

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Cornerstone

What happens when we forget that our lives are a gift from God? What happens when we forget that human-kind is God's creation? What happens when we forget that the planet that we live on belongs to God?

Today's parable describes a land owner who leaves tenants in charge of his vineyard. But at harvest time the tenants refuse to pay their rent, failing to recognise the landowner's authority and killing the servants and even the son who are sent for the rent. The tenants appear to have forgotten that the vineyard belongs to the landowner. The tenants had come to believe that they could make up their own rules. They had forgotten that they were accountable. They had certainly forgotten that they had been given responsibilities and entrusted with stewardship.

God is still master of the 'vineyard', and we are the new tenants to whom the welfare of the vineyard has been passed on. The parable was originally targeted at the Pharisees, but for us too, the parable demands some degree of self-examination. We might think of ourselves as good people, but like the first tenants, do we constantly fight shy of accountability? Over the years we each develop our own individual code of conduct. Perhaps we begin to feel that as long as we are living by some kind of moral code, we no longer need to be accountable. We begin to imagine that 'being accountable', is just for those who go round getting things wrong. Living by self-made standards is all well and good, but if we do this, are we in danger of forgetting about the very high standards that God has set for us.

What happens when we forget that Christ is our cornerstone? When we make up our own rules with little thought for Jesus' teachings, the chances are we will fall a long way short of what God expects. Today's invitation is to raise the bar, step up to the mark, and recognise Christ as our cornerstone.

Bitesize – "God gave burdens, also shoulders." — *Yiddish proverb*



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.

PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART AND ST. MARGARET MARY [Registered Charity 278742]

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4TH OCTOBER 2020 – 27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year A

[27th Week of the Year, Weekday Year II, Psalter Week 3]

| Mass Times for the Week | | | Intentions |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|
| Sat. 3 Oct. | 6.00 pm | 27 th Sunday in Ord. Time | Ray Bailey (Cummings) John Murphy (Mealy) The People of the Parish |
| Sun. 4 Oct. | 9.00 am 11.00 am | | |
| Mon. 5 Oct. | 10.00 am | Feria | Elizabeth & Charles Langley (Mealy) |
| Tues. 6 Oct. | - | Feria | No Mass today |
| Weds. 7 Oct. | 10.00 am | Our Lady of the Rosary | Osyth Hawke (Fdn.) |
| Thurs. 8 Oct. | 10.00 am | Feria | Bridget & John Kyte (Mealy) |
| Fri. 9 Oct. | 10.00 am | S John Henry Newman | Mary & Fred Risbey (Mealy) |
| Sat. 10 Oct. | - | Feria | No morning Mass |
| Sun. 11 Oct. | 6.00 pm 9.00 am 11.00 am | 28 th Sunday in Ord. Time | Frances Bound Carers The People of the Parish |

Anniversaries this week: David Peek, Reginald Rayner, Richard Hayter, Josepha Hart, Maud Juby, John Pearson, Sheila Flanagan, Joe Stasiorowski, Maybel O'Donnell. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.*

Hospital Visits: If you or family members are admitted to the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital (NNUH) or Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, King's Lynn (QEII), and would like a visit from the Roman Catholic Chaplain, please call either St. John's Cathedral, Norwich (01603 624615) for visits to NNUH, or call the NNUH Hospital Chaplaincy direct on 01603 287470 for people needing urgent spiritual attention, or for visits to QEII Hospital, call Fr. Peter Rollings on

Useful links: Diocesan Safeguarding – <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/safeguarding/>
Diocesan Website – <http://www.rcdea.org.uk>
Notre Dame High School, Norwich – <http://www.ndhs.org.uk>
Daily Liturgy Website – www.universalis.com

MASS LIVE STREAM – Search for **Dereham Catholic Church** on **YouTube**,

Or use the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCR-qWs-B40VTvbezZ83MxQ/videos?view=2&flow=grid>

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

01553 772220. If you would like to receive the Sacrament or Anointing of the sick before going to hospital, please contact Fr. Brendan on 01362 694066.

Sick & Housebound [with GDPR Permissions] – Please pray for: Janet Yardley, Jenny Rudd, Carol Whitesides, Shirley Liebenhals, Frances Saville King, Una McWeeny, Derek Williams, Teresa Kendall, Greta Cummings.

