

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Is God's Salvation for Us All?



Just when we thought that Jesus' love was all embracing and all compassionate, he shocks us by behaving in a way that can only be described as harsh and unfeeling. In today's gospel Jesus is approached by a Canaanite woman, who pesters him to cure her daughter. 'Canaanite' was the name given to the older inhabitants of Israel who were dispossessed as unclean by Jesus' own people. Jesus would not have been expected to fraternise with such a woman. True to expectation, Jesus does not respond to the woman, explaining that he has been sent

only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel ... this woman is therefore not his problem! Could Jesus really have held this harsh opinion, or was he testing his disciples?

The Canaanite woman continues to pester. She has great faith that Jesus will eventually give in and cure her daughter. Again Jesus responds harshly. "It is not right to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs..." In other words, only Jews had a right to be treated as 'children of God.' The Gentiles on the other hand are likened to dogs. This opinion seems even less like the Jesus we know! Much more likely is the notion that Jesus is stretching his disciples' understanding of God's boundaries, or rather, lack of.

When we first read the Bible we get the feeling that God is simply there for the 'Children of Israel' or the Hebrew Nation, but the truth is that God does not limit his promises to just certain categories of people. The story finishes with Jesus rewarding the woman's faith with a cure. At first it might appear that Jesus is giving in to 'pester power,' though it is much more likely that Jesus had decided from the very outset that he would help this woman. In awarding a cure, Jesus is showing his disciples and us, that faith has the power to melt boundaries and prejudice. Even today we probably imagine God's salvation is for a select few, but today's story teaches us that salvation is there for anyone and everyone who places their trust in God.



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 20th August 2023 – 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A
 [20th Week of the Year, Weekdays Year I, Psalter Week 4]

MASSES in the PARISH

Saturday 19th August		
18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	Kevin O'Brien+ (PG)
Sunday 20th August		20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
09.00	MASS	For the People of the Parish
11.00	MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	Ron Thurstance+ (JD)
Monday 21st August		St Pius X
10.00	MASS	Calvin & Becky Cummings (Sick)
Tuesday 22nd August		The Queenship of the BVM
10.00	MASS	Nigel Doughty (MS)
Wednesday 23rd August		Feria
10.00	MASS	Sue Skinner Jones (M & TS)
Thursday 24th August		St Bartholomew. Feast.
-	No Mass today	
Friday 25th August		Feria
-	No Mass today	
Saturday 26th August		Feria
18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	Joseph Skilton Jnr.
Sunday 27th August		21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
09.00	MASS	Anisha Cyriac+ (CC)
11.00	MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	For the People of the Parish

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday at 17.30

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: Mary Porter, Richard Burrows, Catherine Todd, Adrian Sheath, Damian Ring-Davies, Mary Hayter, John McGowan, Jack Stearman, Marley Coe. *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, Kevin Pugh.

Money Matters: Offering for last Sunday: Plate £370.13 and £58.00 for the 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.

Acoustics Improvements Project - Donations to Date: £874.77 (Project Target £4,200). *There is a box for donations at the back of the church.*

Change to Masses – Please note there will be no Mass on Thursday 24th or Monday 28th August. Fr Jay is away.

Sea Sunday July 2023 – A letter of thanks has been received from Stella Maris for the parish's support through its Sea Sunday appeal in July. The total donation from the parish was £174.54. You can read the letter in full on the notice board at the back of church.

Red Missionary Boxes – A reminder to bring in your red missionary boxes for counting if you have not already done so. Thank you.

First Holy Communion 2024 – If you wish to register your child for the First Holy Communion programme, please complete the form available in the church, and also on the parish website, and return it to Fr. Jay as soon as possible. You will be emailed about the introductory session for parents, which will be in September. Applicants for First Holy Communion must be going into Year 3 or above in September 2023.

Parish BBQ: Sunday, 10th September - If you are attending the BBQ on the 10 September can you enter your name and any dietary requirements, on the form

at the back of the Church. If you are bringing food to share, please add this to the list. This is a wonderful opportunity for the parish to come together to share a relaxed social occasion.

Parish BBQ & Parish Auction Meeting - Anyone who wants to be involved in the planning of the Parish BBQ and the Parish Auction is cordially invited to a meeting in **on Tuesday 22nd August @ 7pm**.

Next Year's Parish Vision: *Mitte Rete* (Cast the Net – John 21:6) - This is now our new Parish Vision. If you could write an article, poem, or reflection based on this theme for *The Shack*, that would be great. (*Deadline for articles for the next issue: 7th September; publication due date: 24 September.*)

Parish Events for the week 20 th – 26 th August	
Tuesday: 1900	Youth Club Chess & Table Tennis – Emmaus Room.
Wednesday 18.30 – 19.30	'The Mass' Video Talks – Emmaus Room. The fifth of six weekly talks given by Bishop Barron. Friendly and animated, Bishop Barron gives new life to our understanding of the Mass. This week's topic is <i>'Preparing for Sacrifice'</i> . All welcome. If you missed last week's episode (<i>'Responding to God'</i>), you can catch up at https://videos.wordonfire.org/themassepisode1 . Facilitated by Rachel & Kevin Pugh.
Friday: 10.00	Parish Gardening Club – Parish grounds & garden. Volunteers welcome.
Saturday: 1000-1200	Youth Club Tennis – Dereham Leisure Park.
Upcoming Parish Events Autumn/Winter 2023 – See the list at the back of church or on the parish website for dates, times & venues.	

Norfolk Churches Trust Bike, Ride, Walk: Saturday, 9th September 2023. Only a couple of weeks to go. See the details at the back of church. Volunteers needed on the day to welcome visitors. Please sign up if you are able to help.



Lux in Tenebris (Light Among the Shadows)

Fr Jay's painting has been made to an A3, 11.7 x 16.5 in., print. Limited copies for each Mass are available at the back for donation of our Acoustic. But indicate if you order more on a piece of paper provided.

Bitesize: "You can find inspiration from others but determination is solely your responsibility." ~ *Dodinsky*