

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS


What Makes a Saint?

We can land men on the moon or Mars, find cures for cancer and AIDS, or define the 'big bang theory' but ultimately our destiny is shaped not by man's conquests or discoveries, but by the simple acceptance of a sermon Jesus gave over two thousand years ago. The 'Sermon On the Mount', sometimes called the 'greatest sermon of all time', begins with a list of revolutionary statements, which we now know as the 'Beatitudes'. The Beatitudes give us a blue print for living our lives, and a key for entering the Kingdom of God.

Be poor in spirit we are told, not allowing our lives to be governed by money or material concerns. We should be meek, always seeking to serve rather than seeking the power with which to lord it over others. Hunger for righteousness we are told, never tolerating injustice, always having the integrity to suffer for what we believe in if needs be. We should be merciful, not only with those we feel deserve mercy like the poor and the disadvantaged, but with those who need our forgiveness and consideration. Are we always pure of heart or do we enjoy a good gossip, a joke at someone else's expense? Are we peacemakers, or do we fuel battles against neighbours, workmates or people from different communities? The Beatitudes are a list of ideals and challenges designed to shape our lives for the better, but are we left looking at the list and feeling that it's just too much of a tall order? As in anything that initially seems too difficult are we in danger of simply 'switching off', imagining that Jesus' ideals are meant for others but not for us?

On this the feast of 'All Saints' we celebrate the lives of those saints whose lives we aim to imitate. But what is interesting to note, is that not even these very special men and women have managed to live by every single beatitude. A saint is not necessarily a perfect person, but someone who has sought his or her hardest to be faithful to God. When we determine to live our lives by Jesus' ideals what matters is our commitment and integrity, not our measure of success.

During the month of November, but particularly on **All Souls Day**, we remember all those who have died. We remember them in a meaningful way rather than a mournful way and remember that they have found rest, just as Jesus promised.

Bitesize	
"Your life may be the only Bible some people read." <i>Author Unknown</i>	
	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

Sacred Heart & St Margaret Mary



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Sunday 2nd November 2025 – 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
 [Sundays Year C, 31st Week of the Year, Weekdays Year I, Psalter Week 3]

MASSES in the PARISH	
Saturday 1st November	Feria
18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i> For the People of the Parish
Sunday 2nd November	ALL SAINTS (SOLEMNITY)
09.00	MASS John Perkins + (CP)
11.00	MASS <i>Live streamed</i> Harold William Cater + (LH)
Monday 3rd November	COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (All Souls' Day)
10.00	MASS
Tuesday 4th November	St Charles Borromeo
10.00	MASS Rosemary Oakes + (CP)
Wednesday 5th November	Feria
-	No Mass today
Thursday 6th November	Feria
10.00	MASS For the Holy Souls in Purgatory (JB)
Friday 7th November	Feria
-	No Mass today
Saturday 8th November	Feria
18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i> Jones & Kendall Families (TK)
Sunday 9th November	THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA (Feast) & Remembrance Day
09.00	MASS For the People of the Parish
11.00	MASS <i>Live streamed</i>
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: Kenneth Joseph May, Minnie Andrews, Filippo Salamone, Anna Petruzzello, Pam Gayton, Fr Brian Nightingale, Patricia Hawkins, Kathleen Carroll, Bill Bell. *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, Pat Sutton, Hillary Bushell, Ann Williams.

Money Matters: Offerings for the week was as follows:
Sunday 26th October Plate: £299.59.

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.

Upcoming Parish events:

Diary for week Sunday 2nd November - Saturday 8th November 2025	
Monday: 1900-2030	AA Group Meeting - Emmaus Room
Wednesday: 1430	Queen of Peace Prayer Group – Emmaus Room. All welcome.
Thursday: 1730 - 1830	First Communion Session – Emmaus Room
Friday: 1915 – 2045	Confirmation Session – Emmaus Room
Parish Garden Club – To volunteer, please contact Sonia on 07985 521578.	

All Saints' Day this year will be on Sunday 2nd November.

All Souls' Day – There will be a Mass for All Souls' Day at 1000 on Monday 3rd November.

No Mass in Wednesday 5th November, for we have the Deanery Requiem Mass at The Cathedral of St John, Norwich at 1100.

Parish Remembrance Sunday – 8th November 2025, 1800 Mass - As a community of prayer we gather to remember our beloved dead, especially those whose Funeral Masses or services were celebrated in the Parish this year. We commend them to God's mercy and pray for the consolation of their families.

November – Prayers for the Dead. Envelopes are now available at the back of the Church. The intentions will be said for the whole month.

Parish Winter Soup Initiative - We are delighted to launch our Parish Winter Soup Initiative on Monday, 17th November, from 1200 – 1400 and from then on will continue every Monday at the same time. You are warmly invited to support this project - either by supplying soup, fresh ingredients or by helping to welcome and serve those who come to share a meal with us. You may contact Jo Hurst for further details: 07809016600. Posters are available at the back of the church.

International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church - 1st November
On the first Sunday of November we are asked to pray for those who want the right to share the same religious freedom we enjoy. We remember to be thankful for a freedom that sometimes we take for granted.

Deanery Requiem Mass - Cathedral of St John the Baptist, Norwich - The annual Requiem Mass for the deceased clergy of the Norwich deanery will be celebrated on Wednesday 5th November at the Cathedral, at 1100. Parishioners from across the Deanery are invited to attend this Mass, as we pray for the many priests and deacons who have served our parishes in the past.

RCIA Course. The RCIA course is now on a break and will resume 11 Nov 25.

Blessing of the Our Lady's Grotto and Fr Jay's 8th Sacerdotal Anniversary 8th December 2025 - The Blessing of Our Lady's Grotto will take place on 8th December, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, at 1700, followed by Mass at 1730, as Fr Jay joyfully celebrates his 8th Sacerdotal Anniversary in gratitude and prayer for Christ's wonderful gift of grace.

Parish Christmas Party - This year's Parish Christmas Party will be on Sunday 21st December at Yaxham Hall, straight after the 1100 Mass. Please come and celebrate this season with the whole community. We may ask you to bring some food to share.

Foodbank - The Foodbank needs Tinned tomatoes, instant coffee, instant mash and sponge puddings.

Donation for Portable PA System: A donation box is at the back of the church.