

**GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**



**Counting On The Shepherd**

Today's gospel is for anyone who has ever felt unloved or insignificant. Today's gospel is for anyone who feels his or her life doesn't count for much. At some time or another that probably means most of us.

In biblical days shepherding was a highly dangerous business. Herds might consist of thousands of sheep, and shepherds had to be highly skilled in tending for the sheep and protecting them from wolves and robbers. The shepherd's care and courage was legendary. A good shepherd would not think twice about his own life in protecting his sheep. This is the image that Jesus chose for himself in today's gospel. He is the good shepherd. His leadership is a mixture of tenderness, strength and self-sacrifice. Jesus loves us so much that he would lay down his life. That's a powerful belief to take out into the world!

But what if we don't quite believe it? Surely there are too many of us to love and look after individually. People fall by the wayside all the time. We hear tragic stories of elderly people who die alone and are not discovered for days because no one cares enough to visit. We see down and outs sleeping in subways because their family and friends have given up on them. Can God really be looking out for each and every one of us? Surely there are too many of us to look after – to love individually. Not so! Jesus we're told would not let even one of his sheep stray without coming to the rescue. He knows each and every one of us by name. If we are one of his, then he will recognise us and take care of us. That's another powerful belief to wake up with. The next time you are feeling lost and forgotten, try looking for the Good Shepherd's love in your life. God's help is always there when we look to him.



**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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**Sacred Heart & St Margaret Mary**



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SacredHeartDereham.org.uk

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

[Sundays Year B, 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week 4]

**MASSES in the PARISH**

<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April</b>	18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	+Jose Pereira (SP)
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April</b>	09.00 MASS	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (World Day of Prayer for Vocations)</b>
	11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	+Kath Borthwick (RB)
<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	10.00 Service of the Word & Holy Communion	For the People of the Parish
<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	10.00 MASS	<b>Easter Feria</b>
<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April</b>	- No Mass today	<b>St George, Patron of England</b>
<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April</b>	- No Mass today	+Kath Borthwick (EW)
<b>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April</b>	10.00 Funeral Mass for +Kath Borthwick	<b>Easter Feria</b>
<b>Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April</b>	18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For the People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April</b>	09.00 MASS	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>
	11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	Martin & Terri - Golden Wedding
		+Luz Sudaria (MK)

**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:** Thomas Nally, William Robertson, William Gibbons, Kathleen Rud, Howard Leslie, John Woodhouse, Theo Sanders, Peter Gormans, Bridget Ithell, Fr. Guy (Vincent) Wace OSB. *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, William Dunne, Pauline Buckland, Gretta Cummings, Katherine Vella, Pauline Organ, Kevin Pugh, Joy Bussey, Dorothy Edwards.

**Money Matters:** Offering for last Sunday: Plate £393.45. Thank you. **CAFOD donation:** £230.65. CAFOD extends its thanks to the Parish for your generosity.

**World Day of Prayer for Vocations: Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024** – There will be a retiring collection after all Masses this weekend for the Diocesan Priests' Training Fund. **A message from Bishop Peter:** 'We are blessed in our diocesan family with three seminarians, a student for the priesthood residing in South Africa, and a possible candidate for entry to formation in September of this year. There is also an encouraging number of other men discerning a potential vocation to the priesthood, so it is all the more vital for the future of the diocese to enable adequate financial support for the training of priests. The cost of training our diocesan students for the current year will amount to £92,418. I urge you to be as generous as possible in supporting the annual second collection, which last year raised approximately £20,000.' (Donations can also be made through the diocesan website: [www.rcdea.org.uk/vocations](http://www.rcdea.org.uk/vocations))

**Please Note** - There is no Mass on Wednesday or Thursday this week as Fr. Jay will be away.

**130 Club** – Following the completion of the renewal subscriptions, there are over 20 numbers available for the 130 club. If anyone would like an extra number or if anyone is not a member and might like to join, they could see me at 6pm Mass on Saturday or email me at [marciaslee@hotmail.com](mailto:marciaslee@hotmail.com) or phone me or even leave a message or text on 01362690521 or 07786914478. Due to the reduction in the uptake of subscriptions, it is necessary to reduce the prizes this year from five prizes per month to four. If numbers increase for next year, this prize could then be reinstated at that time.

**Red Missionary Boxes** - It is time once again for donations to the Red Missionary Boxes to be counted and the money sent off to Missio (APF). So

please will you bring your boxes to church over the next two Sundays, so that there can be another count and the monies sent to Missio. Thank you.

**Funeral Mass of +Kath Borthwick at our Church this Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> April at 10:00** – Let our presence be, as one community, a gesture of consolation to the Borthwick family on this date, commending the soul of our beloved Kath to our loving Father.

**Lift Needed from Swanton Morley to the Church** - A lady from Swanton Morley would like a lift to the Church during Sunday for Mass. If you are along that area and would like to offer help, please call Fr Jay.

<b>Parish Events for the week 21<sup>st</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> April</b>	
Sunday: 1100	<b>Children's Liturgy</b> (for children in Y1 to 1st Holy Communion age)
Wednesday: 1430	<b>Queen of Peace Prayer Group</b> – Emmaus Room. All welcome.
Thursday: 1730-1830	<b>First Communion Class</b> – Emmaus Room
Friday: <b>Gardening Club</b>	- Volunteers are asked to please contact Sonia on 07985 521578 for next meeting date.
Saturday: 1430-1530	<b>Lectors &amp; Eucharistic Ministers Training</b> – in the Church, for existing and new or prospective volunteers.

**Parish Film Showing on Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 1800 in the Presbytery: ONE LIFE (2023), starring Anthony Hopkins** - ONE LIFE tells the true story of Sir Nicholas 'Nicky' Winton, a young London broker who, in the months leading up to World War II, rescued 669 predominantly Jewish children from the Nazis.

**Martin & Terri's Golden Wedding Anniversary: Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> April, 12:00 at Aldiss Park, Dereham FC, Norwich Road** – Could those intending to come please notify Terri or Martin on 01362 822590, for catering purposes. Terri & Martin do not wish for any presents but if anyone is wishing to give something, they are invited to give something extra to the Food Bank.

**Parish General Meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> May at 1830 in the Emmaus Room** - Please attend our Parish General Meeting as we shall discuss matters regarding the developments of our ongoing project proposals from the Alive in Faith.

**Method Prayer (2024)** - Fr Jay presents his newly published book entitled *Method Prayer*. This book offers exploration as it invites the readers to the nuances of prayer both as an art and as a journey. Copies are available at the back of the Church for £6.99.



**Bitesize** - 'When at night you cannot sleep, talk to the Shepherd and stop counting sheep.' ~Author Unknown