

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Continued...

On the other hand, if Jesus was here today could he really condemn people to stay put in marriages where physical or mental abuse threatens the wellbeing of a spouse or a child? Would Jesus insist on people soldiering on in loveless or deeply unhappy marriages? Some people choose divorce as an easy option, but for the majority divorce is rarely embarked upon happily. It is nearly always painful for all involved. Could Jesus really condemn these people?

“What God has joined together, let no one separate.” It has the ring of law, yet as with all laws, it is the spirit of the law that is all important. We find the clue to Jesus’ words in his declaration that Moses permitted divorce “...because of the hardness in man’s heart.” The answer to the debate is held in our own heart. If we make decisions based on our own self-gratification or self-interest, we become hard hearted and are in real danger of making poor decisions. If we make decisions grounded in love and compassion, God will surely be there to help us through.

Bitesize – “Love does not consist of gazing at each other, but in looking together in the same direction.” ~*Antoine de Saint-Exupery*



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.

Prayer for the Election of a Bishop

O God, eternal shepherd, who govern your flock with unfailing care, grant in your boundless fatherly love a pastor for your Church who will please you by his holiness and to us show watchful care. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

St. Felix: Pray for us.

St. Fursey: Pray for us.

St. Edmund: Pray for us.

All Holy Martyrs and Saints of East Anglia: Pray for us.

PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART AND ST. MARGARET MARY [Registered Charity 278742]

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3RD OCTOBER 2021 – 27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year B

[27th Week of the Year, Weekday Year I, Psalter Week 3]

Mass Times for the Week			Intentions
Sat. 2 Oct.	6.00 pm	27 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	P. & H.’s Ints. (6/10) Philip Kemp (May) The People of the Parish
Sun. 3 Oct.	9.00 am 11.00 am		
Mon. 4 Oct.	10.00 am	St Francis of Assisi	Anisha Cyriac (2/3)
Tues. 5 Oct.	-	Feria	No Mass today
Weds. 6 Oct.	10.00 am	Feria	O’Gorman Family
Thurs. 7 Oct.	10.00 am	Our Lady of the Rosary	Osyth Hawke (Fdn.)
Fri. 8 Oct.	10.00 am	Feria	Anisha Cyriac (3/3)
Sat. 9 Oct.	-	St John Henry Newman	No morning Mass
Sun. 10 Oct.	6.00 pm 9.00 am 11.00 am	28 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	K. Abraham The People of the Parish Halina (Borthwick)

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - from 9.25 a.m. – 9.55 a.m.
before each weekday Mass.**

The Church is open daily until 6:00pm

Anniversaries this week: Vi (Amelia) Secker, David Peek, Reginald Rayner, Richard Hayter, Josepha Hart, Maud Juby, John Pearson, Sheila Flanagan. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.*

Useful links: Diocesan Safeguarding – <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/safeguarding/>
Diocesan Website – <http://www.rcdea.org.uk>
Notre Dame High School, Norwich – <http://www.ndhs.org.uk>
Daily Liturgy Website – www.universalis.com

ALL MASSES ARE LIVE STREAMED ON YouTube –

Search for **Dereham Catholic Church** on YouTube, or use the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCR-qWs-B40VTvbezZ83MxQ/videos?view=2&flow=grid>

The parish newsletter (incl. back copies) is available to view on the parish website from Friday onward each week.

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. Brendan either by phone or by email.

Sick & Housebound [with GDPR Permissions] – Please pray for: Carol Whitesides, Shirley Liebenhals, Frances Saville King, Derek Williams, Greta Cummings, Patsy Gray, Allan Michael Howard, Collette Barrow-Nessian, Terri Sanderson, Ellen Harrington.

Money Matters: Thank you for your offering 'on the plate' of £110.30 last weekend for the day-to-day running of our parish. There is a retiring collection after all Masses this weekend following last Friday's **CAFOD Harvest Fast Day**. Envelopes for this are available at the back of church.

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**. This is a great way for the parish to get additional funds from the tax reclaim benefits scheme; with this scheme you do not need to commit to a fixed amount as it will just be based on your total annual contribution. Let Fr. Brendan know if you would like to sign up to Gift Aid.



Newsletter by Email - Please let Fr. Brendan know if you would like to receive the parish's weekly bulletin by email. We have a GDPR compliant list of names for this purpose.

First Holy Communion Classes - The forms for enrolment in the First Holy Communion Classes are available from the table at the back of the church. I can always print more, if necessary.

Prisons' Week – Next Sunday (10th October) is the start of Prisons' Week, during which we are asked to pray for prisoners and their families.

Some works about the church that are being organised: On Tuesday next the trip switches/fuse board in the church will be renewed. On Friday 8th October the gas heaters in the church will be serviced for use in winter and at a date yet to be fixed the toilet will be refurbished. We have received permission to spend the necessary funds for this Alive in Faith Project. Later in October a Health and Safety Inspection of the church and presbytery will take place.

Diocesan Newman Lectures 2021 - This year's in-person Newman Lecture will be at 7pm on Saturday 9th October, given by Rt Hon Prof Ruth Kelly on 'What should we expect from politics after Covid?' at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist, Norwich. The lecture is preceded by Mass at 6pm. All are welcome. For more details see www.newmanlectures.co.uk

Masses for Miscarriage and Infertility will be celebrated by Bishop Alan, at OLISE Church in Newmarket. For more information <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/couples-with-miscarriages-or-infertility-are-not-alone/>. A Mass for those who have experienced **miscarriage** (Sunday 10th October 2021, 12 noon). Families are welcome, refreshments afterwards. A Mass for those affected by **infertility** (Saturday 6th November 2021, 11 am), followed by a talk on treatment options for Catholic couples with infertility by Dr Phil Boyle, President of the International Institute of Restorative Reproductive Medicine and founder of NeoFertility. We respectfully ask that children do not attend this November Mass.

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



What God Has Joined Together...

Today the Pharisees ask Jesus in their usual barbed fashion, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" Jesus' answer is a resounding 'no!' "What God has joined together, let no one separate." At a time when divorce was rife, this must have been a difficult thing for Jesus' audience to digest. It isn't much easier

for our twenty first century ears.

What should we take from this gospel? What should church goers who have been through painful divorces make of these words? What should church goers who have suffered unhappy first marriages and then re-married make of Jesus' teaching?

One thing is for sure. Any interpretation of this gospel should err on the side of compassion rather than condemnation. Another thing is for sure, without twisting Jesus' words to suit our own modern lifestyle, we have to look at why Jesus spoke these words in the first place and the spirit in which they were spoken. At the time Jesus spoke these words marriage was very one sided. It was the man's prerogative to choose divorce and he could choose this option for little or no good reason.

At a time where women were financially dependent on their husbands, divorce could leave them pretty much destitute. Marriage was something easily entered into and easily broken. When Jesus spoke to the Pharisees in today's gospel, he was doing something ground breaking. He was elevating the importance of marriage and raising the status of women. Were Jesus' words relevant then but not now? No! Marriage is still something that many don't take seriously. Many go into marriage without really considering their vows. Many go into marriage not thinking much beyond the big white dress or the fabulous reception. There are far too many who are ready to give up on marriage at the first hint of hard times or at the onset of boredom. There are far too many quick to bury a marriage that is only sick or injured. It is to these people that Jesus is speaking in today's gospel.

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