

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Time to Forgive

Forgiveness is difficult. We read about the victims of horrendous crimes and wonder how those people could ever begin to forgive - we even question why they should have to. Most of us know how hard it is to forgive even a small grudge once it has been left to fester. Many of us know what it is like to excuse ourselves with "... Well she started it so she should really apologise first," or, "It's his problem not mine." There are limits on our forgiveness. Why should we accept the apology of someone who has let us down repeatedly? Why if we have given someone every last chance should we be expected to forgive yet again? Yet Jesus tells us that we must forgive "... not seven times, but seventy seven times."

If there should be no limits to our forgiveness perhaps we should begin by looking at what makes it so difficult to grant genuine forgiveness. Anger probably comes top of the list. We don't want people to get away with hurting us. Pride often stands in our way too. Forgiving someone often involves an element of 'climbing down'. Also close to the top of the list of obstacles comes a lack of understanding. When we hear of a crime, whether it is small or large, we always ask "Why?" It seems that in order to forgive, we must first understand what has made the other person do what they have done.

Today's readings suggest that in order to make it easier to forgive others, we should look at how often we have asked God to forgive us, often for the same failing. This is the lesson in today's gospel. Jesus is reminding the servant who was unable to forgive that he himself was forgiven. How could the servant expect his master's forgiveness if he could not forgive others? Remembering how we have been forgiven makes us more compassionate when it is our turn to forgive.

Exaltation of the Holy Cross - 14th September

We are called to participate in the struggle against evil in every form: racism, social injustice, oppression, infidelity, dishonesty, and corruption. The Risen Lord wishes to deliver us from all evil. But how? Not by removing every difficulty, but by giving us courage to face it and overcome it. Our sufferings are stepping-stones to victory. We look to the cross as a symbol of triumph over suffering and the promise of eternal life.

Bitesize - "To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you." - Lewis B. Smedes



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 13th September 2026 - The 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

[Sundays Year A, 24th Week of the Year, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week 4]

MASSSES in the PARISH

Saturday 12th September	Feria
15.00 MASS	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)
Monday 14th September	Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Feast)
11.30 Baptismal Mass	Baptism of Jasper Benjamin Damont
Tuesday 15th September	Our Lady of Sorrows
- No Mass	
Wednesday 16th September	Ss Cornelius & Cyprian
10.00 MASS	Philip John Kemp + (MK)
Thursday 17th September	Feria
10.00 MASS	Ciji Cyriac (Intentions)
Friday 18th September	Feria
- No Mass	
Saturday 19th September	Feria
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	
Sunday 20th September	25th 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: Annie Cecilia O’Ryan, Sidney Platt, Ferdinand Rupp, William Goulden, Paul Hodak, Stewart Aylin, Peter John Bussey. *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 6th September 2026: £288.35.

August Offertory giving via BACS: £2,020.

August DONA Giving: £298 (Offertory £252; Flowers; £7; General Donations £39).

Next Sunday 20 Sep 26 there will be a Second Collection for Home Mission Sunday.

Bank Details. 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.

When entering/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. Please let Rex know if you give Gift Aid and there have been any changes to your personal circumstances regarding the payment of income tax (or change of address). Thanks.

This Week’s Parish Diary:

Diary for week Sunday 13 th September - Saturday 19 th September 2026	
Sunday: 1100	Childrens Liturgy
Monday: 1400 - 1600	Tea Buddies - Monthly get together for a cuppa and a chat (all welcome). Emmaus Room 
Monday: 1900 - 2030	AA Group Meeting - Emmaus Room
Tuesday: 1900 - 2100	RCIA Gathering – Old Hall, Dereham
Parish Garden Club – To volunteer, please contact Sonia on 07985 521578	

Upcoming Parish Events and Notifications:

Baptism of Jasper Benjamin Damont - 14 September at 1130. We warmly welcome Jasper Benjamin Damont as he will be baptised in the Parish. May he grow in faith and love, supported by his family and our parish community.

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

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 Thu 8 Oct 26.

130 Club Draw for September 2026:

Quarterly Prize £75 - Ticket No.147. Richard Jones.

1st Prize £20 - Ticket No.43, Muriel Harmer; 2nd Prize £15 - Ticket No.92, Bruce Wheeler; 3rd Prize £10 - Ticket No.158, Estelle Morris; 4th Prize £10 - Ticket No.188, Chris Sayer.

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.)

Novus Ordo Missae - Starting this Advent every Thursday at 1000 Mass

Fr Jay will start to say the Latin Mass in New Order every Thursday at 1000 Mass followed with the Adoration, as usual, starting in Advent. For those who are keen in Latin Mass in the New Rite, copies will be available at the back of the Church in due course.

Details of Rev Fr Richard (Dick) Healey’s funeral arrangements have now been confirmed: 30th September at 1030, St Edmund’s Church, Bury St Edmunds. *Requiem Mass celebrated by Bishop Peter.*

Church Closing Times - As there have been people loitering around the Church and opening the garage and Church, the Church will be locked at random times, especially in the afternoon, for safety and security, temporarily.

Bequests - 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.