

## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Our Turn to Forgive



Forgiveness is difficult. We read about the victims of horrendous crimes and wonder how those people could ever begin to forgive - we even question why they should have to. Most of us know how hard it is to forgive even a small grudge once it has been left to fester. Many of us know what it is like to excuse ourselves with "...Well she started it so she should really apologise first," or, "It's his problem not mine." There are limits on our forgiveness. Why should we accept the apology of someone who has let us down repeatedly? Why if we have given someone every last chance should we be expected to forgive yet again? Yet Jesus tells us that we must forgive "...not seven times, but seventy-seven times."

If there should be no limits to our forgiveness, perhaps we should begin by looking at what makes it so difficult to grant genuine forgiveness. Anger probably comes top of the list. We don't want people to get away with hurting us. Pride often stands in our way too. Forgiving someone often involves an element of 'climbing down'. Also close to the top of the list of obstacles comes a lack of understanding. When we hear of a crime, whether it is small or large, we always ask "Why?" It seems that in order to forgive, we must first understand what has made the other person do what they have done.

Today's readings suggest that in order to make it easier to forgive others, we should look at how often we have asked God to forgive us, often for the same failing. This is the lesson in today's gospel, Jesus is reminding the servant who was unable to forgive that he himself was forgiven. How could the servant expect his master's forgiveness if he could not forgive others? Remembering how we have been forgiven makes us more compassionate when it is our turn to forgive.

**Bitesize** - "To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you." ~ Lewis B. Smedes



**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.  
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## Sacred Heart & St Margaret Mary



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**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A**  
 [24<sup>th</sup> Week of the Year, Weekdays Year I, Psalter Week 4]

### MASSSES in the PARISH

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September</b>  |   |
| 18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>          | For the People of the Parish                                      |
| <b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September</b>    | <b>24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>                    |
| 09.00 MASS                                 | For Msgr. Peter Uzor ( <i>Dcn MS</i> )                            |
| 11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>            | Philip Kemp+ ( <i>MK</i> )  |
| <b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September</b>    | <b>Feria</b>  |
| - No Mass today                            |   |
| <b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September</b>   | <b>Feria</b>  |
| - No Mass today                            |   |
| <b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September</b> | <b>Ss Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Paul Chong Ha-sang &amp; Companions</b> |
| - No Mass today                            |   |
| <b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September</b>  | <b>St Matthew. Feast</b>  |
| - No Mass today                            |   |
| <b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September</b>    | <b>Feria</b>  |
| - No Mass today                            |   |
| <b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September</b>  | <b>St Pius of Pietrelcina</b>                                     |
| 18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>          | For Fr. Tiago Machado (Intentions)                                |
| <b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September</b>    | <b>Our Lady of Walsingham. Solemnity.</b>                         |
| 09.00 MASS                                 | For the People of the Parish                                      |
| 11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>            | For Christal Joji (Birthday thanksgiving) ( <i>JJ</i> )           |

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday at 17.30**

*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:** Paul Hodak, Stewart Aylin, Peter John Bussey, Gerald Reeder, Helen Browne, *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 £458.61 and Offertory by Standing Order for August 2023 totalled £2,006.00.

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.

**Annual Mass Count** – The annual Mass count commences this weekend for four weeks.

**This Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> September, is Evangelii Gaudium (Home Mission) Day** and there will be a retiring collection after all Masses for the Home Missions.

**Masses this week** – Please note there are no weekday Masses this week while Fr. Jay is on pilgrimage to the Holy Land. We welcome and are most grateful to Fr. James Walsh who will be saying Masses for us this weekend in Fr. Jay's absence.

**Sunday Music Liturgy** – We are now using the simple plainchant music at Sunday Masses. Due to lack of space on the hymn board, please note that the hymn no.502 (Kyrie Eleison) will also be the cue to use the subsequent responses for the Sanctus (hymn no. 505) and the Agnus Dei (hymn no. 509).

**Parish Stewardship Programme** – Next weekend will see the start of our new Parish Stewardship Programme, when we will be thinking about how we can best care for and support our parish and those around us in all aspects of our community life. There will be themed talks given at each of the Masses over the following three weekends.

| <b>Parish Events for the week 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> September</b> |   |
|---|---|
| Tuesday: 1900   | <b>Youth Club Chess &amp; Table Tennis</b> – Emmaus Room.                   |
| Friday: 10.00   | <b>Parish Gardening Club</b> – Parish grounds & garden. Volunteers welcome. |
| Saturday: 1000-1200   | <b>Youth Club Tennis</b> – Dereham Leisure Park.                            |

**Parish BBQ** – Many thanks to everyone who attended and helped to make our parish BBQ last weekend a success, on what turned out to be the hottest day of the year!



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

**First Holy Communion 2024** – If you haven't already done so, please register your child now for First Holy Communion; forms are available at the back of church or on the parish website.

**Children's Liturgy** - Please note that children's liturgy will be recommencing at the 1100 Mass on Sunday, 1st October. It runs during term time only and is 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. For more information see the website under Catechism/Children's Liturgy.

**Mass for the Sick** – The SVP group are planning for a Mass for the sick and housebound, hopefully to be held in early October (date to be confirmed). Anyone who would be able to help with transport, please let Terri or Deacon Martin know.



**Posada:** The Posada is back. Coming in December, families will be invited to house the Posada at their homes for a night or two. This will start on the first Sunday of Advent (3<sup>rd</sup> December) and finishes on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December. A form is provided at the back of the Church for you to sign up.