

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Accepting Our Crosses

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering and death at the hands of the elders, chief priests and scribes. Peter took Jesus aside, "This must never happen to you," he said. Surely Peter only had Jesus' best interests at heart. Imagine how mortified he must have felt to hear Jesus' reply, "Get behind me Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

What kind of deal is it to get everything you want in life but lose your soul? So often when we finally get what we want in life, the euphoria is short lived. We might feel elated for a few days at achieving one of our closest held ambitions, but then we are left with that hollow, 'what next?' kind of feeling. Today Jesus is talking about the necessity for suffering and dying. But why does Jesus see accepting the cross as a necessity? Why does he not stop to consider the alternative that Peter suggests?

As Christians we are asked to live life differently from those who struggle to fill life with pleasure and enjoyment. There is a well-known saying that goes, 'It is better to die a meaningful death, than live a meaningless life.' As Christians we have to transcend, self-interest, self-preservation and ego trips. The person who tries to indulge in every enjoyment may find him or herself chasing impossible rainbows. Could this be Satan's favourite trick? By trying to make life perfect by our own human agendas, are we in danger of reaching the end of life only to realise we have not lived life at all?

Bitesize – 'The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time.' ~Author unknown



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
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Sunday 3rd September 2023 – 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A [22nd Week of the Year, Weekdays Year I, Psalter Week 2]

MASSES in the PARISH

Saturday 2nd September	
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For the People of the Parish
Sunday 3rd September	22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
09.00 MASS	Hilda Pritchard+ (CP)
11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	Gonzalo Mausisa+ (MK)
Monday 4th September	Feria
10.00 MASS	For John & Brenda Murphy (Sick)
Tuesday 5th September	Feria
10.00 MASS	For Kevin O'Brien (for healing) (PG)
Wednesday 6th September	Feria
10.00 MASS	Breda Byrne+ (PM)
Thursday 7th September	Feria
10.00 MASS & ADORATION <i>Live streamed</i>	
Friday 8th September	The Nativity of the BVM. Feast.
- No Mass today	
Saturday 9th September	Feria
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	John Merrick+ (Foundation Mass)
Sunday 10th September	23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
09.00 MASS	Anisha Cyriac+ (CC)
11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	Phyllis Thurstance+ (JD)

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: Doris Evelyn Edith Henderson, Paul Morris, Evelyn Maguire, James Robins, Eleanor Finnimore, George Hill, Joan Foster, Maurice Finnimore, Michael Carey, Janice Theresa Maria Blows. *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 £251.40 and £2130.00 for the acoustics project (which includes £1000 from one generous donor). Offertory for July by Standing Orders totalled £1,806.00. Thank you all very much for your generosity.

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: £3061.92 (Project Target £4,200). *There is a box for donations at the back of the church.*

Parish Open Forum – This important open parish meeting takes place this coming week on **Wednesday, 6th September at 1830** in the Emmaus Room, in preparation for the Parish Stewardship Programme which will be beginning later this month. It is an opportunity for everyone to share their views on all aspects of our parish life. Copies of the agenda are available at the back of church and on the parish website.

Parish Events for the week 3rd – 9th September	
Tuesday: 1900	Youth Club Chess & Table Tennis – Emmaus Room.
Wednesday: 1830	Parish Open Forum – Emmaus Room.
Friday: 10.00	Parish Gardening Club – Parish grounds & garden. Volunteers welcome.
Saturday 0900-1700	Norfolk Churches Trust Bike Ride.
Saturday: 1000-1200	Youth Club Tennis – Dereham Leisure Park.

Parish BBQ – Our Parish BBQ will be taking place on **Sunday, 10th September**, in the Presbytery garden, immediately after the 1100 Mass.

Lux in Tenebris (Light among the Shadows) – Copies of Fr. Jay's painting are available at the back of church, with any donations going to the church acoustics project.

Our Parish Vision: Mitte Rete (Cast the Net: John 21:6) – It would be great to have any article, poem or reflection based on this theme for our parish magazine, *The Shack*. Please let Fr Jay have your contributions.



Many thanks to Jan Duffield for last week's grand flower decorations, and to our regular foodbank givers and our volunteer church cleaners.

St Vincent de Paul Society - SVP East Anglia is holding two open Festival days, on 30th Sept in Norwich, and 1st Oct in Newmarket. If anyone would like to come along to find out more about the SVP, please contact Joan Wall at PresidentE06@svp.org.uk for more details.

First Holy Communion 2024 – Register now for children going into Year 3 or above in September 2023. Registration forms are available in the church, and also on the parish website. An introductory session for parents will be held on Wednesday 20th September at 6pm.

Children's Liturgy: Beginning from late September, during the first half of the Sunday 11am Mass, for children in Y1 to First Holy Communion age. This Act of Worship for young children will help understanding of the Mass and the Faith. Please see more information see the website under Catechism/Children's Liturgy.

Pope Francis's Prayer Intention for September 2023 - "A person who dies homeless on the street will never appear among the top stories of search engines or newscasts." Pope Francis attributes this indifference to a "throwaway culture in which millions of men and women are worth nothing compared to economic goods." "Our necks are going to get stiff from looking the other way so we don't have to see this situation." To combat this indifference we need to work on a culture of welcome. Everyone, regardless of circumstance needs to be treated with equal respect and understanding. We are invited to join in Pope Francis' prayer intention for September. We are invited to pray "for those people on the margins of society living in subhuman living conditions."



Back to School - Our children will all be back in school this week. Pray for teachers, support workers, children and parents, that this will be a happy and productive year, and that children, especially those with special needs will be well supported. Remember that next Sunday is 'Education Sunday' when we will be looking particularly at the role of our Catholic schools.