

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Keeping the Fire Kindled

If Jesus came back today and joined one of our parishes how would he behave? Could we imagine him on the parish council raising funds for the roof and organising the reader's rotas? Could we see him arranging the flowers, printing the Sunday bulletins or driving the church mini bus? Everything we do for the church is important, but on a scale of one to ten, we are probably not reaching our full potential as Christians... not by a very long chalk? Christianity has become all too comfortable.

We've inherited our Catholic culture from our parents and our grandparents and it comes packaged in nostalgia and sentiment. We tend to visualise Jesus the way he was depicted in our first childhood bibles, and think of him as permanently gentle meek and mild. The uncomfortable truth is that if Jesus joined one of our parishes today he would probably not be doing any of the things we consider important. It's likely he would shake everything up big time. He would be hounding governments, visiting prisons, stirring up church leaders and working in the soup kitchens.

Could it be that as Christians we have become complacent and comfortable? Today we are reminded that Christianity is not about hymn practice on a Saturday night or hot pot suppers. Christianity is about real life and death issues. Christianity is about putting our neck on the line in the interests of justice and liberation.

There is nothing wrong with hymn practice or hot pot suppers. Every job we do to help others is important no matter how small, but Jesus had a burning desire to change the world in the face of great opposition, and it's our job to keep the fire alive.

Exam Results

Many of our young parishioners will have received or about to receive their exam results. Some of our young parishioners will be happy and excited about their results, some will be feeling a little disappointed perhaps. What we all need to remember is that whilst passing an exam can open doors, not passing an exam doesn't necessarily mean that the door has shut. Life is all about finding the best path through life, and that 'best path' certainly isn't the same for everyone.

Bitesize – “You may be deceived if you trust too much, but you will live in torment unless you trust enough”. - *Frank Crane*.



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 17th August 2025 – 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

[Sundays Year C, 20th Week of the Year, Weekdays Year I, Psalter Week 4]

MASSES in the PARISH	
Saturday 16th August	Feria
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For the People of the Parish
Sunday 17th August	20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
09.00 MASS	Norah Ryan + (UM)
11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	Anisha Cyriac + (CC)
Monday 18th August	Feria
- No Mass today	
Tuesday 19th August	Feria
10.00 MASS	
Wednesday 20th August	St Bernard
10.00 MASS	Harold Cater + (CP)
Thursday 21st August	St Pius X
10.00 MASS & ADORATION	
Friday 22nd August	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- No Mass today	
Saturday 23rd August	Feria
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	
Sunday 24th August	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
09.00 MASS	Wedding Anniversary Josy & Ciji (CC)
11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	For the People of the Parish
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: William Albert Schmidt, Julian Peter Spetch, Mary Porter, Richard Burrows, Catherine Todd. *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 10th August: Plate £359.80.

If there are any parishioners who pay tax and are not part of the gift aid scheme, please let Rex or Father Jay know. This is a great way for the parish to get additional funds from the tax reclaim benefit, last year the parish reclaimed circa £5,000. With this scheme you do not need to commit to a fixed amount as it will be based on your annual contribution. Contact details for Rex Baker are: Telephone 01362 694801 or email rex baker27@btinternet.com.

For those who would like to make their regular offerings by Standing Order, the information you need is: Account name: Sacred Heart & 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 consider Gift Aid (forms are available at the back of church). This is will help to maximize our donations in the Parish.

Diary for the week Sunday 17th August – Saturday 23rd August 2025	
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.	

St Killians Candle Burning System

Next week, we begin a month-long free trial of St. Killian's safer Votive Candle System. A list will soon be available for anyone who would like the current candle setup replaced or not.

Baptisms. There will be two Baptisms in late August 2025:

- 24th August at Sunday 11 am Mass - Aleia Heather Escote, of parents Carlo and Arthea Escote.
- 27th August at Wednesday 10 am Mass - Olivia Osei-Wusu Adueming, of parents Emmanuel and Christiana Osei-Wusu Adueming.

We shall joyfully welcome Aleia and Olivia into our parish family as they baptized in the coming days. Let us keep them and their families in our prayers as they will begin their journey of faith.

Other upcoming Parish events:

Saturday 30th August – Altar Servers Day Out / Bowling and Pizza

Sunday 31st August – Parish BBQ – Please complete the form at the back of the church if you plan to attend (incl dietary reqts & bringing food?). Thanks.

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

March for Life UK | 6 September 2025. Join London's annual pro-life event. The day features an indoor festival with talks, testimonies, music, prayer, and activities for all ages, followed by a peaceful march through the city, concluding at Parliament Square. More information: www.marchforlife.co.uk

Thursday Soup Lunch after Holy Hour

We will be having a soup lunch on the last Thursday of each month starting in September. Everyone is warmly invited to join.

Pickleball. All Ages Welcome especially the youth. If you're interested in Pickleball, a sign-up form is available at the back of the Church. Our sessions will hopefully begin in October.

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:

Lector and Eucharistic Minister, St Vincent de Paul group, Church Flowers, Gardening Club (as Jo Hurst is taking a long break & Sonia can only work here every few weeks, regular volunteers needed). Please consider helping the Parish and sign the sheet at the back of the church if you're willing to help out.

Thank you! We thank all our many parish volunteers and groups for their help.