

## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### What Is On Your Mind Today?

What is on your mind today? Perhaps you have to get the car through its MOT. Perhaps you have to do the shopping with not enough money in your purse. Perhaps you have to get some work done with not enough hours in your day. Perhaps you have to visit a family member who is ill, or help your child fix a failed friendship at school. There is so much to do. Continuing Jesus' mission on earth problem doesn't figure much in the pages of our diaries.

Today we are privy to Jesus' prayer made on our behalf at the close of his ministry on earth. In this prayer, we are reminded that Jesus had finished the work that he had come to do. Jesus had made God's name known, so that all could share in eternal life. However, for this to happen, we have to carry the baton and keep Jesus' teaching alive in a world bursting with conflicting values.

The first disciples continued Jesus' mission without planes, trains, without a postal service, without TV or radio and without the internet. Yet thanks to these early disciples we are all very familiar with the promise of eternal life, even though these words were spoken over two thousand years ago. It doesn't matter how busy we are, life is so much easier for us than it was for those early disciples. We really don't have much excuse. We have been entrusted with an important job, yet for most of us, it is something we don't think about nearly enough. We are told not to let the world tie us down, but that's most definitely easier said than done. In truth we are very much of this world.

On this Sunday we celebrate World Communication Day, and it feels a timely opportunity to consider the task we have been set. We have all the benefits of a twenty first century world at our fingertips, now we just need to capture some of the passion that drove those early disciples.

We all know at least one person who sets a shining example. Perhaps it's here that we will find our motivation. Perhaps the people we most admire provide us with a model of who we ourselves would like to be. With a good example to emulate and our twenty first century means to spread God's love, change is not beyond any of us.

'Eternal Life is this: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent....'

**Bitesize** "You are not here merely to make a living. You are here to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, and with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world. You impoverish yourself if you forget this errand. - *Woodrow Wilson*



**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](mailto: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 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026 – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

[Sundays Year A, 7<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week 3]

#### MASSES in the PARISH

<b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Easter Feria</b>
18.00	For the People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>
	<b>(World Communications Day)</b>
09.00 MASS	Anisha Cyriac + (CC)
11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	Kurian Wedding Anniversary (LK)
<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Easter Feria</b>
- No Mass	
<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Easter Feria</b>
10.00 MASS	Thomas Paul + (JT)
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Easter Feria</b>
10.00 MASS	Anisha Cyriac + (CC)
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May</b>	<b>Easter Feria</b>
10.00 MASS	E Maguire + (Fdn)
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May</b>	<b>Easter Feria</b>
- No Mass	
<b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	<b>Easter Feria</b>
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For the People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>PENTECOST SUNDAY (Solemnity)</b>
09.00 MASS	Anisha Cyriac + (CC)
11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	Cyriac/Jessy (Wedding Anniversary) (CC)

**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:** Noel Kenneth Daly, John Conway, Sarah Chaudri, Dorothy Alice May Dance, Esther Power, Margaret Shelock, William Reavey, Mary & Gerard Ring-Davies, Michael McErleane. *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 10<sup>th</sup> May 2026: £374.  
 There is a 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection for World Communications this Sunday 17 May 26.

**Bank Details.** Our new banking details are: The Sacred Heart Church, S/C 52-41-29, A/C 44725132. The change-over occurred 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 17<sup>th</sup> May - Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2026</b>	
Sunday: 1100	<b>Children's Liturgy</b>
Monday: 1900 - 2030	<b>AA Group Meeting</b> - Emmaus Room
Thursday: 1730 - 1830	<b>First Communion Group</b> – Emmaus Room
Friday: 1915 - 2045	<b>Confirmation Group Meeting</b> – Emmaus Room
<b>Parish Garden Club</b> – To volunteer, please contact Sonia on 07985 521578.	

**Missio Red Charity Boxes** – Would the Missio Red Box holders please return the boxes for counting and banking. Thank you.

**Plant Sale 17<sup>th</sup> May** - Plants will be on tables marked as £4, £3, £2, £1 and 3 for a pound. If you're kindly donating plants, place them on the table of your choice. Payments for plants can be made using the Dona digital card reader in the Church.

**World Communications Day – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

World Communications Day is celebrated annually by the Catholic Church, typically on the Sunday before Pentecost. Established by Pope Paul VI in 1967, this day aims to raise awareness about the role of communication in society and the potential challenges posed by technological advancements. The 60th celebration will take place on **17<sup>th</sup> May 2026**.

In his message released on **January 24, 2026**, Pope Leo XIV highlighted the unique identity that human faces and voices represent. He stated that these features are sacred and essential for genuine human interaction. The Pope warned against the dangers posed by artificial intelligence and digital technologies, which can simulate human communication but lack the depth and authenticity of real human relationships. He emphasized that "**the challenge is not technological, but anthropological,**" urging society to protect human dignity and identity in the face of rapid technological change.

**Upcoming Church Calendar Events:**

- **24 May** – Pentecost Sunday. Following the 1100 Mass, we are warmly invited to a small celebration for the Solemnity of Pentecost Sunday in the Parish Garden of Healing. All are welcome, and bringing food to share would be greatly appreciated. A list for food contributions is available at the back of the Church.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> June - Confirmation
- 7<sup>th</sup> June - 1<sup>st</sup> Communion
- 12<sup>th</sup> June – The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, *Parish Patronal Feast*
  - 1100 Mass

**Annual Mission Appeal: 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> June 2026 , Sisters of St Peter Claver**

We shall be having a Mission Appeal by the Sisters of St Peter Claver on the 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> June 2026 in all Masses. If we could give generously to support their community in their mission.

**Wedding of Alex Holley and Lia Simpson 27<sup>th</sup> June 2026 at 1130 hours** - Alex and Lia warmly invite the whole Parish community to their marriage ceremony, which will take place on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June at the Sacred Heart Church, Dereham.

**Forming Catholic Student leaders, Singles' Retreat - For more details, visit:** [www.christianleadershipformation.com](http://www.christianleadershipformation.com) and a 1-page PDF summary for circulation can be downloaded here.