

## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 25<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Rat Race

Why is it that so many people who are selfish and even dishonest do so much better in life than those with integrity? Could it be to do with the way we are wired? As human beings we have a primeval instinct for self-preservation. It would appear that self-preservation is a far more powerful a motivation than the motivation to be altruistic.

In today's gospel story we find a dishonest manager intent on securing his future. Faced with dismissal, the dishonest manager quickly negotiates some shady deals with his master's customers. The manager makes sure that there will always be a place he can go and people who will welcome him in the eventuality of him becoming destitute. Oddly Jesus seems to applaud the manager for his quick thinking. We are asked to consider what 'children of the light' can learn from the 'children of the world'. Like the manager in today's story, the 'children of the world' are the men and women who leave the house at 6am and work from morning to night securing business deals and amassing wealth for their future. The determination and single mindedness of these workers is to be applauded, but how sad that our fragile and brief existence on this earth should be determined by a rat race with cash bonuses as its prize.

As Jesus' disciples, how do we, 'children of the light' look after our future? When the day of reckoning comes, will there be a place that welcomes us? Can we use the same energy, determination and single mindedness of the business entrepreneur but for a more worthwhile end than a healthy bank balance? As Christians we do not need an incentive to do good works. We are already motivated to do good works... all we need is a sense of urgency. We might be able to transcend the rat race, but we can never transcend our brief existence.

### Evangelii Gaudium Sunday 2025 - "I believe..." - 21st September 2025

Evangelii Gaudium Sunday will be celebrated in our parishes on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2025. This year, the Church has been celebrating a significant anniversary. It is 1,700 years since the Council of Nicaea. This great gathering of Bishops from around the Church began the work to formulate the creed we proclaim Sunday by Sunday. It's the content of this creed that is our mission, so that we may know and love God in this life, in order to be happy with him forever in the next. The creed begins with a profound proclamation, "I believe...", which is the theme for Evangelii Gaudium Sunday 2025.



**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 21<sup>st</sup> September 2025 – 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

[Sundays Year C, 25<sup>th</sup> Week of the Year, Weekdays Year I, Psalter Week 1]

### MASSES in the PARISH

<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Ss Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Paul Chong Ha-sang &amp; Companions</b>
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For the People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
09.00 MASS	Dunne Family (intentions)
11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	Anisha Cyriac + (CC)
<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September</b>	<b>Feria</b>
10.00 No Mass today	
<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September</b>	<b>St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)</b>
10.00 MASS	
<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM – PRINCIPAL PATRON OF THE DIOCESE (Solemnity)</b>
10.00 MASS	
<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Feria</b>
10.00 MASS & ADORATION	
<b>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Feria</b>
10.00 No Mass today	
<b>Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>St Vincent de Paul</b>
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For the People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
09.00 MASS	Jose Kachapiuy + (intentions)
11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	Lily Jose + (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.*

*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:** Helen Browne, Colin Keatley, Peter Purcell, Agnes Tyce, Bernadette Buxton, Francis Dunn Soddy. *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 14<sup>th</sup> August: Plate £326.66.

There is a **Second Collection** 21 Sep 25 for Evangelii Gaudium (Home Mission) Sunday.

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](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 will help to maximize our donations in the Parish.

<b>Diary for week Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September - Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2025</b>	
Sunday: 1100	<b>Children's Liturgy</b> - For children in Y1 to 1 <sup>st</sup> Holy Communion.
Monday: 1900-2030	<b>AA Group Meeting</b> - Emmaus Room
Tuesday: 1830	<b>RCIA Meeting</b> – Emmaus Room
Wednesday: 1430	<b>Queen of Peace Prayer Group</b> – Emmaus Room. All welcome.
Thursday: 1900	<b>First Holy Communion Preparation</b> - Meeting for parents and candidates in the Emmaus Room
Friday: 1900	<b>Confirmation Preparation</b> - Meeting for parents and candidates in the Emmaus Room
<b>Parish Garden Club</b> – To volunteer, please contact Sonia on 07985 521578.	

## Upcoming Parish events:

**The Bi-Annual Parish General Meeting** will be held on 15th October at 1730 in the Emmaus Room. Please join us and contribute to the conversation for the good of the Parish.

### **Proposed Parish Winter Soup Initiative - 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'** [ Mt 25:40]

Our Parish Winter Soup will hope to provide food to our brothers and sisters in the wider community in Dereham who are in need. With the generous support of our friends and volunteers, we hope to run this initiative starting in November. The exact dates will depend on the availability of our volunteers probably twice a month for an hour or so, so we warmly invite everyone to help make this possible. A sign-up form for volunteers is available at the back of the Church.

**New Votive Stand** - St Killian's Candle System has been chosen by a narrow margin, and we extend our sincere thanks to all who took part in the decision-making process. We are especially grateful to **Richard May**, who has generously undertaken the cost of the stand in loving memory of his parents, **Brenda and Ken**. The company will provide all ongoing maintenance, such as the cleaning and replacement of glasses, **free of charge**. There are **no contracts required**, and while the purchase of candles from the same supplier is recommended to ensure consistent quality, this will remain at our discretion. Should you have any **comments or questions**, please direct them to **the office**.

**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.

### **RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults):**

Weekly RCIA sessions, for adults to be received into the Catholic Church, are on Tuesday evenings 6.30 pm - 8 pm. Everyone is welcome, including those who want to refresh their faith or support others in their journey. The initial 6 weeks introduction phase is under way, but there's still time to join in, whether for the whole course, or the next 4 weeks! Come along and see.

**For Sale:** Ford B-Max M1 Car, 5 door, new battery, careful lady owner. Mileage 25,668, £6,000. Contact Katherine 07814 802366.

**Plant Sale** - Helen Wood has offered to make the Plant Sale an annual event at the church and asks us to pot up any plants we are dividing this autumn, with a view to holding another sale on the weekend 25th/26th April 2026.