

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Weeding Life's Garden

St. Francis of Assisi was asked one day as he was weeding in the garden, "What would you do if you knew the world was about to end?" St. Francis replied, "Continue weeding my garden of course." The implication was that Francis didn't have to rush around like a headless chicken putting his house in order. Francis was already living his life in a state of readiness, and he had no need to worry himself about the end of the world.

Today we are told what it might be like at the end of time. There might be wars, earthquakes famines plagues and Christian persecution. In fact it doesn't sound too dissimilar to the state of affairs on our daily news programmes. Should we be concerned?

Jesus points to the end of history and declares that the future holds a time of reckoning. Like the disciples in today's reading, we are tempted to ask when that time might be, only to be told that it's something that shouldn't concern us. We mustn't listen to those who claim, "The end is nigh..." instead we must always focus on what there is left to do. The basic premise is that we should keep on doing right, regardless of the circumstances.

Like the people in today's gospel who were so pleased with their temple, we are often pleased with what we build up here on earth. Jesus takes the opportunity to point out that everything man made will come to an end. We would be much better off focusing not on a material agenda but in developing a faith that will endure great adversity.

If we are ready for God's final judgment then we shouldn't be afraid of anything that is ahead of us. Global disaster, wars and earthquakes should hold no terror if we trust completely in God. Our lives are like a garden filled with good things we must nurture, and bad things we must weed out. When the end of time comes, we must face our mortality as Francis suggests, weeding life's garden and living in readiness.

Bitesize

"A man sooner or later discovers that he is the master-gardener of his soul, the director of his life." *James Allen*



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 Deacons: Revs Martin Sanderson & Richard Jones (deaconrick@gmail.com)

Parish Music team: Judy Reid, Kathleen Edmunds & Paul McIntee.

Parish Safeguarding Representatives: Paul McIntee

Sacred Heart & St Margaret Mary



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Sunday 16th November 2025 – 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
[Sundays Year C, 33rd Week of the Year, Weekdays Year I, Psalter Week 1]

MASSES in the PARISH

Saturday 15th November	Feria
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	Kathleen Carroll + (CC)
Sunday 16th November	33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (World Day of the Poor)
09.00 MASS	For the People of the Parish
11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	Dennis Plumb + (MJ)
Monday 17th November	Feria
- No Mass today	
Tuesday 18th November	Feria
10.00 MASS	Fr Derek Turnham + (JM)
Wednesday 19th November	Feria
10.00 MASS	
Thursday 20th November	St Edmund, King
10.00 MASS	Valerie del Castillo (Intentions) (VC)
Friday 21st November	The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- No Mass today	
Saturday 22nd November	St Cecilia
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	Jones and Kendall Families (TK)
Sunday 23rd November	OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE (SOLEMNITY)
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: Pamela O’Kane, Tommy Durkan, Andree Whitlam, Renée Howard, Kathleen Burrows, Inacio Lapa, William Goodwin, Gwen Lovelace, Tom Thorpe, Elsie Smart, Anna Tompkins. *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, Richard Grout, Peter Duffield.

Money Matters: Offerings for the week was as follows:
Sunday 9th November 2025 Plate: £329.20.

Appeal for Help for Typhoon Victims in the Philippines:
A Second Collection will be taken at all Masses on the weekend of 22nd November to support our brothers and sisters in the Philippines who have been affected by the recent typhoons.

Upcoming Parish events:

Diary for week Sunday 16th November - Saturday 22nd November 2025	
Sunday: 1100	Children’s Liturgy
Monday: 1200 - 1400	Soup Kitchen - Emmaus Room. All help with soup preparation or social welcome. Every Monday.
Monday: 1900 - 2030	AA Group Meeting - Emmaus Room
Tuesday: 1830	RCIA Meeting – Emmaus Room
Wednesday: 1430	Queen of Peace Prayer Group – Emmaus Room.
Thursday: 1730 - 1830	First Communion Session – Emmaus Room
Friday: 1915 – 2045	Confirmation Group Session – Emmaus Room
Parish Garden Club – To volunteer, please contact Sonia on 07985 521578.	

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

Posada: Starting the 1st December we shall be moving around the Posada to the homes of the Parishioners. A list to sign up is at the back of the Church.

Parish Winter Soup Initiative – We launch our Parish Winter Soup Initiative on Monday 17 Nov 25, from 1200 – 1400 and from then on will continue every Monday at the same time. You’re 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 (POC Jo Hurst 07809016600). Posters are available at the back of the church, as is a collection box for donations towards purchasing soup ingredients.

A Day of Prayer and Preparation for the Season of Advent - An opportunity for Thanksgiving and Intercession in our church on Friday 28 Nov 25, 0830 to 1730. Come and experience the inner peace that prayer before the Blessed Sacrament can bring. A rota consisting of half hour slots for the day is available at the back of the church - please put down the time when you can take part and please be generous in the giving of your time to honour Our Lord in the Holy Sacrament.

Advent Retreat: As the joy of the coming of our Lord at Christmas approaches, we need to take a little time to prepare ourselves in Advent. On Saturday 29 Nov 25 Deacon Rick will be leading the Parish Advent Recollection between 1100 and 1500 in the Emmaus Room. All welcome. Do come. Please sign-up on the sheet at the back of the church and bring a packed lunch on the day.

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.

Simbang Gabi (Filipino Christmas Dawn Masses): Please join us for this Mass on the 17th December at 1900 in the Parish.

Parish Christmas Party - This year’s Parish Christmas Party will be on Sunday 21st December at Yaxham Hall, straight after the 1100 Mass. A meeting to plan our Christmas Party will be held on Thursday, 20 Nov 25 at 6:30pm. It is hoped that many will attend and help to make this important annual event a great success.

Plant sale 2026 - Middle sized flowerpots needed for next year’s plant sale. If you could leave them in the garage, please.

Pilgrimage to Rome 2026 - September 2026. We are considering a Parish pilgrimage to Rome in September 2026. If you would be interested in joining this spiritual journey, please let us know so we can see if there is enough interest to go ahead. A sign-up list is provided at the back of the Church to sign up.

Forms for Sacraments, Expenses Claim and Gift-Aid, are now available posted on the board at the back of the Church.