

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



What Sort of Union Must God Be In?

Born in 1750, the story goes that Italian composer Antonio Salieri studied harpsichord and violin from an early age. Music was his passion, but not possessing much in the way of natural talent, he had to work extremely hard to achieve success. Imagine his feelings of joy and great privilege to reach the prestigious rank of chief composer at the Viennese Court. Then along came the much younger Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart with ten times more in the way of talent. The young newcomer waltzed in and won favour with seemingly little effort. Suddenly Salieri could no longer see himself as lucky or privileged, he could only see God as unfair for granting this younger, and in his eyes, undeserving man so much more than he. There must be times in all of our lives where we have felt God to be unjust.

In today's parable, the workers who were employed in the vineyard all day are aggrieved to discover that the workers employed late in the afternoon are paid exactly the same generous amount. In our capitalistic twenty first century society in which we expect our rewards to match our efforts, we can easily understand this seeming injustice. What sort of union would sanction this? If this parable is meant to illustrate the Kingdom of God, what sort of union must God be in? The parable of course is nothing to do with employment rights; it's a clue as to how salvation will be dealt at the end of time. God's justice will not be dealt in strict mathematical judgement or apportioned by effort or merit. How could it be, when we are all dealt a different hand to begin with? We have to remember that the workers who worked from early morning were not treated unfairly; in fact to begin with they felt themselves to be lucky and privileged. It was misguided of the workers to resent the latecomers sharing in the same reward, just as it is wrong for us to resent those who live lives of sin and become Christians late in life. That we have lived as Christians from the outset makes us the lucky ones, and we mustn't resent God's generosity in welcoming the latecomers.

This parable isn't a justification for living sloppy lives then becoming more Godly as we approach death. However, the parable is a strong reminder that we are all capable of change, and that at whatever point in our lives we wake up to who we are and what we are about, God is ready to welcome us.



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
kathleenedmunds@yahoo.com

Sacred Heart & St Margaret Mary



Parish Priest: Fr Jay T. Magpuyo
 35 London Road, Dereham, Norfolk, NR191AS
 Tel: 01362 694066. Email:
edsacredheart@gmail.com
 Registered Charity No. 278742
www.sacredheartdereham.org.uk



SacredHeartDereham.org.uk

Sunday 24 September 2023 – Our Lady of Walsingham – Year A

[25th Week of the Year, Weekdays Year I, Psalter Week 1]

MASSES in the PARISH

Saturday 23rd September		
18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For the People of the Parish
Sunday 24th September		Our Lady of Walsingham. Solemnity.
09.00	MASS	Halina Rafalska (Sick) (KB)
11.00	<i>MASS Live streamed</i>	Christal Joji (Birthday thanks) (JJ)
Monday 25th September		Feria
10.00	MASS	Fr. Tiago Machado ints.
Tuesday 26th September		Feria
10.00	MASS	Peter & Mary Salmon+ (SC)
Wednesday 27th September		St Vincent de Paul
10.00	MASS	Terry Poth+ (SC)
Thursday 28th September		Feria
10.00	MASS & ADORATION <i>Live streamed</i>	Fr. Patrick Egan+ (Westminster – died 26 th August 2023)
Friday 29th September		Ss Michael, Gabriel & Raphael - Archangels. Feast.
-	No Mass today	
Saturday 30th September		St Jerome
18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For the People of the Parish
Sunday 1st October		26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
09.00	MASS	Paul Morris+ (UM)
11.00	<i>MASS Live streamed</i>	Mr. Joseph+, Mr. Kurian+ & Mrs Elsamma Kurian+ (SJ)

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 link on the parish website.

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

Anniversaries this week: Colin Keatley, Peter Purcell, Agnes Tyce, Bernadette Buxton, Francis Dunn Soddy, Antony Drury, Pope John Paul 1. *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 £428.14; Home Missions collection: £35.62 and £200 for the acoustics project. Thank you.

Upcoming Retiring Collections – i) 6th October: CAFOD Harvest Fast Day. A representative will give a short talk about this on 1st October at the 0900 and 1100 Masses; **ii)** 8th October: For Prisons Week.

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: £3451.92 (Project Target £4,200). *There is a box for donations at the back of the church.* The new system has now been successfully installed.

130 Club Draw for September 2023 - Quarterly Prize £75 - Ticket No. 187: Chris Sayer; 1st Prize £20 – Ticket No. 30: Simon Salter; 2nd Prize £15 – Ticket No. 121, Colette Barrow-Nessian; 3rd Prize £10 – Ticket No. 181: Rex Baker; 4th Prize £10 – Ticket No. 111, Theresa Pitcher; 5th Prize £10 – Ticket No. 57, Derrick Harris.

Annual Mass Count – The annual Mass count continues this weekend (2/4).

Sunday Music Liturgy – A reminder that we are now using the simple plainchant music at Sunday Masses. Hymn no.502 (Kyrie Eleison) on the hymn board is also the cue to use the Sanctus (hymn no. 505) and the Agnus Dei (hymn no. 509).

Parish Stewardship Programme – This weekend sees 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 three weekends, concluding on the weekend of 7th and 8th October.

Parish Events for the week 24th – 30th September	
Tuesday: 1900	Youth Club Chess & Table Tennis – Emmaus Room.
Friday: 10.00	Parish Gardening Club – Parish grounds & garden. Volunteers welcome.
Friday: 1915-2030	Altar Servers Group – Emmaus Room
Saturday: 1000-1200	Youth Club Tennis – Dereham Leisure Park.

Children's Liturgy – Please note that children's liturgy will be starting at the 1100 Mass on Sunday, 1st October. It will run during term time and is for children in Y1 to First Holy Communion age. This Act of Worship for young children will help their understanding of the Mass and the Faith. For more information see the website under Catechism/Children's Liturgy.

First Holy Communion Preparation – Classes begin on Thursday, 12th October 2023, 5.30pm – 6.30pm in the Emmaus Room.

Posada: The Posada is back. This 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 (3rd December) and finishes on the 23rd of December. A form is provided at the back of the Church for you to sign up. Please indicate your name and contact details only.

Many thanks to all who have contributed for the overhauling of our acoustics system which has now been installed. Another major improvement is the choir loft having its own speaker and an outlet for the keyboard and mic so that the organist no longer need a separate speaker as previously. Happy hearing.

Also for last week's Church's flower grand decoration last week, we thank all volunteers and our foodbank regular givers, and not forgetting our church cleaners.

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SVP) "Awareness Month" 27th September - September is a very special month for the Society, as it marks the feast day of St Vincent de Paul the society's patron. The core of the society's work is 'befriending' by one-to-one visiting. There are plenty of ways to get involved and offer your services as a volunteer. If you cannot volunteer, you can be a friend to the society and donate. "Members of the SVP are responsible for the half a million visits made each year: they turn faith into action by sitting side by side with those in need." *For more information contact www.svp.org.uk or speak to Deacon Martin and Terri Sanderson.*



Bitesize - What we are is God's gift to us. What we become is our gift to God.

~Eleanor Powell