

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Wake Up Call - A man goes on a journey leaving his slaves in charge, each with a job to do. A doorkeeper keeps watch to alert the slaves as to his master's return. The story illustrates the time of waiting between Jesus' first coming as a little baby at Christmas to his second coming on Judgement Day. Did the slaves really need a doorkeeper to alert them to the master's return? After all, waiting for the second coming shouldn't be a big cosmic game of 'Dixie'. The point is not to wait for the master's return before hurling ourselves into great busy-ness. We're not waiting for Jesus' return in the same way we would wait for a bus, we have to spend our waiting time in preparation and constant readiness.

"Keep alert," we are told "keep awake." We are asked to keep alert and awake not for fear of being caught out like naughty school children, but in a spirit of 'keeping our eye on the ball.' We all know how we would like to contribute. Each of us is aware of our unique place on the planet and how we would like to be remembered. Sadly, all too often it is easy for us to 'take our eye off the ball' and get caught up in other concerns.

The news is full of people who have reached the end of their life unexpectedly. None of us has been afforded an exact time and date for our final preparations. Instead we are asked to live in a permanent state of readiness seizing every opportunity on a daily basis to prepare for God's Kingdom. Our Advent goal needs to be about waiting in readiness from this day until our last.

The Angelus

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary. **R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.**

Hail Mary ...

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord. **R. Be it done unto me according to thy word.**

Hail Mary ...

V. And the Word was made Flesh. **R. And dwelt among us.** *Hail Mary ...*

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God. **R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

LET US PRAY: **Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made known by the message of an angel may, by His Passion and Cross, be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ, Our Lord. Amen**

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 [Reg. Charity 278742]

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3RD DECEMBER 2017 – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday Masses – Page 82 of Parish Mass Book

Saturday	6.00 pm	Int. People of the Parish
Sunday	9.00 am	Int. John Merrick (*Fdn.)
	11.00 am	Int. Nora Casey

Music for Sunday Masses - *Setting: Belmont Mass*

Entry 6pm – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 109 – Lo, he comes with clouds descending ...

Offertory Hymn 88 – Wait for the Lord (Taizé chant) ...

Communion *Instrumental Interlude/Sacred silence ...*

Recessional 11am – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 87 – Creator of the stars of night ...

CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION: Saturday at 5.30pm, or on request / by appointment

Weekday Mass Times	(1 st week of Advent)	[Psalter Week 1]
Mon. 12.30 pm		Requiem Mass for Thelma Jones
Tues. No Mass today		Advent Feria
	7.30 pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group – in Emmaus Room
Weds. 10.00 am		Advent Feria – Int. Frank Capaldi
Thurs. 10.00 am		St. Ambrose – Int. Geoffrey Russell
	4.00 pm	Reception and vigil for John McWilliams
Fri. 11.00 am		Requiem Mass for John McWilliams
Sat. 10.30 am		Advent Feria – Donor's Int.
	6.00 pm	2 nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Int. Tony, George & Agnes Harmer

**Fdn. = Foundation Mass*

The Parish Newsletter (incl. back copies) is available to view on the parish website from Friday onward each week

Anniversaries: Emma Jane Talmadge, Evelyn Goodenough, Winifred Lovesay, Joseph Barker, Madeline Lambert, Mary Lambert, Frederick Shelock, Charles O’Kane, Mona Murphy, John Lawrence, James Hooper, Jean English, Phyllis Howell, Les Rayner, John Merrick, Leonard Barnard, Dorothy Rayner, Frederick Lambert, Felix Jackson, David Lines, George Harmer, Adrian Ring-Davies, Mary Butler, Phyllis Thurstance, Fred Evans, Tony Lovelace, Kevin Bayne and Susan Frosdick. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.*

Hospital Visits – If you or family members are admitted to the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital (NNUH) or Queen Elizabeth II Hospital (QEII), King’s Lynn, 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 Fr Peter Rollings (01553 772220) for visits to QEII. If you would like to receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the sick before going to hospital, please contact Fr. Brendan on 01362 694066.

