

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Buried Treasure - "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure buried in a field; which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all he has and buys it."

In both parables both men appreciate the true value of what they have discovered. Both men are certain about the wisdom of what they must do and are willing to put everything on the line to secure their newfound treasure.

Today Jesus is asking us to determine how much we treasure the Kingdom of Heaven. How valuable is Heaven to us and what are we prepared to do to secure it? Are we prepared to give all we've got and to renounce everything that gets in the way? If the two men in the parables had passed their treasure by or failed to recognise the treasure's value, we would have thought them insane, yet this is how we behave all the time.

All too often we are prepared to let the Kingdom of Heaven slip through our fingers. Perhaps we do this because we have never stopped to reflect on how valuable the Kingdom of Heaven is. Perhaps we have recognised the value of God's Kingdom to us but have forgotten it in the day-to-day distractions of putting meals on the table and paying the bills. Perhaps heaven's rewards seem so distant that we prefer instead to work for more immediate and tangible rewards home improvements, fame, social acceptance and career development. Perhaps we think we can work on God's agenda and our own agenda simultaneously, recognising the value of God's Kingdom but not quite able to renounce our own self-interest. Jesus gives us some concrete advice. He tells us that those who study the scriptures and search diligently will find the discernment to recognise God's treasure and the wisdom to secure it.

Bitesize – Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.



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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26TH JULY 2020 – 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year A

[17th Week of the Year, Weekday Year II, Psalter Week 1]

Mass Times for the Week			Intentions
Sat. 25 July	6.00 pm	17 th Sunday in Ord. Time	Jeannette & Derrick Harris Holy Souls (Covid-19 Dec'd) The People of the Parish
Sun. 26 July	9.00 am 11.00 am		
Mon. 27 July	10.00 am	Feria	P. Mealy's Int.
Tues. 28 July	-	Feria	No Mass today
Weds. 29 July	10.00 am	S Martha	John Perkins
Thurs. 30 July	10.00 am	Feria	Holy Souls (Covid-19 Dec'd)
Fri. 31 July	10.00 am	S Ignatius of Loyola	Holy Souls (Covid-19 Dec'd)
Sat. 1 August	-	S Alphonsus Liguori	No morning Mass Holy Souls (Covid-19 Dec'd)
	6.00 pm		
Sun. 2 August	9.00 am 11.00 am	18 th Sunday in Ord. Time	Sick (Covid-19) The People of the Parish

Anniversaries this week: Elizabeth Sapcote, Errol Alexander Patrick Cowell, Thomas Losco-Bradley, Olga Secker, Doris Webster, Naomi Dance, Margaret Leonard, Flora Booth, Ellen Storey, John Perkins, Charles Martin, Winifred Mary Fuller, Anthony Eskdale, Anna Taylor. *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-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 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, Deacon Ron O'Toole (former Deacon at Dereham).

Money Matters: I have to express my gratitude to you for your very generous support of the parish lately. In June you gave £994 in Standing orders. Last weekend you gave £541.50 and donations towards the costs of the live streaming installation and equipment came to £600. Thank you so much for your generosity.

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.

Diary Dates for this week - *All parish group meetings remain suspended.*

Live Streaming of Mass - The feedback that I have received about this has been very positive. It is a service to the parish and it is appreciated by parishioners every day. The system which has been installed is very good and the list of churches which want it is growing longer and longer. It will soon be a normal feature of parish life everywhere that Mass is live streamed.

Guidance for the Celebration of Mass – New guidance from the Bishops' Conference has been received. Please note the following two highlights from the guidance:

- * **Social Distancing** - Worshippers should limit their interactions with anyone they are not attending church with, i.e. if they are attending corporate worship with one other household, wherever possible they should maintain social distancing with anyone outside of this group.
- * **Face Coverings** - Face coverings are currently mandatory on public transport and will be mandatory in shops and in supermarkets from 24th July 2020. People are

also strongly encouraged to wear face coverings in enclosed public spaces where there are people they do not normally meet, such as a church.

A copy of the full guidance can be found on the parish website.

Guidance for Adult Baptism, Reception into the Church and Adult Confirmation - New guidance from the Bishops' Conference has been received. A copy of the full guidance can be found on the parish website.

Volunteer Counter Required – A volunteer is needed to join our rota of counters. The counters work in teams of two and meet on a monthly rota to count and bank the parish donations. If you feel you can help, please speak to Fr. Brendan.

Ordinations - Please remember Deacon Peter Wagnanski in your prayers on Saturday as he is ordained to the priesthood; and for Jacob Cheriyan and Prameel Joseph as they are ordained to the Permanent Diaconate next Wednesday and Thursday respectively.

Saint Martha, 29th July - Jesus liked to stay at the house of Martha, Mary and Lazarus, his friends at Bethany, when he was in Judea. One of these visits has ever remained dear to Christian memory. On that occasion Martha, busily serving the Master, asked him to persuade Mary to help her. Without in any way reproaching Martha, Jesus explained to her that certain souls, called by God, should choose a better part still — the primary duty of listening to him and contemplating him. Some of us are more like Martha - and some of us are more like Mary; but there is in all of us a built in need to combine the two within us, for without sitting and listening to God our work for God can only lead to anxiety and anger and angst, and without doing the work our faith is clearly nothing.



New Dawn Virtual Conference - New Dawn in the Church is a Catholic Family Pilgrimage Conference that takes place at the Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, attracting up to 2,500 pilgrims each year! We invite you to join us this year for a *virtual* conference, **Friday 31st July to Sunday 2nd August**. In a special way, this year's conference is dedicated to the Eternal Father and will be streamed live from Walsingham in collaboration with the Shrine. We have an inspirational line-up of speakers who will unpack the theme using the Parable of the Prodigal Son. To watch the conference/full programme details go to www.newdawn.org.uk (no registration or fee required).

Food Banks and Covid-19 - With businesses closing, jobs lost and school holiday clubs closed, the coronavirus crisis has put an unprecedented strain on Britain's food banks as families try to keep their heads above water. Food Banks report unprecedented requests for support and emergency parcels for those who have slipped through the net. And of course, with unprecedented requests for support comes unprecedented demand. Don't forget, whilst you do your weekly shop, to pick up spare items, especially where there are 'two for one' special offers to add to the supermarket food banks.