing of water to wine is a sign of better things to come.

Bitesize - 'We look forward to the time when the Power of Love will replace the Love of Power. Then will our world know the blessings of peace.'

~ William Ewart Gladstone



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 19th January 2025 – 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

[Sundays Year C, 2nd Week of the Year, Weekdays Year I, Psalter Week 2]

MASSES in the PARISH

Saturday 18th January	
18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i>
	Margaret Meade+ (PP)
Sunday 19th January	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
09.00	MASS
	Annie & James Whittingham+ (SG & Family)
11.00	MASS <i>Live streamed</i>
	For the People of the Parish
Monday 20th January	Feria
-	No Mass today
Tuesday 21st January	St Agnes
10.00	MASS
	Stearman Family+ (Fdn)
Wednesday 22nd January	Feria
10.00	MASS
	Dennis Plumb+
Thursday 23rd January	Feria
10.00	MASS
	Maria Delos Angeles Costa+ (SS)
Friday 24th January	St Francis de Sales
-	No Mass today
Saturday 25th January	The Conversion of St Paul
18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i>
	For the People of the Parish
Sunday 26th January	3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
09.00	MASS
11.00	MASS <i>Live streamed</i>
	Anisha Cyriac+ (CC)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Thursday after 10.00 Mass and Saturday at 17.30

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: Stanley Meadows, Amy Garvey, Arthur Longhurst, Frances Kelly, Joan Blakistone, Robert Anderson, Perpetua Cecine Triggs, Gwen Dawes, Betty McGee, Maisie Aylin, Queenie Minnie Hogan, Stanley Brocklesby, Anne Cairns, Laura O'Halloran, Bill Sibley, George Mayer, Ivor Vincent, Magdolna Toth. *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, Joy Bussey, Pat Grout, George Mealy, Peggy Mealy.

Money Matters: Offering for last Sunday: Plate £294.50. Thank you.

For those who would like to make their regular offerings by Standing Order, the information you need is: Account name: **Sacred Heart and St Margaret Mary Catholic Church.** 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.

Diary for the week 19 th – 25 th January 2025	
Sunday: 1100 Mass	Children's Liturgy – for children in Yr1 to 1 st Holy Communion age.
Monday: 1900-2030	AA Group Meeting - Emmaus Room
Wednesday: 1430	Queen of Peace Prayer Group – Emmaus Room. All welcome.
Wednesday: 1830	Post Christmas Recollection – Emmaus Room *See item below.
Thursday: 1730-1830	First Communion Class – Emmaus Room
Friday: 1915-2030	Altar Servers' Group – Emmaus Room
Parish Garden Club – To volunteer, please contact Sonia on 07985 521578.	

Post-Christmas Recollection | 22 January 2025 at 1830 - Step back in time and join us for an enlightening Recollection with Andrew Rogerson, our Parish historian. Don't miss this interesting journey into the past: *'How Archaeological Finds Illuminate the Religious Lives of People in Medieval Norfolk.'*

Cambodian Immersion - Two of our parishioners, Judy Reid & Myrna Kemp, are going on a Cambodian Immersion on January 23 with Fr Mark of Swaffham and some parishioners. They are visiting orphanage and Catholic schools so any small items you may have at home that you don't need anymore would be very welcome. Thank you very much in advance. Examples: colouring pencils, rubbers, rulers, pens, small colouring books, toothbrushes, paracetamol, plasters etc.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025, 18th - 25th January - Each day during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, CTBI (Churches Together in Britain and Ireland) provides a starting point, reflection, questions and a prayer based on the theme. Here you can turn your reflections into action with the charity's 'Go and Do' points. This is a great site with plenty of practical challenges on highly relevant themes. Visit www.ctbi.org.uk/goanddo/


Adoration Resumes in March – Due to upcoming church renovations, weekly Adoration is suspended and will resume in the first week of March.

Flame 2025: Inviting all young people in Year 9 and above to 'Flame' at Wembley Arena. The Diocesan Youth Service is excited to be taking a group to 'Flame' on March 15th. Flame is the largest Catholic gathering of young people in the UK, coming together to experience the best in international speakers, artists and performers. It is a vibrant experience of young Church, concluding with Adoration led by most of the Bishops of England and Wales. For details and to book a ticket and place on the coach, please see www.rcdea.org.uk/youth. Bookings must be received by 9th February.

Film Showing: Conclave | Wednesday, 19th February at 1830 in the Emmaus Room – *'When Cardinal Lawrence is tasked with leading one of the world's most secretive and ancient events, selecting a new Pope, he finds himself at the centre of a conspiracy that could shake the very foundation of the Catholic Church.'* Starring: Ralph Fiennes, Stanley Tucci and John Lithgow

Parish Jubilee Celebration | 25th July 2025 - To mark this important milestone on the life of our Church, the Parish Finance and AiF Project Committee proposes using the remaining AiF funds this year to build a grotto for Our Lady in the Parish Garden and enhance the garden's décor. This project will coincide with the Bishop's visit, during which he will bless the grotto. Please add your signature to the sheet at the back of the Church if you support this initiative. Many thanks.

Foodbank urgently needs: Baby wipes, Instant mash, long life fruit juice, UHT milk, tinned tomatoes and tinned meat. Many thanks for your generosity as last year we donated 600kg of goods.



We thank all our many parish volunteers and groups for their help each week in supporting the running and daily and spiritual life of the parish.