

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

If you Love Me

Jesus' 'farewell discourses' are a bit like a teacher's final lesson before an exam packed with important advice. "If you love me you will keep my commandments." "Love one another as I have loved you." "The Spirit of Truth will abide with you when I am gone."

Love of course is key to all Jesus' last minute advice. There's lots we already know about love from our own relationships. If we love and care about each other we say where we are going and what time will be back home. If we love each other we don't keep secrets or have affairs. If we love each other we put our loved one's needs before our own. It's the same with God; we show God we love him by keeping his commandments. Commandments aren't there to create unnecessary discipline, they are there to keep us in love with God and with each other.

Jesus knew that once he was gone some of his commandments would become less clear. Two thousand years down the line there are many issues that have grey areas, such as euthanasia, and the sciences that govern nuclear energy or fertility. For instances such as these, Jesus left us an 'Advocate' a 'Spirit of Truth'. We are promised that the 'Spirit of Truth' will guide us through all of life's difficult decisions. Jesus left us with hope and help, now it's down to us.

Ascension Thursday, Real and Present

On this day we imagine Jesus going to some place high above the clouds, to some faraway place beyond death. But if the disciples felt any sense of abandonment that's certainly not how they acted. The disciples didn't leave the scene of the Ascension in mourning; they returned with great joy and praised God in the temple day after day. It is clear that the disciples did not experience Jesus as absent. It is clear that in everything they did from then on that Jesus was real and present in their lives.

Bitesize - "One word frees us of all the weight and pain of life: That word is love." - Sophocles - *Greek tragic dramatist (496 BC - 406 BC)*



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 10th May 2026 – 6th Sunday of Easter
[Sundays Year A, 6th Week of Easter, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week 2]

| MASSES in the PARISH | |
|---|---|
| Saturday 9th May | Easter Feria |
| 18.00 | For the People of the Parish |
| Sunday 10th May | SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER |
| 09.00 MASS | Michael Manley + (P & S) |
| 11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i> | Terri Sanderson + (JD) |
| Monday 11th May | Easter Feria |
| - No Mass | |
| Tuesday 12th May | Easter Feria |
| 11.00 MASS | Funeral Mass for Pat Sutton + |
| Wednesday 13th May | Our Lady of Fatima |
| 10.00 MASS | Cherry Skoyles (Intentions) |
| Thursday 14th May | THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD |
| 10.00 MASS | (Solemnity) Holy Day of Obligation |
| 17.30 MASS | Dylan Ward (Healing) (WW) |
| Friday 15th May | Easter Feria |
| - No Mass | |
| Saturday 16th May | Easter Feria |
| 18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i> | For the People of the Parish |
| Sunday 17th May | SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER |
| 09.00 MASS | Anisha Cyriac + (CC) |
| 11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i> | Kurian Wedding Anniversary (LK) |
| 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: Eric Atkinson Brown, Ann Dent, Catherine (Kay) Garrard, Kathleen Davis, Margaret Kingsbury, Paul Theocleous, Henry Westcott. *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.

Money Matters: Offerings for the week was as follows:
Plate Collection 3rd May 2026: £247.16.
There will be a 2nd Collection for World Communications Sunday 17 May 26.

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 10 th May - Saturday 16 th May 2026 | |
|---|---|
| Sunday: | |
| Monday: 1400 -1600 | Tea Buddies - Monthly get together for a cuppa & a chat (all welcome). Emmaus Room |
| Monday: 1900 - 2030 | AA Group Meeting - Emmaus Room |
| Tuesday: 1830 | RCIA Meeting |
| Thursday: 1730 - 1830 | First Communion Group – Presbytery |
| Friday: 1915 - 2030 | Altar Servers Group Meeting – Emmaus Room |
| Saturday: | Plant Sale – Church Grounds |
| Parish Garden Club – To volunteer, please contact Sonia on 07985 521578. | |

Red Charity Boxes – Would the Red Charity Box holders please return the boxes.

Upcoming Funeral: +Pat Sutton - 12th May at 1100 Mass - *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord...* We commend her to our Lord Jesus Christ, entrusting her to His mercy, and we pray for the consolation and strength of her family and loved ones.

Plant Sale 16th/17th May - Plants will be on tables marked as £4, £3, £2, £1 and 3 for a pound. If you're kindly donating plants, place them on the table of their choice.

Upcoming Church Calendar Events:

- **24 May** – Pentecost Sunday. Following the 1100 Mass, we are warmly invited to a small celebration for the Solemnity of Pentecost Sunday in the Parish Garden of Healing. All are welcome, and bringing food to share would be greatly appreciated. A list for food contributions is available at the back of the Church.
- 7th June - 1st Communion
- 12th June – The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, *Parish Patronal Feast*

Crowning of the Our Lady

We shall crown Our Lady on the 9th and 10th of May at all Masses. At the 1100 Mass, however, the crowning will take place in the Garden of Healing.

130 Club Draw for March 2026:

Quarterly Prize £25 – Ticket No.86, Gerry McCarthy.
1st Prize £20 – Ticket No.97, Robert Dean; 2nd Prize £15 – Ticket No.110, Muriel Harmer; 3rd Prize £10 – Ticket No.93, Stuart Kendal; 4th Prize £10 – Ticket No.35, Robert Dean.

130 Club Draw for April 2026:

1st Prize £20 – Ticket No.52, Derek & Patty Lloyd; 2nd Prize £15 – Ticket No.175, Dorothy Wheeler; 3rd Prize £10 – Ticket No.33, Michael Fenton; 4th Prize £10 – Ticket No.183, Andrew Cwiczek.

130 Club Draw for May 2026:

1st Prize £20 – Ticket No.170, Robert Dean; 2nd Prize £15 – Ticket No.5, Andrew Rogerson; 3rd Prize £10 – Ticket No.97, Robert Dean; 4th Prize £10 – Ticket No.60, Jo Moreton.

Forming Catholic Student leaders, Singles' Retreat - For more details, visit:

www.christianleadershipformation.com and a 1-page PDF summary for circulation can be downloaded here.

PRIESTLY VOCATION: A DAY OF DISCERNMENT IN THETFORD - All men who are open to discerning a call to serve God through the priesthood are warmly invited to attend a Day of Discernment. Date: Saturday, **16 May 26**. Venue: St Mary's Catholic Church, Thetford. The day will begin with Mass at 1030, includes a provided lunch, and will conclude at 3:00pm. The programme will include: Input on the theology of priestly ministry; Guidance on the journey of discernment and formation; Opportunities for discussion; Eucharistic Adoration. To attend, please contact: *Fr Christopher Smith, Vocations Director for the Diocese, Email: christopher.smith@rcdea.org.uk Tel: 01502 723207*