

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Martha or Mary?



Jesus has come to visit. Martha is in the kitchen preparing the meal. Mary is sitting listening to Jesus and not doing anything to help her sister. Martha suddenly loses her rag! This isn't fair, Mary should be helping her. Then Jesus surprises us. He tells Martha not to worry about things that don't really matter. "Mary," he tells her "has chosen the better part."

It's a parable that gets us all hot and bothered, but that's what makes it such a clever story. Jesus takes a very common domestic occurrence and turns it into a lesson. It's a lesson we will all identify with, argue over, discuss, and then hopefully take something from. That Jesus takes Mary's side is surprising, since most of us, especially women, will take Martha's side. This of course is where we all fall down in or appreciation of the lesson. We spend a lot of time deciding whose side we should be on, when it really isn't about taking sides. Perhaps we could argue that both women had got things a bit wrong. Perhaps both should have sat and listened and both helped serve up the meal, but the story is not about the logistics of organising a dinner party.

Jesus' point is about finding a balance between listening and taking action. Martha is a symbol of our modern world - too busy to listen; too busy to stop and think. However, if Martha hadn't have busied herself in the kitchen, Jesus would not have eaten that night. Jesus clearly isn't condemning Martha for her action, but is pointing out that the better part is action based on listening and forethought.

The gospel today teaches us that listening and understanding is the prerequisite for discipleship. The real danger in our busy lives is that we simply run round like headless chickens doing the same jobs day in and day out, without ever developing spiritually. We are being asked to slow down a little, to stop and think and listen. At the end of the day this story isn't about whether we champion Mary or Martha, but that we adopt a little of Mary and a little of Martha. Action is nothing without thought, and thought is nothing without action.

Bitesize - You can hear the footsteps of God when silence reigns in the mind.
Sri Sathya Sai Baba



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.
Parish Safeguarding Representatives: Paul McIntee & Kate Meehan

Sacred Heart & St Margaret Mary



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Sunday 20th July 2025 – 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

[Sundays Year C, 16th Week of the Year, Weekdays Year I, Psalter Week 4]

MASSES in the PARISH

Saturday 19th July	
18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i> Franz Anton Glaser+ (JR)
Sunday 20th July	16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
09.00	MASS For the People of the Parish
11.00	MASS <i>Live streamed</i> Maria delos Angeles Coto+ (SS)
Monday 21st July	Feria
-	No Mass today
Tuesday 22nd July	St Mary Magdalene
10.00	MASS
Wednesday 23rd July	St Bridget
10.00	MASS
Thursday 24th July	Feria
10.00	MASS & ADORATION
Friday 25th July	St James
Saturday 26th July	St Joachin & Anne, Parents of the BVM
18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i> For the People of the Parish
Sunday 27th July	17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
09.00	MASS John Perkins+ (CP)
11.00	MASS <i>Live streamed</i> Flora Booth+ (JB)
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: Peter Lindsay, John Davies, Tomasz Wyrwik, Doris Cousal, Harry Baker, Emily Noden, Margaret Harlow, David Thompkins, Elizabeth Sapcote, Errol Cowell. *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, William Dunne, Pauline Buckland, Katherine Vella, Pauline Organ, Pat Grout, George Mealy, Peggy Mealy, Richard Allison, Marion Ring-Davies, Patsy Thompson, Ann McWilliams, Margaret Glendon-Doyle, Mila Kaunaite, Elaine Wilkes, Anne Sibley, Terri Sanderson.

Money Matters: Offering for the week was as follows:
Sunday 13th July: Plate £327.15 and Second Collection for Stella Maris £158.54.

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 Sunday 20th – Saturday 26th July	
Sunday 1100	Children's Liturgy – <i>for children in Y1 to 1st Holy Communion age, last Liturgy before Summer Holidays</i>
Monday: 1900-2030	AA Group Meeting - Emmaus Room
Wednesday: 1430	Queen of Peace Prayer Group – Emmaus Room. All welcome.
Parish Garden Club – To volunteer, please contact Sonia on 07985 521578.	

Forms are now available at the back of the church for preparation for the Sacraments 2025/26:

- **First Holy Communion** (Year 3 and above) starting in autumn.
- **Confirmation** (year 9 and above) starting in autumn.
- **RCIA** (for Adults to be received into the Catholic Church) expressions of interest invited.

Please return completed forms to Fr Jay.

100TH **Anniversary**

The Parish Centenary Mass Friday 25th July 2025 6pm
Bishop Peter Collins will be attending our Parish Centenary Mass next month – please make a note of this important date in your diary.

Parking: As parking at the Church is limited, alternative options include Morrisons or QD car parks, both of which offer free parking for up to 3 hours. Priority parking at the Church will be reserved for those with mobility difficulties or other genuine needs. Please call the office in advance to let us know.

Parking: 2 spaces available - A parishioner has offered 2 spaces for her parking during the Parish Centenary Celebration near the Church. Contact the office for reservation.

Food for the Celebration - Please consider bringing a savoury or sweet dish to help us provide plenty of food for everyone. There's a sign-up sheet at the back of the church—please write your name there if you're able to contribute. Food can be dropped off at the Presbytery from 4:30pm. A drink will be provided for a toast, but feel free to bring any additional drinks you'd like with your food. Glasses will be available.

Volunteers Needed / Ushers - We need help from 1600 to:
Set up tables and chairs Set out the food and drinks after Mass
Help serve and tidy up
If you're able to help, please speak to one of the team.

Lifts to church - We're also looking for parishioners who need or can provide lifts

First Holy Communion – Please pray for Helena and Henesa Jossy who will be making their First Communion this Sunday, 27th July.

Other upcoming Parish events:

Saturday 30th August – Altar Servers Day Out Bowling and Pizza
Sunday 31st August – Parish BBQ

Volunteers needed - we are seeking volunteers to some Ministries in the church – please speak to Fr Jay if you can help:

- Counter – a new counter is needed on Monday mornings at 10.00am, it only takes about 30-40 minutes once a month
- St Vincent de Paul group - new volunteers needed please.
- Lector and Eucharistic Minister. This would involve a small amount of your time on a rota basis: Please consider helping the Parish, and sign the sheet at the back of the church if you are willing to help out.