

.... /Gospel Reflection continued

Once again, we are reminded that things that count for so much in this world are turned upside down in God's world. We are taught not to think we are worth more as Christians than those who have found Christianity late in life. If we have lived life as God asks from the outset then we should simply count ourselves as lucky. For others, life's paths may have taken more difficult and painful twists.

The employer in today's parable pays his employees exactly the same amount regardless of the time they arrived at the vineyard. Jesus is telling us that there are no 'partial benefits' in God's kingdom. If we have earned a place in heaven, we have earned a place; there won't be some places better than others. God's love is God's love. We are each promised the same measure of his grace.

"... So, the last will be first and the first will be last." We would be foolish to expect some kind of pecking order at heaven's gates. We would be even more foolish to expect some kind of organised queuing system or loyalty cards for the longest serving. Those who arrive late should certainly not be regarded as somehow cheating the system. We must recognise God's generosity in giving a level field for all and emulate it. We must be happy for the latecomers, especially if we have played a part in attracting them by our shining example!



Bitesize - "If we have the opportunity to be generous with our hearts, ourselves, we have no idea of the depth and breadth of love's reach." ~ Margaret Cho, *weblog*, 03-09-04



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

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

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20TH SEPTEMBER 2020 – 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year A

[25th Week of the Year, Weekday Year II, Psalter Week 1]

Mass Times for the Week			Intentions
Sat. 19 Sept.	6.00 pm	25 th Sunday in Ord.	Elizabeth & Eamon Geoghan The People of the Parish Deacon Ron O'Toole (Borthwick)
Sun. 20 Sept.	9.00 am	Time	
	11.00 am	Home Mission Day	
Mon. 21 Sept.	10.00 am	S Matthew	Patsy Gray (Mealy)
Tues. 22 Sept.	-	Feria	No Mass today
Weds. 23 Sept.	10.00 am	S Pius of Pietrelcina	Anna Easton (Mealy)
Thurs. 24 Sept.	10.00 am	Our Lady of Walsingham	Thomas Carolan (Cummings)
Fri. 25 Sept.	10.00 am	Feria	Patsy Gray (Cummings)
Sat. 26 Sept.	-	Feria	No morning Mass
Sun. 27 Sept.	6.00 pm	26 th Sunday in Ord.	Michael Moffatt Jim & Ita Murphy (Mealy) The People of the Parish
	9.00 am	Time	
	11.00 am		

Anniversaries this week: Gerald Reeder, Helen Browne, Colin Keatley, Peter Purcell, Agnes Tyce, Bernadette Buxton, Francis Dunn Soddy. *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 £386.25 last weekend for the day-to-day running of our parish. Thank you also for your offering to the parish by Standing Orders during August of £969.00 and for donations of 2 x £100 and £50 towards the cost of the Live Streaming equipment. All Sunday and Weekday celebrations of Mass are now live streamed. The system is switched on about 30 minutes before Mass begins.

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 August 2020 - 1st Prize £20 – Ticket No. 59, Sheila Goldner; 2nd Prize £15 – Ticket No. 4, Theresa Pitcher; 3rd Prize £10 – Ticket No. 56, Anne Sibley; 4th Prize £10 – Ticket No. 96, Paul Wade; 5th Prize £10 – Ticket No. 99, Kevin Carroll.



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.

Update on Covid Restrictions: The full document as sent through the diocese is available to read on the parish website. There is a copy also on the church noticeboard. The 'Rule of Six' does not apply to places of worship. As long as we are careful, continue to wear face masks, use the sanitiser and keep the 'Social Distancing' within the church building then we are complying with the law.

Home Mission Sunday (England and Wales), 20th September 2020 - Each year we celebrate Home Mission Sunday. On this day the Bishops invite parishes to pray for the mission of the Church in England and Wales and there is a second collection to support the Bishops work of evangelisation. You can also donate online at www.homemission.org.uk/home/donate/. For more information, go to www.catholicchurch.org.uk/home-mission

International Day of Peace, 21st September 2020 - The International Day of Peace ("Peace Day") provides an opportunity for individuals, organizations and nations to create practical acts of peace on a shared date. It was established by a United Nations resolution in 1981 to coincide with the opening of the General Assembly. Anyone, anywhere can celebrate Peace Day. It can be as simple as lighting a candle at noon, or just sitting in silent meditation. Or it can involve getting your co-workers, organization, community or government engaged in a large event. The impact if millions of people in all parts of the world, coming together for one day of peace, is immense. International Day of Peace is also a Day of Ceasefire – personal or political. Take this opportunity to make peace in your own relationships as well as impact the larger conflicts of our time. Imagine what a whole Day of Ceasefire would mean to humankind.



Our Lady of Walsingham (Feast day 24th September): Masses and prayers at the National Shrine - Visit www.walsingham.org.uk to join a live streamed Mass or to make a prayer request or online petition.

Church Cleaners: Volunteers for this very necessary job would be very welcome.

Diocesan Newspaper - The September/October edition is available online and printed copies from the church. <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/the-catholic-east-anglia-newspaper-is-back/>

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Queuing for Heaven?

One of the most expensive department stores holds a sale and shoppers form a queue. The most ardent bargain hunters bring sleeping bags and queue overnight. Other shoppers arrive five minutes before the sale. When the store finally opens the doors the queue surges forward in a frenzy. Shoppers 'push in' from every direction greedy for the bargains. Does this make us cross? Of course, it does and rightly so. The people who arrived first should get the bargains first. Most of us would agree that that is only fair. The problem comes when we try to use this same sense of 'justice' in earning a place in God's Kingdom. Surprise, surprise! Gaining God's grace is not like queuing for bargains, neither has it got anything to do with how many more hours we have worked in a vineyard, nor has it got anything to do with measuring how many years we have served as disciples. *Continued overleaf/...*