

.../Gospel Reflection continued


Offering forgiveness is just as hard as asking for it. How often do we hear someone say, "I will never forgive that person for what they have done!" Behind the statement is a deep-rooted need to avenge the offender, either by hurting them back, or by withholding forgiveness. One person not forgiving another person is bad enough, but when entire nations are unable to forgive, then mankind is in big trouble! Sometimes the sins of others are so great that we wonder how we can begin to forgive. Sometimes a crime is so great and the culprit so devoid of remorse that we wonder whether we should really be expected to forgive, yet Jesus tells us, "I do not tell you to forgive seven times but seventy-seven."

It is clear that we need a few helpful strategies in place to move us from feelings of vengeance and violence to a more peaceful place. The first and probably the easiest strategy is to search for some level of understanding and empathy. Understanding why someone has done something is a strong platform for forgiveness. However, where empathy totally eludes us, it is important for us to entrust the mechanics of justice to others who are less angry and less prejudiced than ourselves. Another 'must' is to set aside any notion of forgiveness turning us into doormats or naïve and deluded 'do-gooders'. The strategy that Jesus teaches us today is that we can become more compassionate as individuals by remembering how often we have been forgiven ourselves.... perhaps more times than we can remember.



**Bitesize**

"Anger makes you smaller, while forgiveness forces you to grow beyond what you were."  
*Cherie Carter-Scott, "If Love Is a Game, These Are the Rules"*



**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.**

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](http://www.universalis.com)

**PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART AND ST. MARGARET MARY**  
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**Address: The Presbytery, 35 London Road, Dereham NR19 1AS**  
 Parish Website: <http://www.sacredheartdereham.org.uk>  
 Permanent Deacon: Rev. Martin Sanderson: Tel: 01362 822590  
 Email: [martin.sanderson@rcdea.org.uk](mailto:martin.sanderson@rcdea.org.uk)  
 Parish Music Leader: Michael King: Email: [michaeljwking@gmail.com](mailto:michaeljwking@gmail.com)  
 Parish Safeguarding Representative: Kathleen Edmunds:  
 Email: [kathleenedmunds@yahoo.com](mailto:kathleenedmunds@yahoo.com)

**13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020 – 24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year A**  
 [24<sup>th</sup> Week of the Year, Weekday Year II, Psalter Week 4]

Mass Times for the Week			Intentions
Sat. 12 Sept.	6.00 pm	24 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ord. Time <i>(Education Day)</i>	Jack & Katie Nolan Barbara Abela (Perkins) The People of the Parish
Sun. 13 Sept.	9.00 am 11.00 am		
Mon. 14 Sept.	10.00 am		
Tues. 15 Sept.	-	Our Lady of Sorrows	<b>No Mass today</b>
Weds. 16 Sept.	10.00 am	SS Cornelius & Cyprian	Barbara Abela (Tinney)
Thurs. 17 Sept.	10.00 am	Feria	Barry & Gertrude Evans (Mealy)
Fri. 18 Sept.	10.00 am	Feria	Pascall Byrne (Mealy)
Sat. 19 Sept.	-	Feria	<b>No morning Mass</b>
Sun. 20 Sept.	6.00 pm 9.00 am 11.00 am	25 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ord. Time <i>(Home Mission Day)</i>	Elizabeth & Eamon Geoghan The People of the Parish Deacon Ron O'Toole (Borthwick)

**Anniversaries this week:** Annie Cecilia O’Ryan, Sidney Platt, Ferdinand Rupp, William Goulden, Paul Hodak, Stewart Aylin and Peter John Bussey. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.*

**MASS LIVE STREAM** – Search for **Dereham Catholic Church** on **YouTube**,  
 Or use the following link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCR-qWs-B40VTvbzeZ83MxQ/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 family members are admitted to the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital (NNUH) or Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, King's Lynn (QEII), and would like a visit from the Roman Catholic Chaplain, please call either St. John's Cathedral, Norwich (01603 624615) for visits to NNUH, or call the NNUH Hospital Chaplaincy direct on 01603 287470 for people needing urgent spiritual attention, or for visits to QEII Hospital, call Fr. Peter Rollings on 01553 772220. If you would like to receive the Sacrament or Anointing of the sick before going to hospital, please contact Fr. Brendan on 01362 694066.

