

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Who Wants to be a Sheep!

Who wants to be likened to a sheep! Sheep are seen as silly animals that follow each other blindly and do not act or think for themselves. When Jesus invites us to be 'His flock', He is not asking us to behave like sheep, rather He is asking us to think of him as our 'good shepherd'. As followers, we are not asked to follow blindly, we are asked to discern His voice and His values in a world full of distractions and competing values.

From the moment we get out of bed in the morning there are a million and one demands vying for our attention. We make a list of things we have to do in a day and discover we have more things to do than hours to do them in. Most of the things we have to do are things that we will get into trouble for if we don't do them. We have to go to work or we won't get paid. We have to do the housework or we will be considered dysfunctional. We have to pay the bills or we will receive a court summons. We have to help our children with their homework or we will get disapproving letters home from the head teacher. Finding time to listen for Jesus' voice probably isn't on our 'list-to-do'.

The good news is that we don't have to add Jesus to the list; Jesus is part of the list. Jesus' voice is in every little job that we do, and in each one of our day to day activities. We don't need a special time to sit down and listen to what Jesus is telling us. Hearing Jesus' voice is a habit we need to develop on a day to day basis. The trick is to know that Jesus' voice is everywhere that encourages us to impact our world as Christians. Jesus' voice is the voice at work that encourages us to do our best, that encourages us not to gossip, that encourages us not to ignore the person who needs a lift at home time, that encourages us to respond to family members and the wider community who are in need, that tells us how to vote and how to campaign for those who do not have a voice of their own. The voice of the impostor on the other hand is everywhere that encourages us to act out of self-interest and greed. Being part of Jesus' flock is certainly not for the 'sheep'; it's for those with discerning ears from the first moment we get out of bed in the morning to last thing at night.

The voice of Jesus the good shepherd is the one that offers us spiritual sustenance, guidance, love and protection. Jesus wants us to recognise His voice as the one who addresses what we are and what we stand for.

Bitesize - "You do not wake up one morning a bad person. It happens by a thousand tiny surrenders of self-respect to self-interest." *Robert Brault*



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



Parish Priest: Fr Jay T. Magpuyo
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Sunday 26th April 2026 – 4th Sunday of Easter
[Sundays Year A, 4th Week of Easter, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week 4]

MASSES in the PARISH

Saturday 25th April	ST MARK Evangelist (Feast)
18.00	Michael & Anna Mealy + (PM)
Sunday 26th April	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
09.00 MASS	Plumb Family (for dec'd members) + (MJ)
11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	For the People of the Parish
Monday 27th April	Easter Feria
- No Mass	
Tuesday 28th April	Easter Feria
10.00 MASS	Rose Bere + (Fdn)
Wednesday 29th April	ST CATHERINE OF SIENA (Patron of Europe)
10.00 MASS	Tim Salter + (Fdn)
Thursday 30th April	Easter Feria
10.00 MASS	Roy Manley + (P & S)
Friday 1st May	St Joseph the Worker
- No Mass	
Saturday 2nd May	St Athanasius
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	Terri Sanderson + (AS,BW,TK,JH)
Sunday 3rd May	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
09.00 MASS	For the People of the Parish
11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	Luz Sudaria + (MK)

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: Bridget Ithell, Fr Guy (Vincent) Wace, Timothy Salter, Jose Antonio De Melo Pereira, Eddie Wilde, Roger Gerard Clancy, James Tinney, Mary Gatt, Sarah Courtney, Irene Barnes, David Horsburgh. *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, 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, Hillary Bushell, Ann Williams, Matthew Williams, Ken Wood, Frank Crawley, John Salmon.

Money Matters: Offerings for the week was as follows:

Plate Collection 19th April 2026: £371.53.

This Sunday 26 April 2026 there is 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 **Offerory** 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 26 th April - Saturday 2 nd May 2026	
Sunday: 1100	Childrens Liturgy
Monday: 1900 - 2030	AA Group Meeting - Emmaus Room
Tuesday: 1830	RCIA Meeting
Thursday: 1730 - 1830	First Communion Session - Emmaus Room
Friday: 1915 - 2030	Altar Servers 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:

- **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.

Upcoming Funerals:

+Catherine Carmel Wheeler - 7th May at 1000 Mass

+Collette Barrow-Nessian - 8th May at 1100 Mass

+Pat Sutton - 12th May at 1100 Mass

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord... We commend them to our Lord Jesus Christ, entrusting them to His mercy, and we pray for the consolation and strength of their family and loved ones.

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, in person or by email: deaconrick@sacredheartdereham.org.uk.

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, commencing at 1030 am at the Shrine and Basilica.

Coffee and Tea In-charge - Starting in June, at the 1100 Sunday Mass, we will introduce a suggested rota for those responsible for tea and coffee. The 1st Sunday will be hosted by the Indian community, the 2nd Sunday by our regular Church kitchen volunteers, the 3rd Sunday by the Filipino community and the 4th Sunday by our Altar Servers.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Today 26 April the Church celebrates the call to the priesthood and the consecrated life. We remember other callings at other times, but on this day we pray especially for those God is calling to be consecrated or to be ordained. Pray for the priests, both living and dead, who have ministered to you throughout your life, the deacons and religious and also encourage your children, grandchildren, or other young people to consider a vocation as a priest or religious brother or sister.

Saint Joseph The Worker - 1st May - In response to the 'May Day' celebrations for workers, Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of St Joseph the Worker in 1955. Jesus was a carpenter, obviously trained by Joseph. As Christians and as workers, we are reminded to treat our brothers and sisters in Christ as true brothers and sisters.