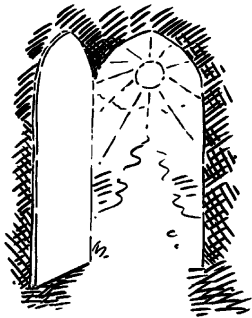


GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



The Narrow Door

Surely the days of teaching about hell fire and damnation are gone. Surely our ever loving and forgiving God wouldn't exclude anyone from Heaven. Well according to today's gospel reading we can't bet on it! We might imagine Heaven's gates as big and welcoming, but today we hear that it may instead be a narrow door through which it might be difficult for us to gain entry... and worse, there's a time limit on how long it might remain open.

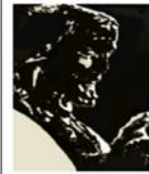
Today's theme is a continuation of last week. Today we are warned against complacency. Having the right books is no guarantee of passing the exam. Being baptised a Christian is no guarantee of a place in Heaven. Life is a testing ground in which we should be continually striving, continually bettering ourselves, continually increasing our understanding and forever moving forwards spiritually. We might think that because we attend Mass on Sunday and dip our hands in our pockets for the odd collection that we are doing all that is required. Are we going to be unpleasantly surprised to find ourselves at the back of Heaven's queue when we fondly imagined we might be somewhere near the front?

For all of us who think we've got it right think again! Have we really planned for eternity, or have we only planned as far as our next mortgage repayment? Have we really determined the priorities in our lives, or have we allowed life to shape us into something we never intended? Do we imagine we are good people simply because we have never done anything bad?

God is ever loving and forgiving, but we could exclude ourselves from Heaven simply by not striving to get there. Radical measures are needed today. What measures do we each need to adopt to earn our place at the narrow door?



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.



Sacred Heart & St Margaret Mary

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Sunday 21st August 2022 – 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C
[21st Week of the Year, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week 1]

MASSES in the PARISH

Saturday 20th August	18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For the People of the Parish
Sunday 21st August	09.00 MASS	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
	11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	For all the souls in purgatory
Monday 22nd August		David Kellett
	10.00 MASS	The Queenship of the BVM
Tuesday 23rd August		Bernard Barnett+
	10.00 MASS	Feria
Wednesday 24th August		JJ Vincent Coleman+
	10.00 MASS	St Bartholomew Ap. Feast
Thursday 25th August		Feria
	- No Mass today	
Friday 26th August		Feria
	- No Mass today	
Saturday 27th August	18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	
Sunday 28th August	09.00 MASS	22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
	11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Thursday after 10.00 Mass and Saturday at 17.30
EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION: Thursday after Mass

Permanent Deacon: Rev. Martin Sanderson: Tel: 01362 822590

Email: martin.sanderson@rcdea.org.uk

Parish Music Leader: Michael King: Email: church@michaeljwking.com

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Kathleen Edmunds:

Email: kathleenedmunds@yahoo.com

For Live Streamed Masses Search for Dereham Catholic Church on YouTube, or use the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCR-qWs-B40VTvbzezZ83MxQ/videos?view=2&flow=grid>

The parish newsletter is available on the parish website from Friday each week.

Anniversaries this week: Mary Porter, Richard Burrows, Catherine Todd, Adrian Sheath, Damian Ring-Davies, Mary Hayter, John McGowan, Jack Stearman, Marley Coe, Jenetta Elizabeth Smith, Francis Gray Dori Jarvis. *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, Frances Saville King, Derek Williams, Patsy Gray, Collette Barrow-Nessian, Betty Reavey, Marion Ring-Davies, Fr. Brendan, William Dunn, Pauline Buckland.

Money Matters: Offering for last Sunday: Plate £233.52. And Offertory by way of Standing Order for July 2022 was £1,411.00. Thank you.

Change to Mass Times – Please note there is no Mass on Thursday this week as Fr. Jay will be away.

Confirmation Preparation 2023 - If you're 13 by next June and are interested in Confirmation, please take a form from church and return to Fr. Jay by end of September. Sessions begin in October!

First Holy Communion preparation for children Year 3 and above will commence early October, enrolment forms for parents to collect are available from Fr. Jay. Sessions will be on Saturday mornings 10.30-11.30.

Diary Dates for this week		
Tues. 23 Aug.	1900-1930	Chess Club – Emmaus Room
Weds. 24 Aug.	1930	Scripture Study Group - Presbytery
Sundays	After 1100 Mass	Youth Club table tennis – Emmaus Room

Upcoming Events

- Youth 2000 Summer Festival, 26-29 August at Ampleforth Abbey, York. To book a place, to to www.youth2000.org/events/summerfestival. Sponsored places are available if money is an issue – just get in touch at www.events@youth2000.org.uk.
- Altar Servers Day Out at Strikes – Saturday, 3rd September at 11.30-1500
- March for Life – 3rd September, London. www.marchforlife.co.uk
- Norfolk Churches Trust Bike Ride – Saturday, 10th September. See the posters.
- Parish Open Meeting – Wednesday, 5th October at 16.30

- Parish Christmas 'Bring & Share' Party – Sunday, 11th December at 1300-1600: Venue: Scarning Village Hall.

Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition, 23rd August - Slavery is not a thing of the past. It's said that there are more people enslaved today than there were during the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. Around the world, millions of people are living in bondage. They labour in fields and factories under brutal employers who threaten them with violence if they try to escape. They work in homes for families that keep them virtually imprisoned. They are forced to work as prostitutes or to beg in the streets, fearful of the consequences if they fail to earn their daily quota. They are women, men, and children of all ages, and they are often held far from home with no money, no connections, and no way to ask for help.

Ukrainian Day of Independence, 24th August - Ukraine was once considered to be part of Russia. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union towards the end of the Cold War, Ukraine had the chance to be independent. As a result, on August 24, 1991, Ukraine gained its full independence. Normally a day of celebration, this year will be hard for Ukrainians. On this day we are asked to pray for the wellbeing of our Ukrainian refugees and for the safety of those in Ukraine.

Saint Monica, Patron of domestic violence, 27th August - The circumstances of St. Monica's life could have made her a nagging wife, a bitter daughter-in-law and a despairing parent, yet she did not give way to any of these temptations. Although she was a Christian, her parents gave her in marriage to a pagan, Patricius, who lived in her hometown of Tagaste in North Africa. Patricius had some redeeming features, but he had a violent temper and was licentious. Monica also had to bear with a cantankerous mother-in-law who lived in her home. Patricius criticized his wife because of her charity and piety, but always respected her. Monica's prayers and example finally won her husband and mother-in-law to Christianity. Her husband died in 371, one year after his baptism. *On the feast of St Monica (27th August), patron of domestic violence, we pray for the needs of those who have suffered domestic violence ... whether it be men, women or children.*

Retirement flats to rent: Oakhampton House, just outside Bury St Edmunds, is owned and managed by the Grace and Compassion Benedictine Sisters and comprises of 17 independent living flats next to the care home operated by the sisters at Great Barton. Currently three flats are vacant and anyone interested in finding out more information should contact Sr Thaya on 01284 787321. Daily Mass is provided in the chapel and there are good transport links to Bury St Edmunds, only 5 miles away.

Bitesize – 'Complacency is a state of mind that exists only in retrospective: it has to be shattered before being ascertained.' ~ Vladimir Nabokov