

## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 22<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



**How Not to Impress God!** - It's easy to be fooled. Mr and Mrs Devout are always in church, always to be seen praying, always lighting votives, always to be found kneeling in their favourite pew. Are Mr and Mrs Devout good people? Well very possibly, but outward appearances can be deceptive. Perhaps Mr and Mrs Devout are the salt of the earth, but not necessarily. Despite their Sunday best, perhaps Mr and Mrs Devout spend the rest of the week, complaining about the refugees next door, gossiping about other parishioners and ignoring the plight of the beggar sitting on the church doorstep. Outward appearances are no indication of what lies beneath.

Today the Pharisees complain to Jesus, that his disciples do not wash their hands before eating. Their complaint does not stem from food hygiene. The Pharisees had very many rituals intended to keep themselves pure and undefiled, and one of these rituals was washing before eating. The ritual in itself is not so very wrong. We ourselves have a ritual of saying 'grace before meals', but where Jesus finds fault is in their flawed grasp of what is important. Jesus uses their complaint to teach a lesson, and the lesson isn't really anything to do with washing.

What do we think pleases God? The Pharisees were not bad people, but they had strayed a long way from pleasing God. To the Pharisees, religion was all about abiding by hundreds of rules and regulations. Many of these rules were about keeping themselves segregated from anything in the world that would make them unclean. They had become so obsessed by this that they no longer engaged well with the world and all its suffering. They lived by lofty and judgmental ideals that Jesus totally rejected. Jesus didn't deliberately set out to disregard tradition, but at the same time, he had come to engage with the world and its needs. Jesus' main concern was for the poor the sick and the marginalised, and he went out of his way to associate himself with them. He saw the Pharisees placing barriers between man and God, and he wasn't having it!

We do not become unacceptable to God by failing to follow a set of outward rules. We become unacceptable to God when our hearts become cold. God is not impressed when we turn up for Mass in our Sunday best. God is best pleased when we show the world a loving and sincere heart.

**Bitesize** - They are not all saints who use holy water. ~Anon.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024 – 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
 [Sundays Year B, 22<sup>nd</sup> Week of the Year, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week 2]

### MASSES in the PARISH

<b>Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August</b>		
18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For the People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September</b>		<b>22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> ( <i>World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation</i> )
09.00	MASS	
11.00	MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	+Gonzalo Mausisa ( <i>MK</i> )
<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September</b>		<b>Feria</b>
11.00	Funeral Mass of Donato Salamone	
<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September</b>		<b>St Gregory the Great. Feast</b>
10.00	MASS	
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September</b>		<b>Feria</b>
10.00	MASS	
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September</b>		<b>Feria</b>
10.00	MASS & ADORATION	
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September</b>		<b>Feria</b>
-	No Mass today	
<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September</b>		<b>Feria</b>
18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For the People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September</b>		<b>23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> ( <i>Education Day</i> )
09.00	MASS	+John Merrick ( <i>Foundation Mass</i> )
11.00	MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	+John Booth ( <i>JB</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:** Elizabeth Keatley, Norah Greenlee, Conal O'Donnell, Albert Foley, Hector Frosdick, Doris Evelyn Edith Henderson, Paul Morris, Evelyn Maguire, James Robins, Elanor Finimore, George Hill, Joan Foster. *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, Pat Grout.

**Money Matters:** Offering for last Sunday: Plate £288.04. Thank you.

**Music at Sunday Mass** – Please note that we will be singing hymn 808 this Sunday but using the alternative version which is printed beneath hymn 1000 in the hymnal. That is the original and is in the singular, whereas the one printed for 808 is in the plural.

**Funeral Mass of Donato Salamone: Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September at 11:00** – We offer our heartfelt thoughts and prayers bringing comfort and strength to Donato's family as we commend his soul to God, our loving Creator.

**Education Sunday: 8<sup>th</sup> September 2024** – Next Sunday is Education Sunday. Please see the letter attached, from Bishop Peter.

**Church Heaters** – Our new heaters are now installed. Thank you for your patience during the chilly months.

<b>Diary for this week 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> September 2024</b>	
Monday: 1400	<b>Yard Sale Planning Meeting</b> – Emmaus Room
Monday: 1900-2030	<b>AA Group Meeting</b> - Emmaus Room
Wednesday: 1430	<b>Queen of Peace Prayer Group</b> – Emmaus Room. All welcome.
<b>Parish Garden Club</b> – To volunteer, please contact Sonia on 07985 521578.	



**An evening of gardening on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> September at 1800** - Yearly grounds maintenance session. If you can spare an hour or two to help that would be most helpful and appreciated. Please bring your gear. Snacks provided to keep us going.

**Parish BBQ: Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2024 after the 1100 Mass** - Don't forget to add your name to the list at the back of the church if you will be attending.

**Norfolk Churches Trust Bike Ride: Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September** - Volunteers are needed to welcome and register participants. There is a rota for this at the back of church. Please sign up if you are able to spare a little time for this during the day.



**First Communion 2025** – An urgent reminder that application forms are available at the back of the Church and on the website for children who are starting Year 3 or above in September 2024. **There will be a meeting for parents on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> September at 1800 in the Emmaus Room.**

**Parish Yard Sale, Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September** – Please keep your donations coming - there is room for plenty more! All proceeds will go to church funds.

**Creation Time, 1<sup>st</sup> September – 4<sup>th</sup> October** - The Season of Creation begins on September 1st, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends on October 4th, the feast day of St. Francis, the patron saint of ecology in many traditions. There is an urgent need to find solutions to the crisis facing our common home. Together, we are fulfilling our role as stewards of God's creation. **Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for September 2024: For the Cry of the Earth** - Pope Francis invites us to join in his prayer intention for September, *"...that each of us hears with the heart the cry of the Earth and victims of natural disasters and climate change, personally committing to care for the world we inhabit."*



**Movie Screening: Cabrini (2024) | PG-13** - Join us for an inspiring film experience on **Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> September at 1730 in the Presbytery**. Don't miss this opportunity to be uplifted by the story of *Cabrini*. Synopsis: *Arriving in New York City in 1889, Italian immigrant Francesca Cabrini is greeted by disease, crime and impoverished children. She soon sets off on a daring mission to convince the mayor to secure housing and health care for society's most vulnerable. With broken English and poor health, Cabrini uses her entrepreneurial mind to build an empire of hope unlike anything the world has ever seen.*



We thank all our many parish volunteers and groups for their help each week in supporting the running and daily and spiritual life of the parish.



**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.*