

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

No Man Is An Island

To give correction occasionally is an unpleasant duty, and to receive it is an equally unpleasant duty. Which is harder? An honest answer tells us a lot about our personality.

Every one of us has experienced confrontation over our behaviour at one time or another. How did we respond? More than likely we didn't respond well. None of us like to have our faults pointed out. At worst it can send us into a spiral of heated indignation and stubborn denial, protesting our innocence and hurling accusations back in retaliation. Ultimately, whether the criticism was taken on board or not depends on the spirit in which it was given. Was the criticism dealt by a friend with our best interests at heart, or was it dealt in a spirit of anger and come-uppance? How the criticism was dealt and how we responded is key in our dealings when it's our turn to correct someone else.

Most of us dislike having to correct someone else; we procrastinate and beat about the bush. Mightn't it be easier all round if we pretended the problem didn't exist? The main flaw with that strategy is that the papers are full of serious examples of what can happen when problems are side stepped and left to fester. How many people have allowed abuse, deception, injustice and even holocaust because they have kept quiet and avoided confrontation? There's no getting round it, there will come a time when we need to meet confrontation head on.

Today's gospel tells us how to confront someone we know to be in the wrong. We should make the confrontation on a one to one basis in a spirit of love and empathy. If our attempts at putting things straight fail, we should attempt to involve a third party. An extra pair of objective ears can often take the heat out of a situation; this is why people often take their problems to a counsellor. When Jesus says "Where there are two or three gathered in my name....." he is making it clear how important we are to one another. No man is an island; we all need each other's support. We all need each other's empathy, and there will come a time, when we all need a good honest dose of tough love.

Bitesize - "Nobody stands taller than those willing to stand corrected." ~ William Safire



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 6th September 2026 - The 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

[Sundays Year A, 23rd Week of the Year, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week 3]

MASSSES in the PARISH

Saturday 5th September	Feria
18.00 MASS	For the People of the Parish
Sunday 6th September	23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
09.00 MASS	The Holy Souls in Purgatory + (SS)
11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	Gonzalo Mausisa Sr + (MK)
Monday 7th September	Feria
- No Mass	
Tuesday 8th September	THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (Feast)
10.00 MASS	John Booth + (JAB)
Wednesday 9th September	Feria
10.00 MASS	John Merrick (Fdn)
Thursday 10th September	Feria
10.00 MASS	George Sillince (Healing) (SS)
Friday 11th September	Feria
- No Mass	
Saturday 12th September	The Most Holy Name of Mary
15.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For the People of the Parish
Sunday 13th September	24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
09.00 MASS	Sandra Wood + (MJ)
11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	Jossy & Ciji Cyriac (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: Eleanor Finnimore, George Hill, Joan Foster, Maurice Finnimore, Michael Carey, Janice Theresa Maria Blows. *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, Mary McDonagh, John McDonagh, Jim Philpot, Maureen Philpot..

Money Matters: Offerings for the week were as follows:
Plate Collection 30th August 2026: £225.45.

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.

. If you are a tax payer, please consider Gift Aid. Gift Aid forms are available a 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: 44725132t the back of church.

There will be no Mass on the 15th September, due to a Deanery Meeting.

Upcoming Parish events:

Diary for week Sunday 6 th September - Saturday 12 th September 2026	
Monday: 1900 - 2030	AA Group Meeting - Emmaus Room
Friday: 1915 - 2030	Altar Servers Meeting - Emmaus Room
Saturday: 1430	Parish Family Day - House of the Divine Will (Convent)
Parish Garden Club – To volunteer, please contact Sonia on 07985 521578	

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 - Our Parish Family Day will be in held at 2.30 pm on Saturday 12th September 2026 at the Walsingham Sisters Convent, Neatherd Moor. Please bring food, drink and a blanket.

RCIA Course - 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. All welcome. *Kevin and Rachel Pugh.*

First Holy Communion 2026/7 application forms are at the back of the church. Please complete and return forms asap if you would like your son/daughter to be prepared for the Sacrament. They must be in Year 3 or above. There will be a meeting for parents on Thursday 1st October at 7pm. Sessions for the children start 5.30 pm on Thursday 8th October.

Adoremus National Eucharistic Congress, Saturday 10th October

The Diocese is delighted that fifty places are available for participation in the National Eucharistic Congress in London on the 10th of October this year. The day begins at midday with Mass in St George's Cathedral, Southwark, followed by a keynote address by Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe. After a picnic lunch, the day will culminate with a historic Eucharistic Procession, through the streets of London, from Southwark to Westminster Cathedral where devotions will continue into the evening. Those who would like to register interest in participating in this momentous celebration of our faith are asked simply to email the Diocesan Adoremus Representative, peter.wygnanski@rcdea.org.uk to receive further information. (Those taking part will need to arrange their own transport to and from the event.)

Please Remember Your Parish Church in Your Will - A gentle invitation to consider remembering your Parish Church when making or updating your Will. Leaving a legacy, however small or large, is a lasting way of supporting the mission of the Church and investing in the future of our Parish for generations to come.

A Light-er Moment

The Prayer: A little girl was saying her prayers before bed. "Dear God," she prayed, "please look after Mummy, Daddy, my brother and my sister." She paused. "And please look after yourself, God. If anything happens to you, we're all in trouble!"