

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Exaltation of the Holy Cross Triumph of the Cross

Non-Christians might think it odd that we use the cross as a symbol of salvation. We wear crosses on gold chains; fix them to the roofs of our churches and illustrate crucifixes on cards and book covers. To a non-Christian it must seem bizarre that we choose to exalt an instrument of torture and death.

Stranger still, why should Moses have presented a bronze serpent on a pole as a symbol of salvation? In answer, it seems that we need to have experienced the snake's sting before we experience victory over it. It seems that we have to experience suffering before we experience victory. It seems that we cannot fully appreciate freedom and triumph without knowing the opposites first. On the news we notice that our worst human tragedies are followed by an examination. Why did this tragedy occur we ask? Should perpetrators be forgiven? How can we prevent something like this happening again? Where do we go from here? After a tragedy we think in terms of rebirth and reconciliation. Out of something bad, something good can happen.

Things must have looked pretty bleak to the apostles at Jesus' crucifixion. The cross must not have seemed a symbol of victory to them at this time, more a symbol of defeat. But with the Resurrection, the seeming failure of Jesus' crucifixion was no longer a failure but a triumph. Their lives were transformed. Death no longer held the same fear.

On this feast day, we are not of course exalting the cross as an instrument of torture and death. We exalt the cross as a symbol of Christ's victory over death. When we look up at a cross on a church spire, or put on a cross and chain, we remember that it is not just an ornament or a piece of jewellery, but a strong reminder that Jesus promised us that we too can share eternal life.

Heritage Open Days - 12th-21st September 2025

From 12-21st September, thousands of volunteers invite you to experience local history, architecture and culture. Many buildings not normally open to the public will be open at certain times between these dates - See more at:

www.heritageopendays.org.uk/ to find out what exists on your doorstep.

Bitesize – “While I thought that I was learning how to live, I have been learning how to die.” *Leonardo Da Vinci*



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 14th September 2025 – 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

[Sundays Year C, 24th Week of the Year, Weekdays Year I, Psalter Week 4]

MASSES in the PARISH

Saturday 13th September	Feria
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)
Monday 15th September	Our Lady of Sorrows
10.00 No Mass today	
Tuesday 16th September	Ss Cornelius & Cyprian
10.00 MASS	
Wednesday 17th September	Feria
10.00 MASS	
Thursday 18th September	Feria
10.00 MASS & ADORATION	
Friday 19th September	Feria
10.00 No Mass today	
Saturday 20th September	Ss Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Paul Chong Ha-sang & Comps
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	
Sunday 21st September	25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
09.00 MASS	For the People of the Parish
11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	Anisha Cyriac + (CC)

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: Ferdinand Rupp, William Goulden, Paul Hodak, Stewart Aylin, Peter John Bussey, Gerald Reeder. *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 7th September Plate £213.60.

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.

130 Club Monthly Draw Results for September 2025:

Quarterly Prize: £75 - Ticket No.8, Dorothy Wheeler; 1st Prize £20 – Ticket No.93, Stuart Kendall; 2nd Prize £15 – Ticket No.177, Estela Morris; 3rd Prize £10 – Ticket No.161, Jan Duffield; 4th Prize £10 – Ticket No.160, Cindy Connell.

New Votive Stand - Cast your Preference - St Killian's Candle System is renowned for its safety and is trusted by cathedrals and Churches across countries such as Poland and in the US. As previously announced, we invite you to share your preference or not for our new votive stand by signing your name on the column provided on the sign-up form at the back of the Church.

Key Holders – Would the key holders in the Church and the presbytery please sign their names on the form provided for insurance purposes.

Take Note of this Space: Restructuring of the Parish Committees - In the coming months, we shall be making some changes to the Parish Committees. This is an opportunity to strengthen our parish community, and we look forward to your support and participation as we move forward together.

Pavement Repairs Completed - The pavement in front of the Presbytery has been sturdily repaired. Thank you for your patience.

Upcoming Parish events:

Diary for week Sunday 14th September - Saturday 20th September 2025	
Sunday: 1100	Children's Liturgy - For children in Y1 to 1 st Holy Communion.
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.	

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 Session this Tuesday at 1830 in the Emmaus Room. Come and journey with us, refresh your Catholic faith and encourage those who are seeking Christ and the fullness of His truth in the Catholic Church.

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

17th September at 1830 at the Presbytery. Bring your own drinks – tea and coffee provided.

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.

The Parish 100th Anniversary Celebration has been posted online and can be viewed at this link: <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/derehams-heart-beats-strong-100-years-and-beyond/>

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