

**GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



**In It Together**

We can't go through life without being part of a group, a club, or an organisation. Schools, the workplace, and organised religions are all like being part of a club. Clubs have something in common.

When we're in a club we enjoy a sense of belonging, friends, shared values and an agreed way of doing things. But being part of a group also has its dangers. We can tend to see our club as our territory, and woe betide anyone who treads on our patch. We see the newcomer as an outsider.... worse, a mistrusted outsider. A new teacher arrives in school with some radical new views. A new supervisor joins the workplace and changes the coffee breaks. In church, someone arrives from a different parish with their own ideas about how something should be done. We don't like it. Routine gives us a sense of security, and when that routine is changed, particularly by an outsider, we resist. If the outsider is successful at what they do, we resent it even more because we are left feeling threatened. Clubs can be good, but they are not good if we close ranks against someone else working to the same ends.

In today's gospel reading, the disciples complain to Jesus about an exorcist who is working as an outsider to their group. That the exorcist is working successfully is making them feel all the more threatened. Jesus' answer is very plain. "Whoever is not against us, is for us." In other words, if someone is working towards the same end, it doesn't matter whether or not they are in the same 'club', or whether their ways are quite the same as ours.

Jesus' lesson is very relevant to us today. Catholicism is not served by rejecting other religions. Accepting other Christian religions doesn't have to mean a watering down of our own beliefs. God is bigger than any 'club' and by following Jesus' example we are working 'for' each other and not 'against'.

**Bitesize** – “Could Hamlet have been written by a committee, or the Mona Lisa painted by a club?... Creative ideas do not spring from groups. They spring from individuals. The divine spark leaps from the finger of God to the finger of Adam.” ~*Alfred Whitney Griswold*



**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.

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

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**26 SEPTEMBER 2021- 26<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year B**

[26<sup>th</sup> Week of the Year, Weekday Year I, Psalter Week 2]

| Mass Times for the Week |                                |  | Intentions  |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Sat. 25 Sept.           | 6.00 pm                        | 26 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time                 | John Merrick (Fdn.)<br>Carolyn Salter<br>The People of the Parish       |
| Sun. 26 Sept.           | 9.00 am<br>11.00 am            |  |   |
| Mon. 27 Sept.           | 10.00 am                       | St Vincent de Paul                                       | Holy Souls  |
| Tues. 28 Sept.          | -                              | Feria  | <b>No Mass today</b>  |
| Weds. 29 Sept           | 10.00 am                       | Ss Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels                | Michael Moffatt   |
| Thurs. 30 Sept          | 10.00 am                       | St Jerome  | Anisha Cyriac (1/2)   |
| Fri. 1 Oct.             | 10.00 am                       | St Therese of the Child Jesus<br><b>Harvest Fast Day</b> | Calvin & Becky Cummings   |
| Sat. 2 Oct.             | -                              | The Holy Guardian Angels                                 | <b>No morning Mass</b>  |
| Sun. 3 Oct.             | 6.00 pm<br>9.00 am<br>11.00 am | 27 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time                 | P. & H.'s Ints. (6/10)<br>Philip Kemp (May)<br>The People of the Parish |

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - from 9.25 a.m. – 9.55 a.m. before each weekday Mass.**

*The Church is open daily until 6:00pm*

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)

**ALL MASSES ARE LIVE STREAMED ON YouTube –**

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.

**Anniversaries this week:** Francis Dunn Soddy, Antony Drury, Pope John Paul 1, Joseph Monks, Grace Brown. *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. Brendan either by phone or by email.

**Sick & Housebound [with GDPR Permissions] – Please pray for:** Carol Whitesides, Shirley Liebenhals, Frances Saville King, Derek Williams, Greta Cummings, Patsy Gray, Allan Michael Howard, Collette Barrow-Nessian, Terri Sanderson.

**Money Matters:** Thank you for your offering 'on the plate' last weekend of £240.01 for the day-to-day running of our parish. The collection for Home Mission Sunday came to £75.73. 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**. 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 2021** - 1<sup>st</sup> Prize £20 – Ticket No. 80, Pat Grout; 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize £15 – Ticket No. 175, Dorothy Wheeler; 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize £10 – Ticket No. 180, Francis Crawley; 4<sup>th</sup> Prize £10 – Ticket No. 112, Elaine Wilkes; 5<sup>th</sup> Prize £10 – Ticket No. 81, Margaret Godfrey.



**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.

**CAFOD Harvest Fast Day (England and Wales), Friday 1st October 2021** - This Family Fast Day on Friday 1 October, you can support people around the world who are dedicating their lives to protecting God's creation. CAFOD's local experts are helping people all over the world to adapt to climate change and protect our common home. By donating to CAFOD this Family Fast Day you can help communities affected by the worst impacts of the climate crisis. Donate online through the CAFOD website or by using a CAFOD envelope. Take an envelope from the back of church and put into it whatever you save this Fast Day. Don't forget to fill out the Gift Aid section if you are a UK tax payer. Look for simple menus for this CAFOD Fast day on the website. **There will be a retiring collection after all Masses next weekend.**

**St. Michael, St. Gabriel, and St. Raphael, September 29<sup>th</sup>** - Michael, Gabriel and Raphael are called saints because they are holy, but they are different from the rest of the saints because they were not human; they were Archangels. Each Archangel, we are told, has a specific mission or an 'essence'. Archangel Michael is the angel of protection. This powerful being of light, whose name means 'Who is like God', has a purpose to protect as the 'defender of the light and goodness'. Gabriel's name means 'the power of God'. Gabriel is the announcer, the communicator of good news. We can ask him to help us be good communicators as he was. Raphael, whose name means 'God heals', is invoked when we need healing, not only for ourselves but for others too.



**Saint Jerome, 30th September** - The Bible was originally written in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek. Prior to the Latin Vulgate there were Old Latin translations which were widely copied but carelessly and therefore affected the authenticity of the Bible. In 382 to keep the Western Bible free of corruption Pope Damasus I commissioned Jerome to revise and translate the Bible.

**Masses for Miscarriage and Infertility** will be celebrated by Bishop Alan, at OLISE Church in Newmarket. For more information <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/couples-with-miscarriages-or-infertility-are-not-alone/>. A Mass for those who have experienced **miscarriage** (Sunday 10th October 2021, 12 noon). Families are welcome, refreshments afterwards. A Mass for those affected by **infertility** (Saturday 6th November 2021, 11 am), followed by a talk on treatment options for Catholic couples with infertility by Dr Phil Boyle, President of the International Institute of Restorative Reproductive Medicine and founder of NeoFertility. We respectfully ask that children do not attend this November Mass.

**Diocesan Newman Lectures 2021** - This year's in-person Newman Lecture will be at 7pm on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October, given by Rt Hon Prof Ruth Kelly on 'What should we expect from politics after Covid?' at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist, Norwich. The lecture is preceded by Mass at 6pm. All are welcome. For more details see [www.newmanlectures.co.uk](http://www.newmanlectures.co.uk)

### Prayer for the Election of a Bishop

*O God, eternal shepherd, who govern your flock with unfailing care, grant in your boundless fatherly love a pastor for your Church who will please you by his holiness and to us show watchful care. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.*

St. Felix: Pray for us.

St. Fursey: Pray for us.

St. Edmund: Pray for us.

All Holy Martyrs and Saints of East Anglia: Pray for us.