Money Matters: Thank you for your offering of £267.10 last weekend for the day-to-day running of our parish.

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**. This is a great way for the parish to get additional funds from the tax reclaim benefits scheme; with this scheme you do not need to commit to a fixed amount as it will just be based on your total annual contribution. Let Fr. Brendan know if you would like to sign up to Gift Aid.



Newsletter by Email - Please let Fr. Brendan know if you would like to receive the parish's weekly bulletin by email. We have a GDPR compliant list of names for this purpose.

Collections: There are a number of 'Second Collections' due to take place soon. Most of those which take place during the year have not happened but **CAFOD Fast Day and Mission Sunday collections are scheduled for 9-11 October and 18 October respectively**. The Bishops' Conference have suggested that the weekend of **November 1st and 2nd be used for the Easter Offering for the parish priest**. Thank you to those of you who have already sent this in at about Easter. The Christmas and Easter Offerings are a major part of the parish priest's personal income. *Envelopes for CAFOD are available at the back of church or you can donate online at www.cafod.org.uk/give or by text (text **CAFOD to 70085** to donate £10 & to receive marketing communications, or to text without receiving marketing communications, text **CAFODNOINFO to 70085** to donate £10.)*

Update on Covid Restrictions – The Bishops' Conference has issued updated guidance following the recent Government Covid advice covering places of worship. A copy of the guidance has been posted on the parish website. Highlights are as follows: From Monday, 28th September, the following numbers will be permitted for:

- *Wedding Services:* a maximum of 15 people will be able to attend the service and reception;
- *Funeral Services:* up to a maximum of 30 people can attend a funeral service but the "Rule of Six" will apply to wakes and receptions afterwards.
- There is no change to the *attending of Mass or for periods of private prayer* in churches, subject to the existing capacity limit. If you are attending Mass with others, then the group you are attending with should not exceed more than six people (with the exception of where a single household or support bubble contains more than six people). This group of six can be made up of people from

outside your household but strict social distancing must be maintained between members of different households at all times.

- *Attending other Sacramental Celebrations:* What the Government calls "life-cycle events" now need to be differentiated. This covers Baptisms, Confirmations, Celebrations of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation of Adults and First Holy Communions. One of the main concerns over "life-cycle events" is that they draw people from different parts of the country which may have raised infection levels. Whilst each sacramental celebration is a moment of joy for families, limiting the participation to the immediate family will prevent the potential for viral transmission across the country. Consideration must be given to this when determining those who will participate in these celebrations. As a general rule, it is strongly advised that there be no receptions or celebratory parties after the sacramental celebration; should families want to gather, they should do so outside of the church environment and must have regard to the Rule of Six.
- *Other aspects of Church Life:* Catechetical activities such as sacramental preparation sessions are not considered as being affected by the Rule of Six, as these are formal Religious Education and Formation sessions. However, Choirs and music groups come under the realms of the Performing Arts Guidance (*for which advice go to <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/performing-arts>*)
- *NHS Covid-19 Test and Trace App:* This App has now been launched. The aims and benefits of using the App are set out in the revised guidance. The App requires the use of a smartphone. People who do not have a smartphone will still be covered by the existing manual track and trace services. There is one aspect of the new App which can affect our churches, though it is optional, not a requirement. Any public place such as a shop, club, office or church can register as a 'venue'. It will be given a QR code which can be printed out and displayed at entrances. People attending the 'venue' (in our case the church in question) can use their phone to scan the code, which will register with the app and note their attendance. Then, if it turns out that a number of others who went there have been tested positive, the app will give an alert and provide instructions. This does not replace the main operation of the app, when depends on the distance (less than 2m) and time (more than 15 minutes) in which individuals are in close contact, but it provides additional information.

Pope Francis's Prayer Intention, October 2020 - Earlier this year Pope Francis named the first woman to a managerial position in the Vatican's most important office, the Secretariat of State. This shows Pope Francis's recognition that the Catholic Church needs to better recognise the role of women. Yet for many women, the seeds of change feel a long time overdue. For many women (though obviously not all), strong roles within the church don't seem in step with the twenty first century. This month we are all invited to pray "...*That by the virtue of baptism, the laity, especially women, may participate more in areas of responsibility in the Church.*"