

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Any Witnesses?

There are those in our society who stand head and shoulders above the rest of us ... great entrepreneurs, politicians, writers, scientists and humanitarians. We look up to these people and wish that we were more like them. When interviewed, these great people might pass some of the credit for their success on to a teacher who has made a big impression on them, an influential mentor, or a family member.

Bearing witness is essential. Without witnesses we would know nothing of Jesus. Without John the Baptist, without the disciples, without the writers of the gospels, we would not have Jesus' teachings today. Without our parents and teachers, we would never have learned our first bible stories. Yet there are plenty of people in our world that would still benefit from Jesus' philosophy for living. There are plenty of people still consumed by greed, hate, crime obsession and misery. There are plenty of people who could still benefit from Jesus' teaching if only we as Jesus' witnesses could bring it about.

So why do we hesitate to bear witness? Well, first of all there's something about bearing witness that makes us feel uncomfortable. No one wants to be the man in the city centre wearing the biblical billboards. No one wants to be the woman with her foot wedged in the front door predicting the end of the world. Yet all these people are well meaning and trying to get God's message across in the best way they know how. If these aren't the ways that we would choose then perhaps we can find other more imaginative ways, rather than do nothing at all. The challenge we are offered today is to reach those people who remain unaffected by God in ever new and more imaginative ways.

St. Francis de Sales (1567-1622) - Gentleman Saint - 24th January

Francis de Sales took seriously the words of Christ, "Learn of me for I am meek and humble of heart." As he said himself, it took him 20 years to conquer his quick temper, but no one ever suspected he had such a problem, so overflowing with good nature and kindness was his usual manner of acting. His perennial meekness and sunny disposition won for him the title of "Gentleman Saint."

Bitesize - We look forward to the time when the Power of Love will replace the Love of Power. Then will our world know the blessings of peace. *William E. Gladstone*



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 18th January 2026 – 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
[Sundays Year A, 2nd Week of the Year, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week 2]

MASSES in the PARISH

Saturday 17th January	St Anthony
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	Michael & Anna Mealy + (PM)
Sunday 18th January	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
09.00 MASS	Annie & James Whittingham + (SG)
11.00 <i>MASS Live streamed</i>	For the People of the Parish
Monday 19th January	Feria
- No Mass	
Tuesday 20th January	Feria
10.00 MASS	Seabrooke Family + (Fdn)
Wednesday 21st January	St Agnes
10.00 MASS	Michael Manley + (JM)
Thursday 22nd January	Feria
10.00 MASS	Stearman Family + (Fdn)
Friday 23rd January	Feria
- No Mass	
Saturday 24th January	St Frances de Sales
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	Michael & Anna Mealy + (PM)
Sunday 25th January	3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
09.00 MASS	For the People of the Parish
11.00 <i>MASS Live streamed</i>	Michael & Anna Mealy (PM)

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: Nell Jones, Stanley Meadows, Amy Garvey, Arthur Longhurst, Frances Kelly, Joan Blakistone, Robert Anderson, Perpetua Cecine Triggs, Gwen Dawes, Betty McGee, Maisie Aylin, Queenie Minnie Hogan, Stanley Brocklesby, Anne Cairns, Laura O'Halloran, Bill Sibley. *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, Anne Sibley, Terri Sanderson, Pat Sutton, Hillary Bushell, Ann Williams, Richard Grout, Peter Duffield, Kathleen Doyle.

Money Matters: Offerings for the week was as follows:
Sunday 11th January 2026 Plate: £254.93.

A New Bank for the New Year! Our new banking details are: The Sacred Heart Church, S/C 52-41-29, A/C 44725132. Please use these details for any new BACS payments. There is no need to alter your standing orders yet - your current standing orders will be forwarded automatically. Watch the newsletter for information in January. Any queries please send to treasurer@sacredheartdereham.org.uk. If a tax payer, please consider Gift Aid (forms at back of church, or contact Rex Baker: Telephone 01362 694801 or email rexbaker27@btinternet.com). This will help to maximize donations.

Upcoming Parish events:

Diary for week Sunday 18th January 2026 - Saturday 24th January 2026	
Sunday: 1100	Children's Liturgy
Monday: 1900 - 2030	AA Group Meeting - Emmaus Room
Tuesday: 1830 - 2000	RCIA Group - Dumpling Green
Thursday: 1730 - 1830	First Communion Group – Emmaus Room
Friday: 1915 -2045	Confirmation Group – Emmaus Room
Parish Garden Club – To volunteer, please contact Sonia on 07985 521578.	

+Michael Manley - Funeral Mass, 12th February 2026, 1100

The Funeral Mass for +Michael Manley will be celebrated on 12th February 2026, at 1100. All are warmly welcome to pray for Michael and support his family in their loss.

15-Minute Silence Before Mass - Mandatory

Silence before Mass prepares our hearts to encounter the Lord. Please observe silence in the Church during the 15 minutes before each Mass, as many allot this time for praying. Conversation with one another is warmly encouraged after Mass.

130 Club - Please can everyone collect their 130 Club envelopes from their pigeon hole in the foyer this weekend. They need to be returned with the monies by no later than the end of March please. As Marcia is away, can the envelopes please be given to Father Jay, who will hold onto them for her and pass them on to her on her return. Thank you.

Foodbank Donation - We are delighted to announce that last year our Parish donated an incredible 466kg of food and toiletries to the foodbank. Thank you to everyone who contributed - your generosity makes a real difference.

Parish Parking and Traffic Guidance - Copies of the Parish Parking and Traffic Guidance are available at the back of the Church. Please help us by following the guidance unless otherwise advised.

A4 sheets available at the Back of the Church - Available unused A4 sheets with the Parish heading available at the back of the Church. Please do help yourself for scratch papers only.

Pilgrimage to Rome 2026 | 20th – 24th September 2026

To those who are joining the Pilgrimage later this year, please contact the tour organisers directly at: <https://www.allsaintstravel.co.uk/RM1138> `The booking deadline at the advertised price is 30 Jan 2026. If you are booking after this date, contact us first for the current price. Deposit required to secure your place: £350 (by debit card or by bank transfer). Final balance to be paid 2 months prior to travel. Flexible monthly payments are available. Contact us for details.'

Peace Sunday 18th January - Towards and 'unarmed and disarming' peace

This year's Peace Sunday theme, "Peace be with you all: Towards an 'unarmed and disarming' peace," reminds us that peace isn't just something for governments or world leaders. It begins with us, in our homes, workplaces and communities. "Unarmed" peace means choosing patience instead of anger, listening instead of assuming, and seeking understanding instead of winning arguments. "Disarming" peace means helping others feel safe, welcomed and respected. Small steps matter: reaching out to someone who feels isolated, supporting those affected by conflict, speaking kindly, or joining local efforts for justice and reconciliation. As followers of Christ, we are invited to make peace a daily habit, trusting that God can multiply even the smallest acts of goodwill.