

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Does Prayer Work?

Have you ever prayed really really hard for something and not had that prayer granted? Have you ever looked back in life at a prayer you once made and thought thank goodness God didn't grant it? This week's gospel reading is a lesson in prayer, but more importantly, it's a lesson in having faith that God is a parent who will not let us down.

Let's face it, we pray hardest to God when we want something. We pray hardest when something seems beyond our human means and we need some kind of miracle, this often leads us to make inappropriate prayers. How many of us pray that the love of our life will notice us in the launderette? How many of us pray to win the lottery and make secret deals with God that we will donate half the winning to charity in return? How many of us pray to God for our football team to score a winning goal in the closing minutes of a match? Worse... we lose faith when such prayers aren't answered! We find it difficult to believe that unanswered prayers might mean that God knows better or has a different purpose for us.

Perhaps Jesus' disciples shared some of our frustration when they say, "Lord teach us to pray." In response Jesus gives us a model by which to pray. It's important to recognise it as a model and not a prayer as such. Reciting a prayer is not the same as praying. The model prayer Jesus gives us, 'The Lord's prayer', invites us to pray to God as our Father, acknowledging his holiness and praying with the shared commitment to have his will done on earth. We are invited to pray for our 'daily bread', in other words, for the things we genuinely need. Pray for forgiveness, and promise to forgive others. Prayer is about building a relationship with God, speaking to him often throughout the day. Lastly, and most importantly we should approach God with the faith we approach a loving parent. What father, reasons Jesus, would hand his son a snake when he asks for a fish? Or hand him a scorpion when he asks for an egg? Even parents with very average parenting skills know how to give children what they need. "How much more," says Jesus, "will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?".

Bitesize – A strict belief, fate is the worst kind of slavery; on the other hand there is comfort in the thought that God will be moved by our prayers.



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 & Paul McIntee.

Parish Safeguarding Representatives: Paul McIntee & Kate Meehan

Sacred Heart & St Margaret Mary



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Sunday 27th July 2025 – 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

[Sundays Year C, 17th Week of the Year, Weekdays Year I, Psalter Week 1]

MASSES in the PARISH

Saturday 26th July	
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For the People of the Parish
Sunday 27th July	17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
	World Day of Prayer Grandparents+Elderly
09.00 MASS	John Perkins+ (CP)
11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	Flora Booth (JB)
Monday 28th July	Feria
- No Mass today	
Tuesday 29th July	Ss Mary, Martha & Lazarus
10.00 MASS	Nell Bradley+ (<i>Fdn</i>)
Wednesday 30th July	Feria
10.00 MASS	Lilian Carter+ (<i>Fdn</i>)
Thursday 31st July	St Ignatius of Loyola
10.00 MASS & ADORATION	Sidney Carter+ (<i>Fdn</i>)
Friday 1st August	St Alphonsus Liguori
- No Mass today	
Saturday 2nd August	Feria
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	
Sunday 3rd August	18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
09.00 MASS	For the People of the Parish
11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	Freda & Harry Wilkes (EW)

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: Thomas Losco-Bradley, Olga Secker, Doris Webster, Naomi Dance, Margaret Leonard, Flora Booth, Ellen Storey, John Perkins, Charles Martin, Winifred Mary Fuller, Anthony Eskdale, Anna Taylor. *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: Offerings for the week was as follows:
 Sunday 20th July: Plate £309.62
 Second Collection – Stella Maris - £20.00.

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.

Diary for the week Sunday 27th July – Saturday 2nd August 2025	
	Children's Liturgy – None, Summer Break
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.	

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
 Saturday 13th September – Norfolk Bike Ride & Walk - 9am–5pm (see poster for full details)

Forms are now available at the back of the church for applications 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.

Volunteers needed - We are seeking volunteers to some Ministries in the church. Please speak to Father Jay if you can help:

Counter – A new counter is needed on Monday mornings at 10.00 am. It only takes about 30 – 40 minutes once a month.

Lector and Eucharistic Minister - This would involve a small amount of your time on a rota basis:

St Vincent de Paul group – New volunteers needed please.

Please consider helping the Parish, and sign the sheet at the back of the church if you are willing to help out.

*Rotas for cleaners in the pigeonholes to collect please.

Church Flowers - We are very short on flower arrangers for the next few months and wondered if anyone would like to join us or help out by just doing a vase of flowers in front of the altar. There is a Rota on the notice board to add your name or contact Jan Duffield on 693687.

Thank you! 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.

A photographic record of our Sacred Heart Church's Centenary Celebration will soon be published!