

## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



### The Jury's Out!

The barristers have presented their case. All the facts are on the table and every bit of evidence has been examined and re-examined. The jury is sent out to make a decision, and if the decision is a difficult one, the jury can be out for some considerable time. Difficult decisions have something in common; there will always be a sticking point that will keep us dithering. Even if we know deep down what our answer should be, there is something stopping us from reaching it. Counsellors have a well-worn phrase that helps

clients make decisions. "What," they ask, "would make our decision easier to make?"

In today's gospel Jesus' followers find themselves with decisions to make and sticking points to overcome. Jesus has presented all the evidence. He has healed the sick and worked many miracles. He has taught many lessons and promised everlasting life for those who choose the bread that endures. Now it's decision time, but there's a sticking point. The crowd find it difficult to believe that Jesus has come down from heaven. How will they deal with the sticking point? For some the sticking point is too great and they turn their backs on Jesus' teaching and walk away. Others doubtless would have liked more convincing, but Jesus doesn't seem to offer any. We too might have our sticking points. We too might look for extra evidence, but all the evidence is on the table. Peter employs his own inimitable way of surmounting the difficulty. "Master," he says, "to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life..." In Peter's mind the decision as whether to follow Jesus or not is a bit of a 'no-brainer' because for him there is no alternative to the promise of eternal life. What would it take to make your decision easier to make?

**Bitesize** - Character is higher than intellect. ~*Ralph Waldo Emerson*



### 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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SacredHeartDereham.org.uk

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2024 – 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
 [Sundays Year B, 21<sup>st</sup> Week of the Year, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week 1]

### MASSES in the PARISH

<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August</b>		
18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August</b>		<b>21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
09.00	MASS	For the People of the Parish
11.00	MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	+Anisha Cyriac (CC)
<b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August</b>		<b>Feria</b>
10.00	Service of the Word & Holy Communion	
<b>Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August</b>		<b>St Monica</b>
-	No Mass today	
<b>Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August</b>		<b>St Augustine</b>
10.00	MASS	
<b>Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August</b>		<b>The Passion of St John the Baptist</b>
10.00	MASS & ADORATION	
<b>Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August</b>		<b>Feria</b>
-	No Mass today	
<b>Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August</b>		<b>Feria</b>
18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For the People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September</b>		<b>22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation)</b>
09.00	MASS	
11.00	MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	+Gonzalo Mausisa (MK)

**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:** Damian Ring Davies, Mary Hayter, John McGowan, Jack Stearman, Marley Coe, Jenetta Elizabeth Smith, Francis Gray, Doris Jarvis, Patrick McMahon, Alfred Chapman, John Power, Charles Victor Mann. *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 £259.53. Thank you.

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.** **Gift Aid forms** are available at the back of church. This is will help to maximize our donations in the Parish.

**No Mass on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August** – A reminder that the new heating is being installed in the church on Tuesday and therefore there will be no Mass that day.

**Funeral Mass of Donato Salamone** will take place on **Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024 at 11:00** – Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers to the family as we commend his soul to God, our loving Creator.

Diary for the week 25 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> August	
Monday: 1900-2030	<b>AA Group Meeting</b> - Emmaus Room
Wednesday: 1430	<b>Queen of Peace Prayer Group</b> – Emmaus Room. All welcome.
Saturday	<b>Altar Servers' Day Out &amp; Pizza</b>
<b>Parish Garden Club</b> – To volunteer, please contact Sonia on 07985 521578.	



**An Evening of Gardening: Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> September at 1800** – Parish grounds yearly maintenance is coming up. If you could spare an hour or two this 4<sup>th</sup> September at 1800, that would be helpful. Please bring your gear. Snacks provided to keep us going.

**Parish BBQ** - The annual Parish BBQ will be taking place on **Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2024 after the 11:00 Mass**, if you will be attending, please place your name on the list at the back of the church.



**Norfolk Churches Trust Bike Ride: Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September** - Volunteers are needed to welcome and register participants. There is a rota for this at the back of church. Please sign up if you are able to spare a little time for this during the day.

**Parish Yard Sale, Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September** – Please keep your donations coming - there is room for plenty more! All proceeds will go to church funds.



We also need volunteers to help with the setting up and running of stalls on the day. If you can help, please sign the list at the back of church. There will be a meeting for all volunteers on **Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September at 2.00pm in the Emmaus Room**, to plan the arrangements for the day. With grateful thanks.

**First Communion 2025** – A reminder that application forms are available at the back of the Church and on the website for children who are aged 7 starting Year 3 or above in September 2024. There will be a meeting for parents in September; classes will start in October 2024.

**The Passion of John the Baptist, 29th August** - Although Herod feared John, he would not kill him because he knew John was a righteous and holy man, and he liked hearing John speak. Herodias, Herod's wife, did not share his respect



for John and looked for any chance to have him killed. Herodias' chance came when her daughter Salome's dancing so pleased Herod and aroused such irrational lust in him that he promised her anything she desired. Herodias prompted her daughter to ask for the death of John the Baptist. Herod granted her wish and John was killed. "The king was greatly distressed but because of his oaths and the guests he did not wish to break his word to her. So he promptly dispatched an executioner with orders to bring back his head. He went off and beheaded him in prison. He brought the head back on a platter and gave it to the girl.... When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb."



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.