

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Buried Treasure

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure buried in a field; which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all he has and buys it."

In both parables both men appreciate the true value of what they have discovered. Both men are certain about the wisdom of what they must do and are willing to put everything on the line to secure their newfound treasure.

Today Jesus is asking us to determine how much we treasure the Kingdom of Heaven. How valuable is Heaven to us and what are we prepared to do to secure it? Are we prepared to give all we've got and to renounce everything that gets in the way? If the two men in the parables had passed their treasure by or failed to recognise the treasure's value, we would have thought them insane, yet this is how we behave all the time.

All too often we are prepared to let the Kingdom of Heaven slip through our fingers. Perhaps we do this because we have never stopped to reflect on how valuable the Kingdom of Heaven is. Perhaps we have recognised the value of God's Kingdom to us but have forgotten it in the day-to-day distractions of putting meals on the table and paying the bills. Perhaps Heaven's rewards seem so distant that we prefer instead to work for more immediate and tangible rewards; home improvements, fame, social acceptance and career development. Perhaps we think we can work on God's agenda and our own agenda simultaneously, recognising the value of God's Kingdom but not quite able to renounce our own self-interest.

Today Jesus gives us some concrete advice. He tells us that those who study the scriptures and search diligently will find the discernment to recognise God's treasure and the wisdom to secure it.

St Ignatius of Loyola (31st July)

The Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola are a world-renowned spiritual classic. St Ignatius wrote the exercises between 1522 and 1548 and they are his most lasting contribution to the Church and the world. The purpose of the exercises is to help those who do them to discover interior freedom.

www.jesuit.org.uk/spirituality/the-spiritual-exercises

Bitesize - 'Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.'



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 26th July 2026 – 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

[Sundays Year A, 17th Week of the Year, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week 1]

MASSES in the PARISH

Saturday 25th July	ST JAMES (Feast)
18.00 MASS	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>	Mary Lloyd +
Monday 27th July	Feria
- No Mass	
Tuesday 28th July	Feria
10.00 MASS	Flora Aurelia Booth + (JB)
Wednesday 29th July	Ss Martha, Mary & Lazarus
10.00 MASS	Aleykutty +
Thursday 30th July	Feria
10.00 MASS	
Friday 31st July	St Ignatius of Loyola
- No Mass	
Saturday 1st August	St Alphonsus Liguori
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For the People of the Parish
Sunday 2nd August	18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
09.00 MASS	
11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	John Latham Sr +

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: Elizabeth Sapcote, Errol Alexander Patrick Cowell, Thomas Losco-Bradley, Olga Secker, Doris Webster, Naomi Dance, Margaret Leonard, Flora Aurelia Booth, Ellen Storey, John Perkins, Charles Martin, Winifred Mary Fuller, Anthon Eskdale, Anna Taylor. *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, Paul Holdsworth, Joss Holdsworth

Money Matters: Offerings for the week was as follows:
Plate Collection 19th July 2026: £248.12.

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 26 th July - Saturday 1 st August 2026	
Monday: 1900 - 2030	AA Group Meeting - Emmaus Room
Wednesday: 1900	Parish Family Day Planning Meeting - Emmaus Room
Parish Garden Club – To volunteer, please contact Sonia on 07985 521578	

Upcoming Church Calendar Events/ Feasts:

17th Sunday is World Day of Prayer for Grandparents and Elderly - We remember with gratitude the wisdom, love, and faith of our grandparents and elderly members of our community, asking God's blessing upon them.

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

Parish Family Day (5 Sep 26) 2nd Planning Meeting - Second planning meeting will be held in the Emmaus Room at 1900 hours on Wednesday 29 Jul 26. Please come and help us plan for a super successful day of celebration.

Altar Servers Day Out - Changes to Altar Servers' Day Out! As previously announced, it will now proceed as originally planned.

The Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord will be on 6th August 2026.

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.

COLW Course - Catechesis of the Good Shepherd course 3rd - 8th August

This course is a wonderful way to share the faith with young children using hands-on materials and presentations in a prayerful and contemplative setting. It is being hosted by the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham at their convent on Neatherd Moor. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact the course leader Christine Byrne at christinedeigratia@gmail.com or visit www.cgsuk.org

Wedding - Daniel Aidoo and Alexis Pereira will be married on 22nd August at 1400.

Word of Thanks/ Prayers - We pray for the safety and wellbeing of all members of our Parish who are travelling or enjoying their summer holidays at this time.

Parish Pastoral Council Update: Four parishioners have confirmed their intention to join the PPC, which will be formally established this September. Three others are still discerning and have yet to provide their response in the coming weeks.

Parish Diocesan 50th Anniversary Celebration Family Day. The schedule for our Diocesan 50th Anniversary Parish Family Day on 5 Sep 26 is currently as follows:

- 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).
- 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).
- 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.*