

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Wheat and Weeds

Jesus compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a field in which the master has sown good seed. In the night, an enemy comes and plants weeds, so when the crop grows it is a mixture of wheat and weed. The servants' instinct is to pull the weeds out, but the master demands that the bad grow alongside the good, he himself will sort the wheat from the weeds at the final harvest.

It's a typical Palestinian problem, the dandel weed, which looks just like wheat in its early stages is a menace to the harvest. The roots of the dandel weed intertwine with the roots of the wheat. To pull the dandel out can jeopardise the harvest. Similarly, just as it's hard to tell the difference between wheat and dandel, so it's not always easy for us to tell the difference between good and evil. A bad person can change and become good, and a seemingly good person might not be as virtuous as we imagine. It's best if we refrain from judging; this job is best left to God.

In films and novels, the good guys always win and the bad guys always get their come-uppance. Happy endings satisfy our human sense of justice, but in reality justice seems strangely elusive. We come up against evil time and time again. Sometimes we get so angry that we want to take justice into our own hands. Sometimes we are incensed that God can allow evil to grow alongside good, but before we get too irate, maybe we need to stop and take a good long look in the mirror. What makes us so sure that we're not weeds too? Where did we get that assurance that we are represented in the parable as the wheat?

Rarely is reality black and white. We all have good and bad inside us. We all need to change, and we all deserve the opportunity to make those changes. Perhaps this is the reason Jesus' advises us to leave the evil to grow alongside the good. As Martin Luther King Jr once said, "God's purpose is not wrathful judgement. God's purpose is redemption, and the road to redemption is by way of reconciliation."

Bitesize - 'Be not angry that you cannot make others as you wish them to be, since you cannot make yourself as you wish to be.' ~Thomas à Kempis, *Imitation of Christ*



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 July 2026 – 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

[Sundays Year A, 16th Week of the Year, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week 4]

MASSES in the PARISH

Saturday 18th July	Feria
18.00 MASS	
Sunday 19th July	16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
09.00 MASS	For the People of the Parish
11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	
Monday 20th July	Feria
- No Mass	
Tuesday 21st July	Feria
10.00 MASS	
Wednesday 22nd July	ST MARY MAGDALENE
10.00 MASS	
Thursday 23rd July	ST BRIDGET, Patron of Europe (Feast)
10.00 MASS	
Friday 24th July	Feria
- No Mass	
Saturday 25th July	ST JAMES (Feast)
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For the People of the Parish
Sunday 26th July	17th Sunday in Ordinary Time (World Day of Prayer for Grandparents & the Elderly)
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: Peter Lindsay, John Davies, Tomasz Wyrwik, Doris Cousal, Emily Veronica (Vera) Noden, Margret Harlow, Harry Baker, David Thompkins. *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, Mad Knight.

Money Matters: Offerings for the week was as follows:
Plate Collection 12th July 2026: £301.14.
Second Collection for Stella Maris 12th July (Sea Sunday): £135.53.

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 rex baker27@btinternet.com). This will help to maximize donations.

Upcoming Parish events:

Diary for week Sunday 19 th July - Saturday 25 th July 2026	
Monday: 1900 - 2030	AA Group Meeting - Emmaus Room
Parish Garden Club – To volunteer, please contact Sonia on 07985 521578.	

Upcoming Church Calendar Events/ Feasts:

Altar Servers' Day Out will now be combined with the Parish Family Day as part of the Diocesan Jubilee Celebration on Saturday, 5th September, at 1400 at the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham Convent.

Baptism – The Baptism of Arkie Ceto Ramos will take place on 1st August at 1000.

Discussion on the Encyclical Letter *Magnifica Humanitas* of Pope Leo:

We are warmly invited to read and reflect on the recent Encyclical Letter *Magnifica Humanitas* of Pope Leo, particularly its reflections on Artificial Intelligence and the future of humanity. This will be on 6th August at 1830 in the Emmaus Room.

Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage - 21st - 28th August 2026. You can find more information on the diocesan website <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/lourdes-pilgrimage-21-28-august-2026/> and on the Catholic Association website: <https://www.catholicassociation.co.uk/calourdes125>

March For Life on 5th September in London - Join Bishop Peter at this year's 5th September in London. For more information go to: **marchforlife.co.uk**. To book a place on the coach <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/norwich-ipswich-coach-trip-to-march-for-life-uk-2026-tickets-1991053694197?aff=oddtcreator>

Parish Pastoral Council Formation (PPC) - We shall be forming our PPC in September 2026. In preparation, please nominate a capable candidate from within your cultural community, whom you believe has the talents & commitment.

Parish Diocesan 50th Anniversary Celebration Family Day. We will be holding a Parish Family Day in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Diocese of East Anglia and of the 50th Anniversary of the Consecration of our Sacred Heart Church. The initial schedule for the day is as follows:

- Date set for Saturday **5th September 2026**.
- Venue will be the **House of the Divine Will**, Neatherd Moor (Convent).
- **Arrival from 1.30pm** to be in place before 2pm.
- At **2pm Sunday Vigil Mass** (followed by Adoration those that want to participate).
- From **3 - 5pm, various fun activities** (such as inflatable football, Rosary workshop, painting and Bible stories for the children, tombola & quizzes).
- From **5 - 6pm food will be served** (provided by our own communities - *food contributor volunteer lists will be provided in church*).
- From **6 - 7.45pm more activities** (such as open mike/karaoke/talent show).
- At **7.45 ending with a final prayer**.

Attendees are urged to have an early lunch at home before coming to the event, as food will not be eaten until 5pm.

Ideas for additional activities most welcome, so please think creatively. It's early days, but tempus fugit!