

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR EASTER SUNDAY

Life Without End

Belief in the resurrection is essential to our faith, yet the account of Jesus' resurrection, or rather the lack of it, leaves us as confused as the original disciples. We've been left with a puzzle with pieces missing, a story with an important part untold. As Christians we are reminded that religion is ultimately a faith not a science.

Our human search for certainty urges us to try and work out who moved the stone, but at this point all we can do is put the resurrection into the context of the rest of Jesus' life and teachings. We have to trust that everything Jesus has told us is true, and that the resurrection is not just an invention to give a tragic story a happy ending, but the realisation of the promises Jesus made all along. Jesus promised all along that death couldn't contain us, and the empty tomb points to this not necessarily as proof, but as truth.

So how do we find that trust that everything Jesus has told us is true? First of all we have to develop a toolbox of faith, trust, and intuition. Christians are accused of propping up impossible and improvable theories with blind faith. If this were true the accusers would have a point, but true faith runs deeper than this. We all use faith in every walk of life and we all need trust. People of faith are people who can push boundaries and take brave steps into the unknown. People of trust recognise possibilities in others and in themselves. People of intuition recognise integrity and truth. Anais Nin said "We don't see things as they are, we see things as we are." "What you believe sets a course for your future and directs your daily activities. Consequently, when you believe only what you can see, a whole world of possibility is lost."

The empty tomb gives our life purpose. Belief in the resurrection means we can live life boldly and well, looking forward to eternal life. The empty tomb gives us a means to deal with pain and suffering, it means that death is not a meaningless end of life, but the door to the fullness of life with the risen Christ.

Bitesize - "Doubt your doubts." We need to look at our doubts straight in the eye and doubt them, not let them control our minds. ~Dr. Harry Emerson.



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



Parish Priest: Fr Jay T. Magpuyo
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Sunday 5th April 2026 – Easter Sunday

[Sundays Year A, Octave of Easter, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week Pr]

MASSES in the PARISH

Saturday 4th April	HOLY SATURDAY
20.00	<i>Easter Vigil in the Holy Night</i>
Sunday 5th April	EASTER SUNDAY (Solemnity with Octave)
09.00 MASS	For the People of the Parish
11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	
Monday 6th April	Easter Octave
- No Mass	
Tuesday 7th April	Easter Octave
10.00 MASS	Helena Jossy (Birthday) (CC)
Wednesday 8th April	Easter Octave
10.00 MASS	Anisha Cyriac + (CC)
Thursday 9th April	Easter Octave
10.00 MASS	Teofilo Montero + (SS)
Friday 10th April	Easter Octave
- No Mass	
Saturday 11th April	Easter Octave
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For the People of the Parish
Sunday 12th April	DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
09.00 MASS	Terri Sanderson + (CP)
11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	TC Kurian +, EL Samma +, Ma Joseph + (SJ)

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: Harold Chapman, Gordon William Lloyd, Harry Knight, James Ruby, Patrick Joseph Mullally, Consuelo Mercedes Murphy, Joy Bussey, Ted Clark, Frederick Lennox, Tom Brady. *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 29th March 2026 Plate: £347.80.

Bank Details. Our new banking details are: The Sacred Heart Church, S/C 52-41-29, A/C 44725132. **Change-over should happen from 1st 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. 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 5th April - Saturday 11th April 2026	
Sunday:	
Monday: 1900 - 2030	AA Group Meeting - Emmaus Room
Friday:	
Parish Garden Club – To volunteer, please contact Sonia on 07985 521578.	

Fifty Days of Easter - Easter Day is certainly the most important day of the church year, but the Easter celebration lasts a full 50 days, until Pentecost. For families with young children, now is a good time to talk about the symbolism of candles, or to dig out and chat about those photos of the family Christening. Are the family Christening photos still on your pen drive? Why not print them off and put them on show?

Mystagogy - Can you remember what it's like to start a new job? A new school? It's exciting to begin, but those first steps can be wobbly. The Easter Season is the time for post-baptismal catechesis or 'mystagogy' with the newly baptised or 'neophytes'. Mystagogy is the period after the rites of initiation into the Catholic Church. It's a time for settling in. It's a time when we help the newly baptised to feel at home.

The following are being received into full **Communion** with the Catholic Church on Holy Saturday 4 April 2026

- Christiana Akoto, Levy Ronal Danan, Theresa Hughes, Derek Lloyd.

- And Giampaolo Angotzi will be **Confirmed**.

Easter Egg Hunt - An Easter Egg Hunt for the children will take place after the 1100 Mass on Easter Sunday in the Church grounds. All are warmly invited to join in the fun.

Upcoming Church Calendar Events/ Feasts:

22 April - Parish Film Showing at 1630 in the Presbytery.

26 April - Presentation from Hope into Action, a charity that enables Churches to house the homeless, in 0900 and 1100 Sunday Masses.

6 May - Parish Bi-Annual Meeting at 1830 in the Emmaus Room.

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). Suggested activities: Bouncy Castles/Inflatables, Face Painting Booth, Magician or Puppet Show, Music (parish children's choir performing, or live music or background music), Storytelling Corner (with children's books or faith-based tales e.g. Saints stories), Balloon Animal Artist, Film Screening (later in the afternoon), Ice Cream Truck.

Parish Plant Sale - Helen Wood will be holding a plant sale in the Church car park on the weekend of 16th/17th May 2026, to raise funds for the Parish. Please feel free to contribute any spare plants you may have to the fund raising event.

Ignite Team is recruiting: Please see poster on the notice board.

Christ is Risen. Alleluia. Happy Easter to all.