

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Accepting Our Crosses

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering and death at the hands of the elders, chief priests and scribes. Peter took Jesus aside, "This must never happen to you," he said. Surely Peter only had Jesus' best interests at heart. Imagine how mortified he must have felt to hear Jesus reply, "Get behind me Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

What kind of deal is it to get everything you want in life but lose your soul? So often when we finally get what we want in life, the euphoria is short lived. We might feel elated for a few days at achieving one of our closest held ambitions, but then we are left with that hollow, 'what next?' kind of feeling. Today Jesus is talking about the necessity for suffering and dying. But why does Jesus see accepting the cross as a necessity? Why does he not stop to consider the alternative that Peter suggests?

As Christians we are asked to live life differently from those who struggle to fill life with pleasure and enjoyment. There is a well-known saying that goes, 'It is better to die a meaningful death, than live a meaningless life.' As Christians we have to transcend, self-interest, self-preservation and ego trips. The person who tries to indulge in every enjoyment may find him or herself chasing impossible rainbows. Could this be Satan's favourite trick? By trying to make life perfect by our own human agendas, are we in danger of reaching the end of life only to realise we have not lived life at all?

The Beheading of John the Baptist - 29th August

John the Baptist was one of those dangerous sorts of people who had an uncanny knack of calling a spade a spade. He spoke publicly of Herod's corrupt behaviour, and even when Herod put him behind bars, John continued to speak out. Of course, it was speaking out about Herod's marriage to Herodias that eventually led to his death. We might not want to tread on toes by speaking up, but if we want our voice to endure beyond the grave, now isn't the time to pussyfoot.

Bitesize - "The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time." - ~Author unknown



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 30th August 2026 - The 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

[Sundays Year A, 22nd Week of the Year, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week 2]

MASSSES in the PARISH

Saturday 29th August 18.00 MASS	The Passion of St John the Baptist
Sunday 30th August 09.00 MASS 11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time For the People of the Parish Teofilo Montero + (SS)
Monday 31st August - No Mass	Feria
Tuesday 1st September - No Mass	Feria World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation
Wednesday 2nd September 10.00 MASS	Feria
Thursday 3rd September 10.00 MASS	ST GREGORY THE GREAT (Feast) Maria de los Angeles Coto + (SS)
Friday 4th September - No Mass	Feria
Saturday 5th September 18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	Feria For the People of the Parish
Sunday 6th September 09.00 MASS 11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time The Holy Souls in Purgatory + (SS) Gonzalo Mausisa Sr + (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: Alfred Chapman, John Power, Charles Victor Mann, Elizabeth Keatley, Norah Greenlee, Conal O'Donnell, Albert Foley, Hector Frosick, Donato Salamone, Doris Evelyn Edith Henderson, Paul Morris, Evelyn Maquire, James Robins. *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 23rd August 2026: £260.08.

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 rex baker27@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 30 th August - Saturday 5 th September 2026	
Monday: 1900 - 2030	AA Group Meeting - Emmaus Room
Parish Garden Club – To volunteer, please contact Sonia on 07985 521578	

No Mass on the 1st September as Fr Jay is away.

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Mass for the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be held at 1000 hours on Tuesday 8th September 2026.

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, The House of the Divine Will, Neatherd Moor. Please bring food, drink and picnic gear (e.g. blanket). Food provision volunteer sheet is at the back of the church.

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.

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