

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Opening New Possibilities

It seems the older we get, the more we learn to keep our mouths shut! Over the years we have learned that speaking from the heart can get us into trouble. Perhaps saying what is on our minds might not earn us the reputation we would like. It might not fit in with our sophisticated image to admit that we are afraid, or neurotic, or in need of help. We tend to avoid issues that we've learned to keep private... money, relationships, and religion are possibly the top three subjects we have learned to keep to ourselves.

Today's gospel reading gives us at first impression a straightforward account of the healing of a deaf man. After a few more readings however, we realise that the point of the miracle is a sign that Jesus was the Messiah. It was a sign that the Jews of that time would have expected of a Messiah. It had long been prophesied that the ears of the deaf would be unsealed, and that the tongues of the dumb would sing for joy. More than this, by choosing a Gentile as the subject of his miracle, Jesus is telling us that there is no discrimination when it comes to Gods' salvation.

When it comes to matters of faith, many of us have a bit of a speech impediment. Sadly, in this day and age, people who talk openly about their religious beliefs can be viewed as odd, and so we keep our mouths shut. On matters of conscience that are difficult to speak out on, we become selectively deaf. Today's gospel points out the wrong in keeping our beliefs private. Time and time again, Jesus shows us that God's love is available to everyone without prejudice. Time and time again Jesus shows us that love and acceptance can open up whole new possibilities in broken lives. Our faith cannot be limited to one hour on a Sunday morning. We are invited to 'open up' and share the possibilities God offers with everyone we meet.

Bitesize - Read, every day, something no one else is reading. Think, every day, something no one else is thinking. Do, every day, something no one else would be silly enough to do. It is bad for the mind to continually be part of unanimity.
~Christopher Morley



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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Sunday 8th September 2024 – 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 [Sundays Year B, 23rd Week of the Year, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week 3]

MASSES in the PARISH

Saturday 7th September	18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For the People of the Parish
Sunday 8th September			23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. <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>)
Monday 9th September			Feria
	10.00	MASS	Sheeba Antony's intentions
Tuesday 10th September			Feria
	10.00	MASS	+Breda Byrne (<i>PM</i>)
Wednesday 11th September			Feria
	10.00	MASS	+Hilda Pritchard (<i>CP</i>)
Thursday 12th September			Feria
	10.00	MASS & ADORATION	
Friday 13th September			St John Chrysostom
	-	No Mass today	
Saturday 14th September			The Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Feast
	18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For the People of the Parish
Sunday 15th September			24th Sunday in Ordinary Time. <i>Evangelii Gaudium Day.</i>
	09.00	MASS	+Tony Whitehouse (<i>CP</i>)
	11.00	MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	+Philip Kemp (<i>MK</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: Maurice Finnimore, Michael Carey, Janice Theresa Maria Blows, Annie Cecilia O’Ryan, Sidney Platt, Ferdinand Rupp. *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 £294.69. Thank you. Today is Education Day and there is an *optional* collection for the Catholic Education Service after all Masses this weekend. **Next Sunday**, 15th September, is Evangelii Gaudium Day and there will be a retiring collection after all Masses next weekend for the Home Missions.

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 is will help to maximize our donations in the Parish.



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, 12th September at 1800 in the Emmaus Room.**

Diary for the week 8 th – 14 th September	
Sunday: From 1200	Parish BBQ today after 1100 Mass in the presbytery garden.
Monday: 1400-1600	Tea Buddies: Monthly get-together for a friendly natter over a cuppa – Emmaus Room. All welcome. Every second Monday of the month. 
Monday: 1900-2030	AA Group Meeting - Emmaus Room
Wednesday: 1030-1415	Deanery Meeting after morning Mass, followed by lunch – Emmaus Room
Wednesday: 1430	Queen of Peace Prayer Group – Emmaus Room. All welcome.

Diary for the week 8 th – 14 th September	
Friday: 1915-2030	Altar Servers Group – Emmaus Room
Saturday: 0900-1700	Norfolk Churches Trust Bike Ride: - 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. 
Parish Garden Club – To volunteer, please contact Sonia on 07985 521578.	

Altar Servers Meetings resume this week on Friday, 13th September 1915 – 2030 in the Emmaus Room.

Children’s Sunday Liturgy at 1100 Mass will be resuming next Sunday, 15th September.



Movie Screening: *Cabrini* (2024) | PG-13 - Join us for an inspiring film experience on **Wednesday, 18th 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.*

Parish General Meeting: Wednesday, 2nd October 2024 at 1830 – We shall be discussing wonderful stuff regarding our Parish life – so please join us at this meeting and extend your comments and suggestions.

Date for your Diary – The date & venue for our Christmas Party this year have now been confirmed as Sunday, 15th December at Yaxham Village Hall.

800th Anniversary of Stigmata of S Francis - The Norwich Secular Franciscans invite you to celebrate the 800th Anniversary of St Francis receiving the Stigmata in a vigil from 1800 until 1000 on 17th September at St George’s, Sprowston, Norwich.

Off To Uni’? Check out the Chaplaincy - Chaplaincies obviously vary from university to university but more often or not the chaplaincy is a daily social drop-in and hub, used by a wide variety of students and staff, and commonly regarded as a “home from home”. You can get yourselves hot drinks read the papers, meet others, or sit with your books and laptop. All are made welcome.



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.