

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Meeting Jesus

Two disciples travel along the road to Emmaus talking about recent events in Jerusalem. They are feeling helpless and defeated in the wake of Jesus' crucifixion. Perhaps they were still strongly tied to the Jewish expectation of a Messiah, and had little understanding of Jesus' divinity. They simply saw Jesus' death as a crushing defeat. Perhaps our own stories aren't too different. We often feel defeated and helpless, unable to see what Jesus' death and resurrection could mean for us. Do we spend long periods of depression, unable to appreciate God's presence in our lives? One thing is for sure; it would be nothing short of a tragedy if we got to the end of life's paths without meeting Jesus, so how should we go about it?

Notice in today's gospel that Jesus opens the eyes of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus very gradually. The two travellers don't recognise Jesus straight away, but their hearts warm to him as he helps them to see recent events in the light of scripture. As he interprets what has happened, he gives them hope in the future and a clear vision of new opportunities. Then when the couple invite Jesus to stay, and he breaks bread with them, they come to realise who he really is. What a life changing moment that must have been!

This story is clearly not just for the benefit of the two travellers or even for the first disciples; this story is for the benefit of us all. We might think that we've been going to church long enough to have heard it all before, but there's always something new to learn. Today we are invited to meet Jesus in the Eucharist, and to re-find Jesus in the way we understand and interpret the scriptures. Take up the challenge.

St Mark - 25th April

The second Gospel was written by St. Mark, who, in the New Testament, is sometimes called John Mark. Both he and his mother, Mary, were highly esteemed in the early Church, and his mother's house in Jerusalem served as a meeting place for Christians there. St. Mark wrote the second Gospel, probably in Rome sometime before the year 60 A.D.; he wrote it in Greek for the Gentile converts to Christianity. Tradition tells us that St. Mark was requested by the Roman Christians to set down the teachings of St. Peter. This seems to be confirmed by the position which St. Peter has in this Gospel.

Bitesize - "The oil of hope makes life's machinery run smoothly. *James L Basford*



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@sacredheartdereham.org.uk)

Parish Music team: Judy Reid, Kathleen Edmunds & Paul McIntee.

Parish Safeguarding Representatives: Paul McIntee

Sacred Heart & St Margaret Mary



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Sunday 19th April 2026 – 3rd Sunday of Easter
[Sundays Year A, 3rd Week of Easter, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week 3]

MASSES in the PARISH

Saturday 18th April 18.00	Easter Octave Fintan & Margaret Dunne Family (LD)
Sunday 19th April 09.00 MASS	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER For the People of the Parish
11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	TC Kurian +, EL Samma +, Ma Joseph + (SJ)
Monday 20th April - No Mass	Easter Feria
Tuesday 21st April 10.00 MASS	Easter Feria Terri Sanderson + (MK)
Wednesday 22nd April 10.00 MASS	Easter Feria Michael & Roy Manley + (PM)
Thursday 23rd April 10.00 MASS	ST GEORGE PATRON OF ENGLAND (Solemnity) Rudolf Laquiere + (PM)
Friday 24th April - No Mass	Easter Feria
Saturday 25th April 18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	ST MARK Evangelist (Feast) Michael & Anna Mealy + (PM)
Sunday 26th April 09.00 MASS	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Plumb Family (for dec'd members) + (MJ)
11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	For the People of the Parish

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: Pamela Clark, George Albert Webster, Brenda Winandy, Thomas Nally, William Robertson, William Gibbons, Kathleen Rudd, Howard Leslie, John Woodhouse, Theo Sandars, Peter Gormans. *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, Frank Crawley.

Money Matters: Offerings for the week was as follows:
Plate Collection 12th April 2026: £247.66.
Next Sunday 26 April 2026 there will be a Second Collection for Vocations.

Bank Details. Our new banking details are: The Sacred Heart Church, S/C 52-41-29, A/C 44725132. The change-over occurred 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 19 th April - Saturday 25 th April 2026	
Sunday: 1100	Childrens Liturgy
Monday: 1900 - 2030	AA Group Meeting - Emmaus Room
Tuesday: 1830	RCIA Celebration Party
Thursday: 1730 - 1830	First Communion Session - Emmaus Room
Friday: 1915 - 2045	Confirmation Group Meeting - Emmaus Room
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.

Upcoming Church Calendar Events:

- **22 April** - Parish Film Showing at 1630 in the Presbytery. **One Battle After Another** (2025) PG 13, directed by Paul Thomas Anderson and loosely based on Thomas Pynchon's *Vineland*, follows Bob Ferguson (Leonardo DiCaprio), a washed-up leftist revolutionary living in 1990s California under a cloud of drug-addled paranoia. He struggles to raise his daughter, Willa, while hiding from his past.
- **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 – Deacon Rick is beginning to organise the Parish Family Day, probably to be held in September, to celebrate our Diocese's Jubilee year. Please contact him if you would like to help in the planning and execution of the event.

130 Club – Outstanding 130 Club subs. Could members with outstanding 130 Club subs please bring their money in to Father Jay or Marcia urgently. You can contact Marcia by email at marciaslee@hotmail.com, if you want to get in touch.

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.

Catholic Diocese of East Anglia Walsingham Pilgrimage will take place Monday 4 May 2026. The schedule of events is as follows:

- 1030 Arrival of Pilgrims in the Shrine and Basilica
Confession in the Chapel of Reconciliation and Shrine Grounds
- 1130 Welcome and Reception of Banners
- 1200 Solemn Pilgrim Mass (celebrated by Bishop Peter Collins)
- 1415 Crowning of the Image (procession from the Shrine to the village and Abbey Grounds, with the image of Our Lady of Walsingham)
- 1545 Prayer and Benediction in the Abbey Grounds
- 1635 Departure from village coach car park

Saint George - 23rd April - "For the Persecuted"

When the pagan Emperor Diocletian started persecuting Christians, St. George pleaded with the Emperor to spare their lives. However, St. George's pleas fell on deaf ears and it is thought that the Emperor Diocletian tried to make St. George deny his faith in Christ, by torturing him. St George showed incredible courage and faith and was finally beheaded near Lydda in Palestine on 23rd April, 303. There is much talk nowadays about the apathy surrounding Saint George's day and about what we should do to celebrate it, but we could do no worse than make St. George's commitment to stand up for the persecuted our own.

Christ is risen. Alleluia!