

## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 27<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



### To Love and To Cherish

It's easy to make promises in the first flush of romance. "I'll love you forever" and "I've only eyes for you," trip off the tongue easily. When we're young the idea of marriage is romantic and highly desirable. The vows we make when we marry don't seem too difficult. In sickness and in health? We don't imagine that our spouse might become an alcoholic or succumb to a disability. For richer or poorer? We don't think that our partner will lose his or her job or become swallowed up in bad debt. For better or worse? We don't think for a moment that our loved ones will fall out of love with us and look elsewhere. So what happens when things go wrong? Does God really expect us to stay in abusive or loveless marriages?

This week's gospel text is one of the most heatedly debated passages in scriptures. "What God has joined together, no human being must separate." These are tough words for those who cannot make their marriage work. Yet the gospel is more about the hardness in man's heart than an instruction on marriage and divorce.

At the time Jesus spoke these words divorce was permitted. It was a man's prerogative to 'dismiss' his wife for little reason. The wife was very much a disposable possession. It was this attitude that Jesus abhors in his answer to the Pharisees. In a world where marriage was taken lightly because divorce was managed easily, Jesus condemned the hardness in men's hearts and called them to look at God's plan that from the beginning of creation male and female should become one.

Of course we don't hold the same attitudes today, or do we? Sadly the answer is yes. We are surrounded by quick fix relationships, couples that only stay together while the going is good; couples that promise nothing and make no commitment; couples that are in it only for what they can get.

Marriages fail for all sorts of reasons, not always anyone's fault - this is a reality. It is hard to imagine that God would want us to stay in a marriage where we were the subject of abuse or real misery, but what we know for sure is that we shouldn't enter into the sacrament of marriage with the attitude that it is simply a contract with a let-out clause if things go wrong. We enter marriage believing it to be a relationship in which we can love and cherish.



### 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 6<sup>th</sup> October 2024 – 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

[Sundays Year B, 27<sup>th</sup> Week of the Year, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week 3]

#### MASSES in the PARISH

<b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October</b>		
18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	
<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October</b>		<b>27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
09.00	MASS	+Paul Morris
11.00	MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	For the People of the Parish
<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October</b>		Our Lady of the Rosary.
10.00	MASS	Osyth Hawke's Int. ( <i>Foundation Mass</i> )
<b>Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October</b>		Feria
-	No Mass today	
<b>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October</b>		<b>St John Henry Newman. Feast</b>
10.00	MASS	Private Int.
<b>Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October</b>		Feria
10.00	MASS & ADORATION	+Paul Goodstadt ( <i>CP</i> )
<b>Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October</b>		Feria
-	No Mass today	
<b>Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October</b>		Feria
18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For the People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October</b>		<b>28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
09.00	MASS	
11.00	MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	+Elaine Smith ( <i>JD</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:** Reginald Rayner, Richard Hayter, Josepha Hart, Maud Juby, John Pearson, Sheila Flanagan, Joe Stasiowski, Maybel O'Donnell, Nellie Pinchbeck, David Jones, Sylvia Remen, Letizia Barrett. *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 £243.37 and Offertory by Standing Order for September 2024 was £2,125.00. Thank you. For any tax-payers who wish to **Gift Aid** their offering, forms are available at the back of church.

**CAFOD Family Fast Day –** There is a retiring collection after all Masses this weekend for CAFOD's Family (Harvest) Fast Day which took place on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> October. There are envelopes for this at the back of church. If you are a taxpayer, please consider gift-aiding your donation.

**Mass Count| (3/4) Every Sunday now until the 19<sup>th</sup> October -** If we could at our best attendance on these Sundays.

**Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> October –** Please note there is no Mass today.

**Baptism |** Sean Chidozie Njoku on 6<sup>th</sup> October at 1100.

<b>Diary for the week Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2024</b>	
Sunday: 1100 Mass	Please note there is no Children's Liturgy today. Resumes again next week.
Monday: 1730-1830	<b>Baptism Group –</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.
Thursday: 1730-1830	<b>First Communion Group –</b> Emmaus Room
Friday: 1915-2030	<b>Altar Servers' Group –</b> Emmaus Room
<b>Parish Garden Club –</b> To volunteer, please contact Sonia on 07985 521578.	

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


**Church Volunteer Cleaners Needed -** Please join us in cleaning the Church at your convenient time. You may approach Catherine or Fr Jay to acknowledge.

**House Mass and Thanksgiving | 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1100** at the Pugh Residence, Old Hall, Dumpling Green, Dereham

**SVP Parish Mass for the Sick | 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct at 1330 -** Please join us at the Parish Mass for the Sick led by the SVP on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October at 1330. Lunch is provided after the Mass.

**Parish Wednesday Scripture Study | Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist by Bran Pitre -** We shall be exploring the Jewish roots of the Eucharist through a series of video presentation in the Emmaus Room starting from the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 1730.


**Parish Christmas Party | 15<sup>th</sup> December in Yaxham Village Hall at 1200 -** Kindly pencil this date in your calendar to celebrate Christmas together as a community.



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.

**Month of the Holy Rosary -** The month of October each year is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary. This is because the liturgical Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated annually on October 7<sup>th</sup>. It was instituted to honour the Blessed Virgin Mary in gratitude for the protection that she gives the Church in answer to the praying of the Rosary by the faithful. Pray the Rosary this month for world peace.



 **Pope Francis Prayer Intention for October 2024: For a Shared Mission -** In urging co-responsibility, Pope Francis clarifies that priests "are not the bosses of the laity, but their pastors," and stresses how Jesus calls upon us all to complement one another. With this spirit, the Holy Father calls on all baptized people in the Church at all levels to remember how the Church is their home, and therefore, reminding them of their responsibility to take care of it. Pope Francis invites us to join in his prayer intention for October, "... *That the Church continues to support a synodal way of life, under the sign of co-responsibility, promoting participation, communion, and shared mission among priests, religious, and laypeople.*"

**Bitesize -** To be wronged is nothing unless you continue to remember it. *Confucius*