

## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Love Rules



Love your enemies and do good to those who hate you? Surely that's a recipe for becoming a doormat, yet this is what Jesus is asking us to do in today's gospel.

The six o'clock news fuels our anger. We want to hit back at the terrorists who hurt us. We want to see consequences for those who kill or maim or take away from us. Jesus' advice doesn't make any sense. How can we love those we don't even like! How can we forgive when punishment feels more human? But in the words of Martin Luther King Jr "When you live by the rule 'an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, you end up with a nation

of blind and toothless people".

These are tremendous words, because they tell us that when we respond to those who hate us with love instead of recrimination, we defeat evil. So how do we make it work? Firstly we have to know that love isn't a warm fuzzy emotion that leaps out of a Valentine's card. Love is a decision. Love is not a feeling it's a choice. We have to make decision to do good and then do it. We know we are loved by the way we are treated, and in the same way we have to show others that we love them by the way we treat them. Next come the rules. Do not judge and you will not be judged. Do not condemn and you will not be condemned. Give and it will be given to you. In short, we have to treat everyone the way we would like to be treated ourselves whether we like them or not. If everyone could live their lives by Jesus' teaching conflict and war would be confined to dusty history books.

**Bitesize** - The heart never becomes wrinkled. ~Marie de Rabutin-Chantal



**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 Representatives:** Paul McIntee & Kate Meehan

## Sacred Heart & St Margaret Mary



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**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2025 – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
[Sundays Year C, 7<sup>th</sup> Week of the Year, Weekdays Year I, Psalter Week 3]

### MASSES in the PARISH

#### Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

18.00 *First MASS of Sunday*

George Mealy (for healing) (PM)

#### Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

09.00 MASS

For the People of the Parish

11.00 MASS *Live streamed*

Harry & Freda Wilkes+

#### Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February

**Feria**

- No Mass today

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#### Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February

**Feria**

10.00 MASS

Thomas Tazario (Thanksgiving)

#### Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February

**Feria**

10.00 MASS

The English Family+ (Fdn)

#### Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February

**Feria**

10.00 MASS & ADORATION

Mona Murphy+ (Fdn)

#### Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February

**Feria**

- No Mass today

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#### Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March

**St David, Patron of Wales**

18.00 *First MASS of Sunday*

#### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

#### 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

09.00 MASS

11.00 MASS *Live streamed*

**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:** Isabel Joan Hooper, Bridget Drury, Vera Farmer, Dora Ellen Heasman, Frances Watson, John Edwards, Cecilia Stack, Maria Amaral, Ruth Fahey, Jolyon Hooley, Robert Secker. *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, Greta Cummings, Katherine Vella, Pauline Organ, Joy Bussey, Pat Grout, George Mealy, Peggy Mealy, Richard Allison, Marion Ring-Davies, Patsy Thompson, Ann McWilliams, Diana Banks-Conney.

**Funeral Service for Bryan Hill Waters | 28<sup>th</sup> February** - We humbly include our prayers for the eternal repose of the soul of Bryan Hill Waters, as we extend our deepest condolences to his beloved family during this difficult time.

**Money Matters:** Offering for last Sunday: Plate £279.99 and £97.28 for the second collection for flowers. Thank you.

For those who would like to make their regular offerings by Standing Order, the information you need is: Account name: **Sacred Heart and St Margaret Mary Catholic Church.** 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.

**Deacon Rick Jones | Welcome** – Deacon Rick Jones, mainly based in Walsingham, has now started to help us out at the 1800 Mass on Saturday, so we welcome him as we wish him to flourish in his ministry in our parish.

**Music from the Sanctuary** - Judy will be playing for the 1800 Mass on Saturday near the Sanctuary, as it is now becoming difficult for her to go upstairs.

**Church Heaters' Pilot Light to be left on** - Please ensure the pilot lights on the Church heaters remain lit, as relighting them may be challenging.

**Parish Honour Roll Board** - The Parish Honour Roll Board has now been posted at the Narthex wall. This signifies our gratitude to the committed service of the pastors who have shepherded our Parish over the years. A special note of thanks goes to Gerry McCarthy who made this project a reality.

**Reactivating the Parish Pastoral Council 2025** - The PPC these past years have not really taken off for some reasons. Fr Jay is now in the process of

selecting and appointing, through recommendations, a new set of officers. Fr Jay will formally announce the new PPC members at the Parish General Meeting to be held in September.

**Parish Safeguarding Volunteers Re-Checking** - The Safeguarding re-checking of the Parish volunteers will start next week. Paul McIntee will initiate the process, and Kate Meehan will join him at some stage.

<b>Diary for the week Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February – Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> March</b>	
Sunday: 1100 Mass	<b>No Children's Liturgy</b> – <i>Half-term holiday. Sunday liturgy resumes on 2<sup>nd</sup> March.</i>
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:	<b>No First Communion Class</b> – Classes resume on 6 <sup>th</sup> March.
Friday:	<b>No Altar Servers Group</b> – Meetings resume on 7 <sup>th</sup> March.
<b>Parish Garden Club</b> – To volunteer, please contact Sonia on 07985 521578.	

**Parish Plant Sale | 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> May 2025** - The Parish will hold a flower plant sale on the weekend of 24<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> May. We thank the Flower Ladies, particularly Helen, for spearheading this initiative.

**Volunteers Needed to dismantle the crumbling shed in the Parish Garden.** This site will soon become the home of Our Lady's Grotto. If you can assist, please join us on 6<sup>th</sup> March at 1100, and please don't forget to bring your hammer. Your support will help make this beautiful project possible.

**Pray for the recovery of Pope Francis** - We are asked to pray for the recovery of Pope Francis. We ask God, "Have mercy on Pope Francis in his illness now, we pray, and guide the medical staff who are caring for him. Grant him peace and healing. Through Christ our Lord."

**St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows, 27<sup>th</sup> February** - Everybody knows somebody who appears saintly, not because they have done anything big or clever or dramatic, but because they have done a whole lot of little things well and reliably. That describes St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows perfectly. St. Gabriel was born 'Francis' but took the name St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows when he entered the Passionists as a novitiate. Gabriel died from tuberculosis in February 1862. His example reminds us that we don't need to strive to be heroic but simply to make small acts of kindness every day.



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.