

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



The Definition of Insanity

There's a well-known saying that goes, "The road to hell is paved with good intentions."

We all know what it's like to have endless good intentions, but the good intentions are worth little if we don't actually roll our sleeves up and get things done.

A father asks two sons to go and work in the vineyard. The first son says that he won't but changes his mind and does. The second son says that he will but somehow doesn't get around to it.

Which son do we identify with? The first son speaks to those of us who have embraced Christ's teaching late in life. Yet again Jesus is telling us that those who have managed a change of heart are as important to him if not more important than those who think they've got everything right. The second son speaks to those of us who have lots of good intentions, but at the end of the day the evidence of discipleship amounts to little more than lip service.

Originally this parable was aimed at the Pharisees who didn't feel they needed to change how they lived. Like the Pharisees we might feel that we are upright church going people, but that doesn't mean there isn't plenty that we need to address. We still live in a world where there's plenty to put right. God's vineyard needs workers who will say 'yes' to God's plan, and more importantly, roll up their sleeves and get stuck into the job.

Albert Einstein once said, "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results." Most of us struggle with those repetitive behaviours that inevitably lead to the same negative results. Like the second son, we might mean well but constantly fail to make a difference. Today's gospel is an invitation for us to look at what holds us back and what drives us forward, only when we can really understand and address what holds us back can we get stuck into God's work. The first son shows us that it's never too late to change.



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
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Sunday 1st October 2023 – 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A
 [26th Week of the Year, Weekdays Year I, Psalter Week 2]

MASSSES in the PARISH

Saturday 30th September		
18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For the People of the Parish
Sunday 1st October		
09.00	MASS	26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
11.00	MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	Paul Morris+ (<i>UM</i>)
		Mr. Joseph+, Mr. Kurian+ & Mrs
		Elsamma Kurian+ (<i>SJ</i>)
Monday 2nd October		
10.00	MASS	The Holy Guardian Angels
Tuesday 3rd October		
10.00	MASS	Joy Bussey (for healing) (<i>RB</i>)
Wednesday 4th October		
10.00	MASS	Feria
Thursday 5th October		
10.00	MASS & ADORATION	St Francis of Assisi
Friday 6th October		
-	No Mass today	Feria. HARVEST FAST DAY
Saturday 7th October		
18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	Our Lady of the Rosary
Sunday 8th October		
09.00	MASS	Osyth Hawk (<i>Foundation Mass</i>)
11.00	MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
		Joy Bussey (for healing) (<i>CP</i>)

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: Joseph Monks, Grace Brown, Vi (Amelia) Secker, David Peek, Reginald Rayner, Richard Hayter, Josepha Hart. *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.

Please include in your prayers the soul of Ken May+ who died last week.

Money Matters: Offering for last Sunday: Plate £334.35 and £65 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: £3516.92 (Project Target £4,200). *There is a box for donations at the back of the church.*

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day – On Friday 6th October, we are asked to fast and to put the proceeds of our fast in the donation envelopes provided at the back of church. If you are a UK tax payer, don't forget to fill out the gift aid section. Bring your donation envelope back next Sunday or soon after. By sharing a simple meal and giving what you save, you'll be standing in solidarity with vulnerable people who are threatened by disease and poverty, displaced from their homes and communities by the climate crisis.

Today, at the 0900 and 1100 Masses, we welcome Peter Coates who will give a short talk on behalf of CAFOD.

Prisons' Week – Next Sunday, 8th October, is the start of Prisons' Week, during which we are asked to pray for prisoners and their families.

Annual Mass Count – The annual Mass count continues this weekend (3/4).

Parish Stewardship Programme – The second of the three themed talks as part of our introduction to the Parish Stewardship Programme will be given at all Masses this weekend, as we continue to think about how we can best care for and support our parish and those around us in all aspects of our community life.

Children's Liturgy – The children's liturgy begins today at the 1100 Mass. It will run during term time and is for children in Y1 to First Holy Communion age.

First Holy Communion Preparation – A reminder that classes will begin on Thursday, 12th October 2023 5.30-6.30pm in the Emmaus Room.

Parish Events for the week 1 st – 7 th October	
Tuesday: 1900	Youth Club Chess & Table Tennis – Emmaus Room.
Friday: 10.00	Parish Gardening Club – Parish grounds & garden. Volunteers welcome.
Saturday: 1000-1200	Youth Club Tennis – Dereham Leisure Park.

October: Month of the Rosary - Pope Benedict XVI in an address at the Basilica of St. Mary Major where he prayed the rosary with the faithful said: *"Today, together we confirm that the Holy Rosary is not a pious practice banished to the past, like prayers of other times thought of with nostalgia. Instead, the Rosary is experiencing a new Springtime. Without a doubt, this is one of the most eloquent signs of love that the young generation nourish for Jesus and his Mother, Mary. In the current world, so dispersive, this prayer helps to put Christ at the centre, as the Virgin did, who meditated within all that was said about her Son, and also what he did and said."*



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for October 2023 - This month Pope Francis reminds us of the gift of being a good listener. Good listening isn't just about sitting quietly, hearing, and then saying what we were going to say anyhow! Being a good listener isn't about making the right noises and dishing out our own 'good advice'. A good listener understands the person who is speaking and feels how the speaker is feeling. This month Pope Francis asks us to join in his prayer intention for October *".... That the Church may adopt listening and dialogue as a style of life at every level, allowing herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the world's peripheries"*.

Check Out the University Chaplaincy - Many of our young parishioners will be setting off at this time of year for university. We remind our young parishioners to check out the university chaplaincy. Chaplaincies offer spiritual and pastoral support. They can often be a real home-to-home and a place where students can make lasting friendships.

Parish Magazine – Copies of the September issue of *'The Shack'* are available at the back of church and on the parish website.

Bitesize - "Don't say you don't have enough time. You have exactly the same number of hours per day that were given to Helen Keller, Pasteur, Michelangelo, Mother Teresa, Leonardo da Vinci, Thomas Jefferson, and Albert Einstein."
~Life's Little Instruction Book, compiled by H. Jackson Brown, Jr.