

## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR PALM SUNDAY

### What's the Point

Today we recall the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and we hear again the story of the Passion. But as we stand in church waving our palms and reading our Mass books, we have to be aware that we are doing more than just re-reading a two-thousand-year old story. What point is there in simply remembering a sequence of events? There is only a point in remembering Jesus' Passion if it truly impacts on our twenty first century lives. We don't need to have been around at the time to imagine how it must have felt to be a part of the crowd that greeted Jesus as he rode into Jerusalem. We know what it's like to be swept along with a crowd. We know how we can be brave as part of a crowd... infallible even. We remember the crowd that supported Jesus so enthusiastically at the beginning of the week and how it mysteriously melted away by the end, to be replaced by a different crowd, shouting for his crucifixion. Are we any better than those original supporters? Can we stand up for Jesus as individuals when the going gets tough?

We remember Jesus' journey from Palm Sunday to Good Friday. We remember that it's a journey he made with no hint of compromise. How easy it would have been for Jesus to have bypassed Jerusalem altogether, but what would have been the point of that for us two thousand years on. There is no room in Christianity for compromise. We remember the death of Jesus as a supreme act of love. Jesus taught that we were worth all that pain and suffering. Do we leave the church today simply to catch up with our Facebook accounts and enjoy our Sunday lunch, or do we consider how we should live our lives from this day on, knowing that Jesus considered us worth his ultimate sacrifice?

### Easter Triduum

The term triduum means 'three days.' The three days are counted as the Hebrews counted their days, from dusk to dusk. Therefore, the three days of the Easter triduum are from dusk on Holy Thursday to dusk on Good Friday (day one), dusk on Good Friday to dusk on Holy Saturday (day two), and dusk on Holy Saturday to dusk on Easter Sunday (day three). Each of those days 'tells' a different part of the story of Jesus' saving action. We look at the East Triduum as one single celebration that lasts for three days. We cannot separate the death of Jesus from his resurrection. We do not spend all of the three days in church, but at various times during those days, we are called to church to gather and remember together. Because the Triduum tells an ongoing story, try if you can to make all the services.



**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 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – PALM SUNDAY**  
[Sundays Year A, Holy Week, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week 2]

### MASSES in the PARISH

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March</b>            | <b>Lent Feria</b>                                   |
| 18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>                | For the People of the Parish                        |
| <b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March</b>              | <b>PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD</b>       |
| 09.00 MASS                                       | Kevin Kaqiyatty + (KK, AD,NT)                       |
| 11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>                  | Rejeena Joy (NT, AD, KK)                            |
| <b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March</b>              | <b>Monday of Holy Week</b>                          |
| 15.00 MASS                                       | Angela Blows + Funeral Mass                         |
| <b>Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>             | <b>Tuesday of Holy Week</b>                         |
| 11.30 CHRISM MASS at St John's Cathedral Norwich |   |
| <b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>            | <b>Wednesday of Holy Week</b>                       |
| 10.00 MASS                                       | Angela Blows + (CP)                                 |
| <b>Thursday 2nd April</b>                        | <b>MAUNDY THURSDAY (The Sacred Paschal Triduum)</b> |
| 19.30 MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER                  |   |
| <b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April</b>               | <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>                                  |
| 10.30 Children's Stations of the Cross           |   |
| 15.00 CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION          |   |
| <b>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April</b>             | <b>HOLY SATURDAY</b>                                |
| 20.00 EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT             |   |
| <b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April</b>               | <b>EASTER SUNDAY (Solemnity with Octave)</b>        |
| 09.00 MASS                                       |   |
| 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:** Patrick Malone, Mary Godin, Margaret Hindle, Gladys Reeve, Rita Power, Kathleen Borthwick, Vera Conway, Iain Walton, Ricci (Frederica) White, Maria Madalena Santana, Stephanie Grange, Roger Borthwick, Francis Breen, Edith Graydon-Carter. *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, Frank 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, Pat Sutton, Hillary Bushell, Ann Williams, Matthew Williams, Ken Wood.

Money Matters: Offerings for the week was as follows:  
 Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026 Plate: £290.56.  
 BACS Offerings for month of February 2026: £1,693.  
 There will be a Second Collection on 3 Apr 26 for the Holy Places of Palestine.

**Bank Details.** Our new banking details are: The Sacred Heart Church, S/C 52-41-29, A/C 44725132. **Change-over should happen from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026.** When amending your Standing Order details please use **Offertory** as the only entry in the **Reference** box. Please only use **Stipend** or **Donation** for payments that are extra to your regular offering. Any queries please send to [treasurer@sacredheartdereham.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:rexbaker27@btinternet.com)). This will help to maximize donations.

**Upcoming Parish events:**

| <b>Diary for week Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March - Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2026</b> |   |
|---|---|
| Monday: 1900 - 2030   | <b>AA Group Meeting</b> - Emmaus Room                                   |
| Tuesday: 1830   | <b>RCIA Meeting</b>   |
| Wednesday: 1100   | <b>Stations of The Cross</b> – Chapel – (Followed by soup). All welcome |
| <b>Parish Garden Club</b> – To volunteer, please contact Sonia on 07985 521578.         |   |

**+Angela Blows** - Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord. We pray for the repose of the soul of Angela Blows, who has been a devoted parishioner for many years. Her Funeral Mass will be on Monday the 30<sup>th</sup> March at 1500, at the church.

**Baptism of Uma Joy Watchman - Congratulations**

We rejoice as Uma Joy Watchman is welcomed into the family of God through the Sacrament of Baptism on 28<sup>th</sup> March in our Parish. May she continue to flourish in faith and grace, walking always in the light of Christ.

**Chrism Mass - 31<sup>st</sup> March SJB at 1130** - We are encouraged to join the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 1130 in St John the Baptist Cathedral. If you could arrange your own transport to Norwich, that would be great.

**Stations of the Cross During Holy Week** - On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April will be immediately after 1000 Mass. There will be soup afterwards. All welcome.

**Easter Triduum (April)** (All Triduum Masses will be livestreamed)

- 2 Apr 26 Maundy Thursday: 1930 Mass of the Lord's Supper
- 3 Apr 26 **Good Friday:** 1030 Children's Stations of the Cross  
1500 Celebration of the Lord's Passion
- 4 Apr 26 Holy Saturday: 2000 Easter Vigil
- 5 April Easter Sunday

**Volunteers Required for Holy Week and Easter Vigil** – Gerry McCarthy has left a list at back of the church from which to choose your preferred time/s.

**Parish Family Day** - To celebrate our Diocese's Jubilee this year, Bishop Peter and the Marriage and Family Life Commission would like to encourage all parishes to hold a celebratory "FAMILY DAY!" in their own parish this summer (May - September).

**Plant Sale** - Helen Wood will be holding a plant sale in the Church car park on the weekend of 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

**Dona Card Terminal** - The Parish has recently been blessed with a Dona Digital Donation terminal, generously donated by Paul and Richard. It is now operational and is conveniently located at the back of the Church.

**Message from Deacon Martin** – “A huge thank you to everyone who made Monday's Requiem for Terri such a wonderful loving service to behold; a wonderful epitaph to her life in this Parish and beyond. Special thanks to Fr Jay and Deacon Rick and also Fathers John Barnes, Denis Gallagher, Michael Stack and Monsignor Chris Brooks, plus 5 Deacons from Cambridge, Haverhill, Newmarket, & Peterborough. The online Tribute page has so far raised over £1000 for East Anglia Air Ambulance.”