

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



God's Pension Plan - A farmer has a lucky year and finds himself with an abundant crop. He decides to tear down his barns and build bigger ones in which to store it. In the meantime, he decides to take a well-earned rest, eating drinking and making merry, confident that his future is financially secured. "You fool," says, God, "this very night your life is being demanded of you."

Does the parable seem a little harsh? The farmer seemed an honest enough character. He wasn't making money from an illegal activity. He simply seemed to be enjoying the benefits of a bumper harvest. Any one of us could have an unexpected windfall. Any one of us could enjoy a lottery win, a tax refund or an unexpected inheritance. It would be considered prudent in most circles that we invest the proceeds. It is drummed into us from an early age to save for a rainy day or to pay into a pension plan in order to cater for our twilight years. Any one of us could be the farmer in today's reading. Was his behaviour so very wrong?

There's an often-misquoted proverb. It reads, "Money is the root of all evil." Of course, it should read, "The love of money is the root of all evil." Jesus isn't advising us not to work hard or not to earn money. Jesus is probably not encouraging us to avoid planning for our old age. Jesus is certainly not promoting that we spend money in a big hurry because tomorrow we might be dead. The farmer is a fool, not because he builds bigger barns, that's a farmer's job, but because he thinks he can manage the future. Worse, he believes that his money and his money alone can safeguard his future. He is great at managing his money, but not great at managing his soul. Too late, he learns this truth at death's door.

The message is simple and comes in the last line of the reading. There is absolutely no point storing up treasures if you are not rich towards God. Being rich towards God is the only worthwhile pension policy, because at the end of the day, you can't take your money with you and you certainly can't buy your way into heaven.

If we are financially well off, being rich towards God will mean sharing our wealth. If we are successful business people, we must make sure our businesses benefit our communities and those on the margins of our communities. If we are not well off, being rich towards God will mean sharing our time and our skills. Whatever age you are, it's not too late to start investing in God's pension plan!

Bitesize – "The hardest thing is to take less when you can get more."

~ Kim Hubbard



Sacred Heart & St Margaret Mary

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Sunday, 31st July 2022 – 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C

[18th Week of the Year, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week 2]

MASSES in the PARISH

Saturday 30th July

18.00 *First MASS of Sunday*

Pascall Byrne+

Sunday 31st July

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

09.00 MASS

John Perkins+

11.00 MASS *Live streamed*

Barry Evans+

Monday 1st August

St Alphonsus Liguori

10.00 MASS

Flora Aurelia Booth+

Tuesday 2nd August

Feria

10.00 MASS

Joan Evans+

Wednesday 3rd August

Feria

10.00 MASS

Fred Murphy+

Thursday 4th August

St John Vianney

10.00 MASS & ADORATION

Billy Murphy+

Live streamed

Friday 5th August

Feria

- No Mass today

Saturday 6th August

The Transfiguration of the Lord

18.00 *First MASS of Sunday*

Bridget Murphy+

Sunday 7th August

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

09.00 MASS

William Murphy+

11.00 MASS *Live streamed*

Frances+

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:

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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: Winifred Mary Fuller, Anthony Eskdale, Anna Taylor, Joanna Sokalska, Harrington Garrett, Jack Filby, Iris Reavey, Maria Isabel Ferriera, Patrick Thomas Warden, Peggy Pratt, Pope Paul VI. *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.

Money Matters: Offering for last Sunday: Plate £285.25. 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**. Let Rex Baker know if you would like to sign up to Gift Aid.

Priest in Charge - The Bishop has now appointed Fr Jay as the Priest-in-charge of the Parish. We shall keep him in our prayers.

It's good to be welcomed! Keen on saying 'hi' while handing the newsletter to people coming to Mass? A smile is infectious, please volunteer to be welcomers at Mass.

Fund Raising for Monstrance used in Adoration - The presence of the Lord needs to be exposed in adoration in a simple yet dignified vessel like the monstrance. What we have now, bought for £700 twelve years ago, is already breaking to pieces. We must consider replacing it at some point as it is being used every Thursday for our Adoration after Mass. Hopefully before the year ends, we can buy a new proper monstrance, with your generosity. Any amount will be greatly appreciated.



| Diary Dates for this week | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Tues. 2 nd Aug. | 19.00-19.30 | Chess Club – Emmaus Room |
| Weds. 3 rd Aug. | After 10.00 Mass | SVP Monthly Coffee Morning – Emmaus Room. All welcome. |
| Weds. 3 rd Aug. | 19.30 | Scripture Study Group – Presbytery |
| Sundays | After 11.00 Mass | Youth Club table tennis – Emmaus Room |

Pilgrimage of Reparation and Prayer for the Sanctity of Life: Saturday, 6th August 2022 at the Walsingham National Catholic Shrine at 12 noon – Parishioners are invited to join this pilgrimage of prayer for the sanctity of all human life. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Philip Egan. For more details, telephone 01858 571242 or view online at www.walsingham.org.uk. www.prolifepilgrimage.org

March for Life, 3rd September 2022 - This year marks the sad milestone of 10 million abortions in the UK since the 1967 Abortion Act. It is more important than ever that all people of goodwill, and especially Catholics, give public witness to the inalienable dignity of human life. Bishop John Sherrington will celebrate Mass at 11.00am in Saint George's Cathedral, Southwark. LifeFest22 is a pro-life, family-friendly festival held from 10.30am until 1.30pm at the Emmanuel Centre, Marsham Street SW1P 3DW. The March itself starts at the Emmanuel Centre at 2.00pm, proceeding to Parliament Square, where there will be testimony and speeches, with the day concluding at 4.30pm. Our witness is vital; parishioners are encouraged to attend this event, or to join in prayer on that day. More information can be found at: <https://www.marchforlife.co.uk/>

Norfolk Churches Trust Bike Ride – The annual Norfolk Churches Trust Bike Ride will be taking place on **Saturday, 10th September 2022**. A new Norfolk Churches Trust website has gone live which will make the whole process of registering easier and finding out how to take part. More information is available at <https://norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/bike-ride/>. Volunteers will be needed on the day to welcome visitors. There will be a rota for this nearer the time. Please sign up if you are able to help.

Visit of the Relics of St Bernadette to the Diocese: 13th-16th October 2022 – In September and October this year, the relics of St. Bernadette will journey on pilgrimage to England, Scotland and Wales for the very first time. This very special once-in-a-lifetime event will provide an opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to experience the special gifts and charisms of Lourdes, in a church or cathedral near them. Individuals and groups are warmly invited to register their attendance at their chosen church or cathedral on the Relic Tour website: www.stbernadette.org.uk/the-tour/.

The pilgrimage will take place in this Diocese at the following venues:

- **Norwich** - Cathedral of St John the Baptist, Unthank Road, NR2 2PA
Arrive: 13th October 2022, 11.30 a.m. Depart: 15th October 2022, 9.00 a.m.
- **Cambridge** – Our Lady of the Assumption and the English Martyrs, Hills Road, CB2 1JR
Arrive: 15th October 2022, 10.30 a.m. Depart: 16th October 2022, 9.00 a.m.

For the full list of tour dates, go to The Tour website. For general enquiries: E: contact@stbernadette.org.uk www.stbernadette.org.uk

Accommodation Needed – A couple new to the parish are seeking rented accommodation. If you can help, please contact Lissy Joseph on 07767 968210.