

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Commitment

Today Jesus gives us a lesson in commitment, and a bit of practical advice. "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple." Are we inspired by this advice? Are we queuing around the block to become disciples? Well no, probably not! Even for those of us who have a genuine desire to be disciples, these demands seem much too hard.

So how are we supposed to take Jesus' advice? It's worth remembering that everything we've ever achieved in life has begun with some kind of commitment. However small a goal, we have first had to commit and may even have sacrificed something in order to achieve the desired result. For those of us who have ever committed to anything, we will already know that commitment doesn't just mean an involvement, it means laying everything on the line. Jesus' words may seem harsh, but what he is saying is that to be his disciple we must first understand the magnitude of the commitment that is required, and that we must be prepared to be totally single minded in our pursuit of results.

Later in the same reading, Jesus gives advice for those of us who make a commitment, but are not able to keep that commitment. "For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it?" Jesus is giving very practical advice on weighing up the costs before making a commitment. Jesus does not need quitters! Each of us has individual God given talents that we need to apply to our individual brand of discipleship. Jesus tells us to sit down in a business like way and calculate what this individual brand of discipleship is going to cost us.

Whichever way we choose to be Christ's disciples, whether it is travelling half way across the world to deliver aid, or by fundraising on a home PC, Jesus reminds us that nothing less than a hundred percent commitment will do.

Jesus asks us to decide on our brand of discipleship and to go for it. After we have made our commitment we mustn't waver. The very nature of commitment means that we are ruling out other choices. If there is a conflict of choice to be made between God and worldly gain we have to choose God. We of course are not going to turn our backs on our family and loved ones, but we are asked to be single minded and unerring in our discipleship.

Bitesize – "Many people don't focus enough on execution. If you make a commitment to get something done, you need to follow through on that commitment." *Kenneth Chenu*



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 7th September 2025 – 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

[Sundays Year C, 23rd Week of the Year, Weekdays Year I, Psalter Week 3]

MASSES in the PARISH	
Saturday 6th September	Feria
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	Gonzalo Mausisa + (MK)
Sunday 7th September	23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
09.00 MASS	For the People of the Parish
11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	John Booth + (JAB)
Monday 8th September	THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (Feast)
10.00 No Mass today	
Tuesday 9th September	Feria
10.00 MASS	John Merrick + (Fdn)
Wednesday 10th September	Feria
10.00 MASS	Kenneth Mulford +
Thursday 11th September	Feria
10.00 MASS & ADORATION	Fr Brian McWilliams +
Friday 12th September	Feria
10.00 No Mass today	
Saturday 13th September	St John Chrysostom
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For the People of the Parish
Sunday 14th September	EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS (Feast)
09.00 MASS	
11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	Philip Kemp + (MK)
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.

Please note the 18.00 and 11.00 weekend Masses are normally sung.

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: Joan Foster, Maurice Finnimore, Michael Carey, Janice Theresa Maria Blows, Annie Cecilia O’Ryan, Sidney Platt. *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 31st August: Plate £396.95.
 Bank transfers/Standing Orders for August 2025: £2,224.

If there are any parishioners who pay tax and are not part of the gift aid scheme, please let Rex or Father Jay know. Contact details for Rex Baker are: Telephone 01362 694801 or email 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 will help to maximize our donations in the Parish.

Diary for the week Sunday 7th September – Saturday 13th September 2025	
Sunday: 1100	Children’s Liturgy - For children in Y1 to 1 st Holy Communion.
Monday: 1400 – 1600	Tea Buddies - Monthly get-together for a friendly natter over a cuppa - Emmaus Room. All welcome. Every second Monday of the month.
Monday: 1900-2030	AA Group Meeting - Emmaus Room
Tuesday: 1830	RCIA 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.	

Other upcoming Parish events:

Valentina’s First Profession

We include in our prayers Valentina, who will make her First Profession on 12th September at 11:00 in the Catholic Church of Our Lady Immaculate and St Etheldreda, Newmarket.

Dowry of Mary Pilgrimage, Walsingham – 1000 to 1600 Sunday 7th Sep 25.

Norfolk Bike Ride & Walk - Saturday 13th September, 9am–5pm (see poster).

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):

- **First Holy Communion Preparation** - welcome meeting for parents and candidates on Thursday 25th September in the Emmaus Room at 7pm. If you wish your child/ren in year 3 or above to attend please complete a form on the noticeboard and hand it to Fr Jay asap.
- **Confirmation Preparation** - welcome meeting for parents and candidates on Friday 26th September in the Emmaus Room at 7pm. If you wish your son/daughter in year 9 or above to attend please complete a form on the noticeboard and hand it to Fr Jay asap.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults):

A new season of RCIA sessions, for adults to be received into the Catholic Church, start on Tuesday 9th September 6.30 pm - 8 pm.

The first part of this process starts for those enquiring about becoming Catholic. Everyone is welcome, including those who want to refresh their faith or support others in their journey. Fill in the RCIA form if you have formally decided to join the Church. Or use the sign-up form at the back of the church (post in the box please) for the first six weeks of the journey until 14th October.

Film Showing: How to Train Your Dragon (2025):

17th September at 1830 at the Presbytery.

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 2025.

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. Please consider helping the Parish and sign the sheet at the back of the church if you’re willing to help out. **Thanks** to all our volunteers!