

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Buried Treasure - "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure buried in a field; which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all he has and buys it."

In both parables both men appreciate the true value of what they have discovered. Both men are certain about the wisdom of what they must do and are willing to put everything on the line to secure their newfound treasure.

Today Jesus is asking us to determine how much we treasure the Kingdom of Heaven. How valuable is Heaven to us and what are we prepared to do to secure it? Are we prepared to give all we've got and to renounce everything that gets in the way? If the two men in the parables had passed their treasure by or failed to recognise the treasure's value, we would have thought them insane, yet this is how we behave all the time.

All too often we are prepared to let the Kingdom of Heaven slip through our fingers. Perhaps we do this because we have never stopped to reflect on how valuable the Kingdom of Heaven is. Perhaps we have recognised the value of God's Kingdom to us but have forgotten it in the day-to-day distractions of putting meals on the table and paying the bills. Perhaps Heaven's rewards seem so distant that we prefer instead to work for more immediate and tangible rewards, home improvements, fame, social acceptance and career development. Perhaps we think we can work on God's agenda and our own agenda simultaneously, recognising the value of God's Kingdom but not quite able to renounce our own self-interest.

Today Jesus gives us some concrete advice. He tells us that those who study the scriptures and search diligently will find the discernment to recognise God's treasure and the wisdom to secure it.



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 30th July 2023 – 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

[17th Week of the Year, Weekdays Year I, Psalter Week 1]

MASSES in the PARISH

Saturday 29th July	18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For the People of the Parish
Sunday 30th July	09.00 MASS	17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
	11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	John Perkins+ (CP)
Monday 31st July	10.00 MASS	Holy Souls in Purgatory (SS)
	10.00 MASS	St Ignatius of Loyola
Tuesday 1st August	10.00 MASS	Becky Cummings (for healing) (GC)
	10.00 MASS	St Alphonsus Liguori
Wednesday 2nd August	10.00 MASS	Colin Cummings+ (GC)
	10.00 MASS	Feria
Thursday 3rd August	10.00 MASS & ADORATION	Kevin O'Brien+ (PG)
	<i>Live streamed</i>	Feria
Friday 4th August	-	Ted Isbill+ (EW)
	No Mass today	St John Vianney
Saturday 5th August	18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	Feria
	09.00 MASS	John & Joan Faulkner (AM)
Sunday 6th August	11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	The Transfiguration of the Lord
		Mark & Janice Blows+ (AB)
		The People of the Parish

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-B40VTvbzeZ83MxQ/videos?view=2&flow=grid>

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

Anniversaries this week: Charles Martin, Winifred Mary Fuller, Anthony Eskdale, Anna Taylor, Joanna Sokalska, Harrington Garrett, Jack Filby, Iris Reavey, Maria Isabel Ferriera. *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, Greta Cummings, Marco Johnson, Ena Marie Mifsud, Katherine Vella, Pauline Organ.

Money Matters: Offering for last Sunday: Plate £304.95 and £40 Acoustics project donations. Thank you very much.

Acoustics Improvements Project	
Donations to Date £751.62	Project Target £4,200

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.

Next Year's Parish Vision: *Mitte Rete* (Cast the Net – John 21:6) - This is now our new Parish Vision for the coming year, and we hope that this will encapsulate all our efforts as a Christian Community entrusted with a responsibility of casting the net of Christ to others.

Parish Events for the week 30 th July – 5 th August	
Tuesday: 19.00-20.00	Youth Club Chess & Table Tennis – Emmaus Room.
Wednesday 18.30 – 19.30	'The Mass' Video Talks – Emmaus Room. The second of six weekly talks given by Bishop Robert Barron. Friendly and animated, Bishop Robert gives new life to our understanding of the Mass. All welcome. If you missed last week, you can catch up at https://videos.wordonfire.org/themassepisode1 . Facilitated by Rachel & Kevin Pugh.

Parish Events for the week 30 th July – 5 th August	
Friday: 10.00	Parish Gardening Club – Parish grounds & garden. Volunteers welcome.
Saturday: 1000-1200	Youth Club Tennis – Dereham Leisure Park.



Autumn Parish Events – Dates for your Diaries:

- *Saturday, 2nd September 2023* – **Altar Servers' Day Out** (Bowling & Pizza)
- *Wednesday, 6th September 2023* – **Parish Open Forum** at 18.30 in the Emmaus Room. Prior to our Parish Stewardship Programme, it is but fitting that we have a Parish Meeting. Please make time for this important opportunity to discuss our parish life in all its aspects.
- *Sunday, 10th September 2023* – **Parish BBQ** right after the 1100 Mass.
- *Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th September 2023* – **Parish Stewardship Programme (Time, Talents & Treasures)** commences, and continues over the next following two weekends.
- *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. A form is provided at the back of church for those who have items for the auction. This is to list all the items and have it ready beforehand. A light supper will be provided.

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.



Finding a Church on Holiday: [Mass times.org](http://www.masstimes.org) - It can be difficult for Catholics to find a Mass when on holiday or when it is not practical to attend their regular parishes. This really useful website provides worship times, church locations, contact information, website links and maps. Visit www.masstimes.org



Many thanks to Lilibeth Theedam for last week's grand flower decoration.

Bitesize - Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.