Sick List - Please pray for: Joan Blakiston, David Peek, Robert Nicol, Shirley Liebenhals, Sarah Chaudri, Anne & Derek Williams, Rita Smith, Eileen Brockleby, Kathleen (Jenny) Rudd, Ellen Flood, Margaret Leggett, Peter Brown, Robert Anderson, Carole Whitesides, Doris Hipper, Janet Yardley, Josie Myhill, Mary Cawley and Ken Summerford.

Money Matters – The collection for the day-to-day maintenance of our parish last weekend amounted to £445.77 and the retiring collection for the Diocesan Youth Service came to £146.37. Thank you all for your generosity.

130 Club October Draw – 1st Prize £20 – Augustina Uzor; 2nd Prize £15 – Kath Borthwick; 3rd Prize £10 – Muriel Harmer; 4th Prize £10 – Myrna Kemp; 5th Prize £10 – John Duffield.

Diary Dates for this week –	
Mon. 4 th Dec.	Please note there is no meeting of the Mother Teresa’s Knitting Group this month.
Weds. 6 th Dec.	SVP Conference meeting – 7.30pm in Emmaus Room
Sat. 9 th Dec.	Saturday Club meets - 11.00am in Emmaus Room & 2 nd practice session for the children’s Nativity and Carols to be presented on 17 th December.

Please note the changes to Mass times on Monday and Friday.

UCM Cake & Produce Stall – An appeal to all UCM members and other generous souls for cakes, jams and other produce to be sold on our stall next weekend (9th/10th December) after all Masses. The proceeds of this sale will go to charity. Mary Shutt will be in the church from 4.45pm on Saturday 9th December to receive any donations, or you can just bring them before the Mass you attend. Many thanks, in advance, for your kind generosity.

Posada Statue: The Posada Statue begins its journey around the homes in the parish again this weekend. As before the prayers etc. will be in with the statue in its box. There are still some vacant slots on the sheet and I think it is best if the holder of the statue

just make contact with the next person with regard to collection or delivery. I will have a copy of the list in the Presbytery in case there is any confusion. This is a lovely custom to have in our parish and across the diocese each Advent. Thank you for participating in the Journey.

Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard. The Government is about to make a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which currently prevents new Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils who want a place to attend. The Government has previously acknowledged that such a policy discriminates against Catholics and had promised to abandon it. Now we need you to tell the Government not to u-turn on their promise to Catholics. Please visit <http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> to fill in a simple form that automatically generates an email to Government expressing concern about this change. Alternatively, please search for ‘Catholic Education’ in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools. Thank you for your help with this. *(From Bishop Alan Hopes, 22nd November 2017)*

Christmas Lunch & Children’s Nativity, Sunday, 17th December at Toftwood Village Hall – Tickets are now on sale for the Christmas Lunch and Children’s Nativity on Sunday 17th December 12.00 – 15.00. Tickets are £5 per adult and £3 for children up to 12yrs. A complimentary ticket will be given if you donate a dish. There will be lists at the back of church for you to say you are coming, food donations and for children under 12, please indicate whether boy or girl, as this makes it easier for Santa to bring enough presents.

Pope Francis Prayer Intention for December 2017 - This month Pope Francis invites us to join in his prayer intention for December “...**That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.**”

Bite Size - “Too often too late comes too soon.” ~ *Dr. SunWolf, 2015*

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES	
	◇ Saturday, 23 rd December – No morning Mass (<i>Advent FERIA</i>) 6.00pm Mass – 4th Sunday of Advent
	◇ Sunday, 24 th December - 4th Sunday of Advent - 10.00am Mass
	◇ Sunday, 24 th December - Christmas Eve - 6.00pm – First Mass of Christmas 10.00pm – Mass During the Night
	◇ Monday, 25 th December – Christmas Day - 10.00am – Mass During the Day