**Sick & Housebound** [with GDPR Permissions] – **Please pray for:** Janet Yardley, Jenny Rudd, Carol Whitesides, Shirley Liebenhals, Frances Saville King, Una McWeeny, Derek Williams, Teresa Kendall, Greta Cummings.

**Money Matters:** Thank you for your offering of £233.60 last weekend for the day-to-day running of our parish.

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.

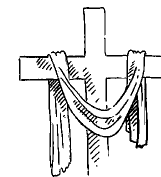
**130 Club Draw for July 2020** - 1<sup>st</sup> Prize £20 – Ticket No. 86, Gerry McCarthy; 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize £15 – Ticket No. 48, Robert Kuczma; 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize £10 – Ticket No. 55, Gloria Clark; 4<sup>th</sup> Prize £10 – Ticket No. 143, Michael Fenton; 5<sup>th</sup> Prize £10 – Ticket No. Dorothy Wheeler.



**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.

**Education Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020: "A learning people in a time of change"** - This year Education Sunday takes place at a time when many children, young people and staff have been away from schools, colleges and universities and have been working in different ways. Churches, too, have had to learn and adapt, whilst still maintaining a pattern of worship. This is a time to think about what we have learnt about ourselves, about our communities and about God. Today's readings teach us about the values needed to live and grow happily together. Today those values are just the same. Do not harm people, do not cheat, do not steal, forgive as we would like to be forgiven ourselves. We still have those same rules! Today we ask our youngsters the importance of looking after each other, and the consequences of only thinking of ourselves.

**The Triumph of the Holy Cross, 14th September** - We are called to participate in the struggle against evil in every form: racism, social injustice, oppression, infidelity, dishonesty, and corruption. The Risen Lord wishes to deliver us from all evil. But how? Not by removing every difficulty, but by giving us courage to face it and overcome it. Our sufferings are stepping-stones to victory. We look to the cross as a symbol of triumph over suffering and the promise of eternal life.



**Clean Up the World Weekend 2020, 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> September** - Every year an estimated 35 million volunteers, take part in 'Clean Up the World'. These people are taking responsibility for the environment – and the effects are felt not only in the community in which they take place, but right across the planet. This year is a little different. Because of Coronavirus we cannot join together in big numbers to pick litter or clean beaches. However, we can still participate from the safety of our homes. For more information and to see how you could help, go to [www.cleanuptheworld.org](http://www.cleanuptheworld.org).

**Creation Time, 1<sup>st</sup> September – 4<sup>th</sup> October** - If you are resident in England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland, play the Woodland Trust Raffle. The closing date is 19<sup>th</sup> September 2020. There are lots of cash prizes, but the real winners are our trees and our biodiversity.

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## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### If Forgiveness Was Infectious



"Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us."

Just imagine what sort of world we would live in if this simple statement could become a reality. Imagine feeling the relief of being forgiven for our sins and in turn, forgiving those who had sinned against us. Imagine the same people forgiving those who had sinned against them and so on and so on until the world's screaming grievances grew gradually quieter and finally disappeared altogether. What a wonderful world that would be. Is it any wonder Jesus talks so much of repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation?

So how can we make forgiveness more of a reality? How can we make forgiveness globally 'infectious'? Firstly, we need to look inwards. What do we each need to be forgiven for? Who might we be hurting, perhaps unintentionally? Might we have made someone feel small or stupid with a careless or overly sharp remark? Might we have spoilt someone else's relationship by indulging in an affair? Have we neglected a lonely or vulnerable family member? Might we have bullied someone, gossiped behind someone's back, lied, cheated or taken something that didn't belong? Have we contributed to keeping someone else in poverty or denied a helping hand when it was desperately needed? Only when we can admit our own sins and unburden our own guilt can we really appreciate the value of forgiveness in the lives of others.

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