

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Job Vacancy

It's at this time of year, when the Christmas holiday is well and truly over and it's time to go back to work, that we wonder what we are really doing with our lives. When we meet the first disciples in today's gospel, they are wondering pretty much the same thing. Were they going to spend out the rest of their lives catching fish, or were they going to follow Jesus and become 'fishers of men'? The early disciples were unerring in their discipleship. They left their nets and followed Jesus 'at once' 'immediately'. There was no doubt in their minds about how they wanted to live out their lives. Discipleship was a job for life.

Jesus' work is never done and there will always be vacancies for new disciples. Discipleship is something akin to an army. Without active supporters, a cause can grow faint. We are not asked to keep Christ's teaching to ourselves, we are asked to be 'fishers of men' always opening up God's opportunities to others. The world is a dangerous place full of greed and extremism. There are too many people in the world who feel that money and coercion are the way to get what they want. There are not enough people who believe that love and respect for every human being they meet might be a better answer.

We might feel uncomfortable with the idea of being 'fishers of men'. It conjures the idea of notching up conversions like some kind of biblical salesperson. Today we are asked to sweep our preconceptions aside. Being a 'fisher of men' needs to be about making a real difference in other people's lives by demonstrating our discipleship. Discipleship is a job for life.

Small Acts of Faithfulness

Recent headlines continue to highlight global uncertainty, from elections and economic pressures to wars and climate-related disasters. Analysts warn that instability may shape the year ahead, yet many local communities are responding in quieter and hopeful ways: churches organising food drives, neighbours sharing resources, and volunteers supporting displaced families. The contrast is striking. While national and international debates grow louder, compassion at the grassroots level appears to be growing stronger. As Christians, we're reminded that God often works through small acts of faithfulness rather than grand displays of power. In challenging seasons, the Church can be a steady witness to peace, mercy, and hope.

Bitesize - Remember, if you're headed in the *Bitesize* direction, God allows U-turns! *Allison Gappa Bottke*



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 25th January 2026 – 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
[Sundays Year A, 3rd Week of the Year, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week 3]

MASSES in the PARISH

Saturday 24th January	St Francis de Sales
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	Michael & Anna Mealy + (PM)
Sunday 25th January	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
09.00 MASS	For the People of the Parish
11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	Michael & Anna Mealy (PM)
Monday 26th January	Ss Timothy & Titus
- No Mass	
Tuesday 27th January	Feria
10.00 MASS	Flora Aurelia Booth + (JB)
Wednesday 28th January	St Thomas Aquinas
10.00 MASS	Jack & Ena Connolly + (Fdn)
Thursday 29th January	Feria
10.00 MASS	Bill Sibley + (AS)
Friday 30th January	Feria
- No Mass	
Saturday 31st January	St John Bosco
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	Sue Meeks (Reid) + (JR)
Sunday 1st February	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
09.00 MASS	For the People of the Parish
11.00 MASS <i>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: George Mayer, Ivor Vincent, Magdolna Toth, Carol Lydia Whitesides, Hilda Stearman, William Harrell, Kenneth Rayner, Joe Kennedy, Sheila Christie, Mary Hetherington, Marguerite Eastwell, Reginald Walter Bowles, Enda Perrin. *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 18th January 2026 Plate: £244.28.
 Second Collection (Elaine Wilkes' Funeral): £485.28.

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 25 th January 2026 - Saturday 31 st January 2026	
Sunday: 1100	Children's Liturgy
Monday: 1900 - 2030	AA Group Meeting - Emmaus Room
Thursday: 1730 - 1830	First Communion Group – Emmaus Room
Friday: 1915 - 2030	Altar Servers Meeting – Emmaus Room
Parish Garden Club – To volunteer, please contact Sonia on 07985 521578.	

No Mass on the Following Weekdays, as Father Jay is away:

- 3rd - 5th February and
- 10th - 11th February

Please do not submit Mass Intention requests for the above 2 weeks.

+Shirley Liebenhals - Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord

With heavy hearts, we mourn the passing of our dear Shirley Liebenhals. We offer our prayers and condolences to her husband, Bryan, and to all family and friends.

+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 soonest. 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*, (hand them to Father Jay or drop them at the Presbytery) who will hold onto them for her and pass them on to her on her return.
- If anyone would like extra numbers, or would love to join, let Marcia know by leaving a note with Father Jay and she will be in touch with them on her return at the beginning of March. Thank you.

Parish Retreat - The Parish Retreat day for Lent will be on the Saturday 7 Mar 26, with Deacon Rick. All welcome. Will be 1100 – 1500 hours in the Emmaus Room. Please bring a packed lunch, as no food provided. Tea & coffee will be provided.

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.