

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Wheat and Weeds - Jesus compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a field in which the master has sown good seed. In the night, an enemy comes and plants weeds, so when the crop grows it is a mixture of wheat and weed. The servants' instinct is to pull the weeds out, but the master demands that the bad grow alongside the good, he himself will sort the wheat from the weeds at the final harvest.

It's a typical Palestinian problem, the darnel weed, which looks just like wheat in its early stages is a menace to the harvest. The roots of the darnel weed intertwine with the roots of the wheat. To pull the darnel out can jeopardise the harvest. Similarly, just as it's hard to tell the difference between wheat and darnel, so it's not always easy for us to tell the difference between good and evil. A bad person can change and become good, and a seemingly good person might not be as virtuous as we imagine. It's best if we refrain from judging; this job is best left to God.

In films and novels, the good guys always win and the bad guys always get their come-uppance. Happy endings satisfy our human sense of justice, but in reality justice seems strangely elusive. We come up against evil time and time again. Sometimes we get so angry that we want to take justice into our own hands. Sometimes we are incensed that God can allow evil to grow alongside good, but before we get too irate, maybe we need to stop and take a good long look in the mirror. What makes us so sure that we're not weeds too? Where did we get that assurance that we are represented in the parable as the wheat?

Rarely is reality black and white. We all have good and bad inside us. We all need to change, and we all deserve the opportunity to make those changes. Perhaps this is the reason Jesus' advises us to leave the evil to grow alongside the good. As Martin Luther King Jnr. once said, "God's purpose is not wrathful judgement. God's purpose is redemption, and the road to redemption is by way of reconciliation."



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 Deacon: Rev. Martin Sanderson
Parish Music team: Judy Reid, Kathleen Edmunds & William Preddy.
Parish Safeguarding Representative: Kathleen Edmunds

Sacred Heart & St Margaret Mary



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Sunday 23rd July 2023 – 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A
 [16th Week of the Year, Weekdays Year I, Psalter Week 4]

MASSES in the PARISH

Saturday 22nd July		
18.00	First MASS of Sunday	Ted Isbill+ (JB)
Sunday 23rd July		16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
09.00	MASS	For the People of the Parish
11.00	MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	Private Intention
Monday 24th July		Feria
10.00	MASS	Teresa Revell+ (EW)
Tuesday 25th July		St. James (Feast)
10.00	MASS	
Wednesday 26th July		Ss Joachim & Anne, Parents of BVM.
10.00	MASS	
Thursday 27 July		Feria
10.00	MASS & ADORATION <i>Live streamed</i>	Elvira Lobo+ in thanksgiving. (Maria)
Friday 28th July		Feria
-	No Mass today	
Saturday 29th July		Ss Mary, Martha & Lazarus.
18.00	First MASS of Sunday	For the People of the Parish
Sunday 30th July		17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
09.00	MASS	John Perkins+ (CP)
11.00	MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	For the Holy Souls in Purgatory (SS)

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.

For Live Streamed Masses Search for Dereham Catholic Church on YouTube, or use the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCR-qWs-B40VTvbzezZ83MxQ/videos?view=2&flow=grid>

The parish newsletter is available on the parish website from Friday each week.

Anniversaries this week: John Davies, Tomasz Wyrwick, Doris Cousal, Emily Veronica (Vera) Noden, Margaret Harlow, Harry Baker, David Thompkins, Elizabeth Sapcote, Errol Alexander Patrick Cowell, Thomas Losco Bradley, Olga Secker, Doris Webster, Naomi Dane, Margaret Leonard, Flora Booth, Ellen Storey, John Perkins. *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: Shirley Liebenhals, Derek Williams, Patsy Gray, Colette Barrow-Nessian, Betty Reavey, Marion Ring-Davies, Fr. Brendan, William Dunne, Pauline Buckland, Gretta Cummings, Marco Johnson, Ena Marie Mifsud, Katherine Vella, Pauline Organ.

