

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The Heart of the Matter

How often do we hear solicitors wrangling over the law, looking for a loophole to suit their own agenda? Those seeking loopholes seem perfectly happy to ignore the spirit of the law in their quest to win.

In today's gospel reading Jesus invites us to consider that it is not just laws in themselves that are important but our attitude towards those laws. Perhaps we haven't committed murder, but have we harboured hatred? We might not have committed adultery, but have we failed to live up to the love we once promised our spouse? We might not have committed theft, but are our hearts set on the wealth our neighbours have earned?

Laws might seem to fence our lives with rods of uncompromising iron, but most laws are simply expressions of how we should behave towards each other. The unwritten laws of love bind us in promises that we wouldn't dream of compromising let alone riddling with loopholes. When it comes to those we love, we don't need a statute book, our hearts tell us what to do. The written law should be no different. Laws are written down in books of statute and commandments are written in the Bible, but the spirit of the law must exist in our hearts.

What exists in our hearts is as important if not more important than our actions because it's what written in our hearts that defines us.

Ash Wednesday, 18nd February

'Ash Wednesday is the start of Lent when we are invited for forty days to set aside more time for prayer and fasting in preparation for Easter. The Ashes, made in the sign of the cross on our foreheads on this day, are an outward sign of our inward sorrow for our sins and of our commitment to Jesus as Our Lord and Saviour.'

Bitesize - 'The heart never becomes wrinkled'. *Marie de Rabutin-Chantal*



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 15th February 2026 – 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
[Sundays Year A, 6th Week of the Year, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week 2]

MASSES in the PARISH

Saturday 14th February	SS Cyril Monk & Methodius, Patrons of Europe (Feast)
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	Nell Bradley + (Fdn)
Sunday 15th February	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
09.00 MASS	Michael Manley + (JM)
11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	For the People of the Parish
Monday 16th February	Feria
- No Mass	
Tuesday 17th February	Feria
1000 MASS	Elaine Wilkes + (BW, AS, JH, TK)
Wednesday 18th February	ASH WEDNESDAY
1000 MASS	Robert McCarthy + (G & JM)
1830 MASS	
Thursday 19th February	Lent Feria
1000 MASS	Tony Whitehouse (CP)
Friday 20th February	Lent Feria
- No Mass	
Saturday 21st February	Lent Feria
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For the People of the Parish
Sunday 22nd February	First Sunday of Lent
09.00 MASS	Elaine Wilkes + (CP)
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: Alice Wyand, Michael Triggs, Joan Bedwell, Robert McCarthy, Gerrard Keogh, Mary Allison, Agnes Lillian Farrow, Grace Chipperfield. *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: 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, Kathleen Doyle.

Money Matters: Offerings for the week was as follows:
Sunday 8th February 2026 Plate: £473.13.

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 15th February 2026 - Saturday 21st February 2026	
Sunday:	-
Monday: 1900 - 2030	AA Group Meeting - Emmaus Room
Wednesday: 1130 - 1230	Finance Committee Meeting - Presbytery
Wednesday: 1830 - 2000	RCIA Meeting – Dumpling Green
Friday:	-
Parish Garden Club – To volunteer, please contact Sonia on 07985 521578.	

+Shirley Liebenhals | Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord...

The Funeral Mass for our beloved Shirley will take place on 4th March at 1100. In the meantime, we continue to pray for the repose of her soul, and for the comfort and consolation of her family at this difficult time.

Lenten Alms

This year, our Lenten Alms will be directed to support the vital work of Aid to the Church in Need. As part of our works of charity during Lent, please consider contributing to this appeal, helping to support persecuted and suffering Christians around the world.

Stations of the Cross During Lent

We encourage everyone to join us for Friday Stations of the Cross, at 1130 every Friday during Lent. If you prefer to pray privately, booklets are available at the back of the Church.

Walk With Me (Prayer booklets for Lent) available for £1 per copy at back of church.

Cancellation of Altar Servers' Mass

This year's Altar Servers' Mass will be cancelled, given its vicinity to the Diocesan Jubilee celebration which will be on 26th of June at the SJB Cathedral.

130 Club Envelopes

Please hand them to Fr Jay or drop them at the presbytery.

World Day of Prayer

There will be a Ecumenical service for the World Day of Prayer on Friday 6th March 2026 at Trinity Methodist Church, Dereham.

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.