

GOSPEL REFLECTION: THE 21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The Key

Who do you think Jesus is? As small children we are told that Jesus is the Son of God, and we accept it readily. When we are children God is a kindly father figure who lives in Heaven and listens to our night prayers. When we are small, Jesus is the baby we see in the Christmas Nativity scene. When we are a little older, Jesus is the teller of all those intriguing parables. Once we are young adults, we see Jesus as a great teacher, a healer, a worker of miracles and a revolutionary. For some of us, doubts creep in. Is Jesus really the Son of God or simply a good man and a great prophet?

In today's gospel Jesus asks his disciples "Who do you say I am?" "You are the Christ," replies Peter promptly, "the Son of the living God." But this wasn't Peter's opinion from the start. Peter and the other disciples first met Jesus as a fellow human being. By working with Jesus and following his ministry daily, Peter and the other disciples gradually came to the extraordinary conviction that God was working through Jesus; speaking, healing, working miracles and offering eternal salvation.

Today we listen again to Jesus' question, "Who do you say I am?" It seems that the question is stretching over the centuries. It seems that the question is aimed not just at the disciples but at us. Jesus doesn't want us to give the answer we've been taught to give ... our answer has to be from the heart. Our answer might be, "I don't know!" Our answer might be, "I'm not very sure right now." Or our answer might be a resounding, "You are Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus knows that faith is a journey and our answer reflects at exactly what stage of that journey we have reached.

It may be that we think of Jesus as little more than a good man and a great prophet. If this is what we believe, the Bible becomes little more than a book filled with good stories and sound philosophy. If like the disciples we are convinced that Jesus is the Son of God, all at once we are opening ourselves to great possibilities.... all at once we have found the key to life's greatest adventure.



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 23rd August 2026 - The 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

[Sundays Year A, 21st Week of the Year, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week 1]

MASSSES in the PARISH

Saturday 22nd August	Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
14.00 NUPTIAL MASS	Wedding of Daniel Aidoo & Alexis Pereira
18.00 MASS	For the People of the Parish
Sunday 23rd August	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
09.00 MASS	
11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	Fr Dick Healey + (JM)
Monday 24th August	ST BARTHOLOMEW (Feast)
- No Mass	
Tuesday 25th August	Feria
10.00 MASS	
Wednesday 26th August	Feria
10.00 MASS	
Thursday 27th August	St Monica
- No Mass	
Friday 28th August	St Augustine
- No Mass	
Saturday 29th August	The Passion of St John the Baptist
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	
Sunday 30th August	22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
09.00 MASS	For the People of the Parish
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: Adrian Sheath, Damian Ring-Davies, Mary Hayter, John McGowan, Jack Stearman, Marley Coe, Janetta Elizabeth Smith, Francis Gray, Doris Jarvis, Patrick McMahon. *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, Frank Crawley, John Salmon, Mad Knight, Paul Holdsworth, Joss Holdsworth, Patsy Tracey, Nora Reeve, Maggie Haywood..

Money Matters: Offerings for the week were as follows:
Plate Collection 16th August 2026: £235.70.

Gift Aid - Rex is in the process of finalizing the parish Gift Aid claim for tax year 6th April 2025 to 5th April 2026 and would be obliged if parishioners who are members of the scheme would let him know if there have been any changes to your personal circumstances regarding the payment of income tax (or change of address). In the absence of any such information it will be assumed that you are still a tax payer and the parish will reclaim tax from HMRC on the offertory donations you have made during this financial year.

If there are any parishioners who pay tax and are not part of the Gift Aid scheme, please let Rex or Father Jay know. This is a great way for the parish to get additional funds from the tax reclaim. With this scheme you do not need to commit to a fixed amount as it will be based on your annual contribution. Contact details for Rex Baker are: Telephone 01362 694801 or email rexbaker27@btinternet.com.

For those who would like to make their regular offerings by Standing Order, the information you need is: Account name: The Sacred Heart Church, the Sort Code is: 52-41-29 and the Account number is: 44725132. If you are a tax payer, please consider Gift Aid. Gift Aid forms are available at the back of church. This will help to maximize our donations in the Parish. 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.

Upcoming Parish events:

Diary for week Sunday 23 rd August - Saturday 29 th August 2026	
Monday: 1900 - 2030	AA Group Meeting - Emmaus Room
Parish Garden Club – To volunteer, please contact Sonia on 07985 521578	

Word of Thanks/Prayers: Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Alexis and Daniel Aidoo on their wedding. We pray that God blesses their marriage with love, joy, peace and many happy years together.

No Mass on the 27th August and 1st September as Fr Jay is away.

Parish Pastoral Council Update - Our Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) has now been formed, and we warmly thank all those who responded generously to this call to serve our Parish community. We are pleased to present the following members of the PPC, who now take on the important task of helping to shape the pastoral life and mission of our Church, namely: *Myrna Kemp, Ciji Cyriac, Kevin Pugh, Stephen Lloyd, Kathleen Edmunds, Kate Meehan, Emmanuel Osei and John Booth*. Our first official meeting will take place in October 2026. Please include them in your prayers. Copies of the Promulgated Diocesan Policy on PPC are available at the back of the Church.

Parish Diocesan 50th Anniversary Celebration Family Day - A Parish Family Day, in celebration of the Diocesan Jubilee, will be held at 2.30pm on Saturday 12th September 2026 at the Walsingham Sisters Convent, Neatherd Moor. Please bring food, drink and picnic gear (e.g. blanket). Food provision volunteer sheet is at the back of the church. *Ideas for activities most welcome.*

RCIA Course - Are you thinking of becoming a Catholic? Or being confirmed as an adult, or just growing in understanding your faith? All are welcome. The RCIA course (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) will start 22nd September in Dereham, Tuesday evenings 7 pm. Please use the application form at the back of the church and pass it on to Fr Jay. We look forward to meeting you. *Kevin and Rachel Pugh.*

First Holy Communion for 2026/7 - Forms are now available at the back of the church for preparation for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion for 2026/7. Children must be entering Year 3 and above at school. There will be a meeting for parents in September and classes start in October. Please return forms to Fr Jay.

Join Pope Leo in Lourdes, 27th September 2026 - Pilgrim Among Pilgrims.
This would be a wonderful opportunity to make a pilgrimage to Lourdes, especially as Pope Leo will be there on 27th September 2026.

Mass Coordinators for the Three Sunday Masses:

- Weekday and Saturday 1800 Mass - Theresa Pitcher
- Sunday 0900 Mass - Rex Baker
- Sunday 1100 Mass - Gerry McCarthy