Money Matters: Offering for last Sunday: Plate £293.60 and £203.01 (inclusive of single £180 donation) towards acoustics project. Thank you.

For those who would like to make their regular offerings by Standing Order, the information you need is: Account name: **Catholic Church of Dereham.** The Sort Code is: **40-20-08** and the Account number is: **11311115.** If you are a tax payer, please also consider **Gift Aid.** **Gift Aid forms** are available at the back of church. This will help to maximize our donations in the Parish.

Parish Events for the week 23 rd – 29 th July	
Tuesday: 1900	Youth Club Chess & Table Tennis – Emmaus Room.
Wednesday: 18.30-19.30	'The Mass' Video Talks – Emmaus Room. First of six weekly talks & discussion on The Mass given by Bishop Barron. Facilitated by Rachel & Kevin Pugh. Everyone welcome.
Friday: 10.00	Parish Gardening Club – Parish grounds & garden. Volunteers welcome.
Saturday: 1000-1200	Youth Club Tennis – Dereham Leisure Park. If anyone can help with tennis coaching, please let Fr. Jay know.

Chat After Mass - A five-minute silence is now suggested before the start of the Mass. Please be considerate as others would want to pray and spend the first few minutes in silence with God.

Parish Open Forum - Prior to our Parish Stewardship Program, it is but fitting that we shall have a Parish Open Meeting this 6th September at 1830. Please make time for this important date as we would want to hear your voice about stuff relating to our Parish in all its aspects.

Parish Vision - Fr Jay is asking for any suggestions about the Parish Vision we'll be having in September. This will help us navigate through the waters of our Faith as community. Please email the Parish, and all suggestions will be considered. The Parish Stewardship Program 2023 will be launched on the weekend of 23rd and 24th September.

Autumn Parish Social Events – Dates for your Diaries:

- Saturday, 2nd September 2023 – **Altar Servers' Day Out** (Bowling & Pizza)
- Sunday, 10th September 2023 – **Parish BBQ** right after the 1100 Mass.
- Friday, 27th October 2023 – **Parish Auction** at 1830 in the Emmaus Room. Any queries, contact Richard May or Donal Hannon. The proceeds will be used to cover additional expenses for church projects, especially the acoustics improvements.



And not forgetting:

- Thursday, 21st December 2023 – Parish bring & share **Christmas Party** at Yaxham Village Hall from 12 noon – 6.00 p.m.



Norfolk Churches Trust Bike Ride – The annual Norfolk Churches Trust Bike Ride will be taking place on **Saturday, 9th September 2023.** For more information on how to take part go to <https://norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/bike-ride/> or see the poster

& forms at the back of church. Volunteers will be needed on the day to welcome visitors. There will be a rota for this nearer the time. Please sign up if you are able to help.

Young Adults Formation - The Community of Our Lady of Walsingham (COLW) is offering an opportunity to Catholic men and women aged 18 - 35 to live alongside their community in Dereham for a week this summer. There are two choices of dates: 14th - 21st August or 30th August - 6th September. As well as joining community prayers, meals and activities, young adults will receive formation on topics such *Prayer, Scripture, Discernment and the Spirituality of Walsingham.* To find out more and for an application form, please enquire by 30th July by emailing the COLW Sisters at freetobe@walsinghamcommunity.org

75th Anniversary Exhibition commemorating the great 1948 Cross Carrying Pilgrimage to Walsingham - From July until the end of October 2023, the Shrine is holding an exhibition to mark the 75th Anniversary of the Cross Carrying "Pilgrimage of Prayer and Penance for Peace", between 10.00 and 16.00, in the Welcome Centre at the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady, the Slipper Chapel at Houghton St Giles.

Bitesize – 'Be not angry that you cannot make others as you wish them to be, since you cannot make yourself as you wish to be.'

~Thomas à Kempis, *Imitation of Christ*,