

## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### No Meal Tickets

How do you imagine the gates of Heaven? Perhaps you imagine a fine set of pearly gates and a welcome committee flanked by all of the relatives who have gone before. Perhaps Saint Peter will be there, and a couple of harp-playing cherubs. Imagine instead a narrow door heavily locked and bolted! Imagine knocking on the door only to be told, "I do not know where you come from," and to be turned away. It wouldn't matter how much we insisted that we were baptised and regular churchgoers, our pleas would be ignored.

So where are we coming from? We're baptised as Christians and we know what we're supposed to be doing, but is that enough? God of course isn't making it difficult on purpose for us to be with him in Heaven. God loves us and wants us to be with him, but he doesn't want us to become complacent. The last thing that God wants is for us to feel that because we are baptised Christians, we have some sort of meal ticket into Heaven. The last thing we should do is opt for comfort over commitment or self-indulgence over self-sacrifice. Life is a testing ground in which we should be continually striving to be better. We should never think that we have achieved all that is expected of us just because we go to church and give to charity now and then.

However well we think we are doing we could be unpleasantly surprised to find ourselves at the back of Heaven's queue when we fondly imagined we might be somewhere near the front.

### The Passion of St John the Baptist - 29th August

Each of us has a calling to which we must listen. No one will ever repeat the mission of John, and yet all of us are called to that very mission. It is the role of the Christian to witness to Jesus. Whatever our position in this world, we are called to be disciples of Christ. By our words and deeds, others should realize that we live in the joy of knowing that Jesus is Lord. We do not have to depend upon our own limited resources, but can draw strength from the vastness of Christ's saving grace.

**Bitesize** – "What a person believes is not as important as how a person believes." *Timothy Virkkala*



**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 24<sup>th</sup> August 2025 – 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

[Sundays Year C, 21<sup>st</sup> Week of the Year, Weekdays Year I, Psalter Week 1]

### MASSES in the PARISH

<b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> August</b>	<b>Feria</b>
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For the People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
09.00 MASS	Wedding Anniversary Josy & Ciji (CC)
11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	Dina Pastor (healing)
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>Feria</b>
- No Mass today	
<b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>Feria</b>
10.00 MASS	
<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>St Monica</b>
10.00 MASS	
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>St Augustine</b>
10.00 MASS & ADORATION	
<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>The Passion of St John the Baptist</b>
- No Mass today	
<b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>Feria</b>
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
09.00 MASS	For the People of the Parish
11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	Tom Bowles (intentions)

**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:** Adrian Sheath, Damian Ring-Davies, Mary Hayter, John McGowan, Jack Stearman, Marley Coe, Jenetta Elizabeth Smith, Francis Gray, Doris Jarvis, Patrick McMahon, Alfred Chapman, John Power, Charles Victor Mann. *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 17<sup>th</sup> August: Plate £384.42.

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 [rexbaker27@btinternet.com](mailto:rexbaker27@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.

<b>Diary for the week Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2025</b>	
Monday: 1900-2030	<b>AA Group Meeting</b> - Emmaus Room
Wednesday: 1430	<b>Queen of Peace Prayer Group</b> – Emmaus Room. All welcome.
<b>Parish Garden Club</b> – To volunteer, please contact Sonia on 07985 521578.	

**St Killians Candle Burning System**

This Saturday at 1800 Mass, we shall be blessing the new Votive stand, which begins the month-long free trial. A list is available for anyone who would like to see the current candle setup replaced, or not.

**Notice: No Masses 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> September**

Please note that there will be **no Masses** from 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> September, as Fr. Jay will be away on pilgrimage in Poland.

**Baptism.** There are two upcoming Baptisms:

- This Wednesday **27<sup>th</sup>** August at 10 am Mass - **Olivia** Osei-Wusu Adueming, of parents Emmanuel and Christiana Osei-Wusu Adueming.
- Next Sunday **31<sup>st</sup>** August at 11 am Mass - **Aleia** Heather Escote, of parents Carlo and Arthea Escote.

We shall joyfully welcome Aleia and Olivia into our parish family as they are 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 **30<sup>th</sup>** August – Altar Servers Day Out / Bowling and Pizza

Sunday **31<sup>st</sup>** 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 (please submit forms to Fr Jay):

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- **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.

**Volunteers needed** - We are seeking volunteers to some Ministries in the church. Please speak to Father Jay if you can help. Thank you to all our many Parish volunteers.