

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Choose a Better Way - We are good at digging ourselves into holes. We dig ourselves deep into places from which we cannot climb back out. Suddenly there is no way back from an argument we've had with a relative or a friend. Perhaps we've said things that can't be retracted or we've heard something we can't forgive. Suddenly there is no way back to a simpler way of life because we've somehow managed to overcomplicate or overcommit. Suddenly there is no way we can get back to feeling good about ourselves because we have made mistakes that seem impossible to rectify. Today John the Baptist points us in a better direction. He tells us "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made straight."

Preparing a way for God in our lives is no different from any other preparation. Before we go Christmas shopping, we make a list of people we are going to buy for. Before we cook the Christmas dinner, we make a list of what we are going to need right down from the turkey to the tin foil. So too when we plan to make better paths for God to work in our lives, we need to make a list of holes we need to dig ourselves out of, and how exactly we are going to fill them back in. The holes that were once filled with doubt and worry need to be filled with positive thoughts and fresh determination. The holes that kept us trapped in feelings of guilt and regret need to be filled with belief in God's forgiveness. Where once we struggled with overly burdened lives we now need to stop and refocus on what's important.

Rebuilding our lives might not be something we can do overnight, but we can all begin with the will to be different; the will to climb out of the holes we have dug and choose a better path.

Bitesize – 'For a long time it had seemed to me that life was about to begin - real life. But there was always some obstacle in the way. Something to be got through first, some unfinished business, time still to be served, a debt to be paid. Then life would begin. At last it dawned on me that these obstacles were my life.' ~ Fr. Alfred D'Souza



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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Parish Safeguarding Representative: Kathleen Edmunds:

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9TH DECEMBER 2018 – 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Year C

[2nd Week of Advent, Weekday Year I, Psalter Week 2]

Mass Times for the Week			Intentions
Sat. 8 th Dec.	6.00 pm	2 nd Sunday of Advent [Parish Mass Book p84]	Phyllis Thurstance Michael Reavey People of the Parish
Sun. 9 th Dec.	9.00 am 11.00 am		
Mon. 10 th Dec.	10.00 am		
Tues. 11 th Dec.	-	Advent Feria	No Mass today – PP's day off
Tues. 11 th Dec.	4.30pm	Reception of the Remains of Anna Tompkins.	
Weds. 12 th Dec.	10.00 am	Requiem Mass and funeral for Anna Tompkins.	
Thurs. 13 th Dec.	10.00 am	St. Lucy	Holy Souls
Fri. 14 th Dec.	10.00 am	St. John of the Cross	Holy Souls
Sat. 15 th Dec.	10.30 am	Advent Feria	Holy Souls
Sat. 15 th Dec.	6.00 pm	3 rd Sunday of Advent	People of the Parish John Perkins Maria Alexandra Coito Pita
Sun. 16 th Dec.	9.00 am 11.00 am		

Music for 2nd Sunday in Advent – *Setting*: The Belmont Mass

Entry: 6pm – Angelus (said); Hymn 983 – Hills of the north, rejoice ...

Psalm is sung at 11am Mass this week: *R.*: What marvels the Lord worked for us!

Indeed we were glad.

Offertory: Hymn 94 – On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry ...

Recessional: 11am – Angelus (said); Hymn 92 – Hark! a herald voice is calling ...

Confession/Reconciliation: Saturday at 5.30pm, or by request/appointment

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

Anniversaries this week: Susan Frosdick, Olive Maude Thompson, John Hauzoter, Mary Rayner, Ethel Seabrook, Bridget Earthy and Fred English. *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, 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: David Peek, Janet Yardley, Jenny Rudd, Peter Gormans, Sarah Chaudri, Rita Smith, Carol Whitesides, Catherine (Kay) Garrard and Robert Nicol.

Money Matters: Thank you for your offering of £414.80 last weekend for the day-to-day maintenance of our parish. **Next Weekend**, there will be a retiring collection after all Masses for the Diocesan Dependent Priests Fund.

Diary Dates for this week -		
Tues. 11 th Dec.	7.30pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group - Emmaus Room
Weds. 12 th Dec.	11.00am	UCM meeting – Emmaus Room
Fri. 14 th Dec.	7.15 – 8.15pm	Altar Servers meeting – Emmaus Room
Sat. 15 th Dec.	11.00am	Saturday Club - Emmaus Room

Children's Nativity Play will take place next **Sunday, 16th December at 2.00pm** in the Church.

Advance Notice of Christmas Mass Times –

- ❖ Christmas Eve – 6.00pm and 10.00pm
- ❖ Christmas Day – 10.00am

Readers and Lay Ministers of Communion – *Volunteers are needed to assist with the Christmas Liturgy – if you will be attending one of the Christmas Masses, please could you help by signing up for one of the vacancies on the Christmas Mass rota at the back of church. Thank you very much.*

Food for the Homeless or those in Need at Christmas – The St Vincent de Paul Society has notified their local SVP branches that Aldi supermarkets were prepared to let them have perishable foods on 24th December for those in need. It has not been able to make suitable arrangements for this with the local Foodbank in the time allowed for notification to Aldi head office; however, since then, Aldi themselves have put a number of ads on Facebook to say that if anyone homeless or in need wishes to go to an Aldi store at 4pm on Christmas Eve, they will give the food away free. Please pass this on if you know of anyone in need.

Dependent Priests Fund Collection 2018 – Fr. Simon Blakesley, Chair of the Trustees, writes: "We are still relying on the kind generosity of all of you to support priests in mainly medical, but also in general need. In this we are not supported by the specifically retirement needs focus of 'Alive in Faith' and we are an **independent charity** run by the priests of the diocese, NOT by the Bishop or the Curia. Please do **Gift Aid** your support in the envelopes provided as we cannot claim back on anything given in a Diocesan printed envelope as our Registered Charity Number is different (**1102707**). For those needing or wishing to send payments to us by BACS our a/c details are 60-15-31 68085834 The East Anglia Dependent Priests Fund. Many thanks." ***This collection will take place after all Masses next weekend. Please see the poster at the back of church.***

Letter from our Rome Correspondent: "Advent began at the Beda College in Rome with an unusual sense of peace and quiet, as evening prayer on Saturday was followed by the house going into silence until midday mass on Sunday. This was a good time to reflect and offer up time in prayer, and allow the work we have to do every day fade into the background just for a short while: overall, a very blessed opportunity. Recent weeks have been wet and cold, and the dark nights have been very long – evening comes early here because of the hour time difference – and this has led to another kind of reflection, a remembrance of my first autumn in the city three years ago when I arrived here to begin seminary formation. Now I am in my last Advent here before what I hope is a parish assignment back in the diocese, and the awareness this brings is twofold, first that the time has gone so quickly, and secondly that a return to East Anglia will mean a very different routine and rhythm to life. Being ordained as a deacon last June was a great privilege and was followed by a wonderful summer of ministry and visiting friends, family and familiar parishes. And now my colleagues and I have been given a date for priestly ordination, and I extend an invitation to all of you who are able to join us at Norwich Cathedral on 6th July 2019. Your prayers for vocations have helped us to reach this stage and I thank you for all your help and good wishes during these precious few years. I offer you my own prayers for a joyful Advent, and may the coming of the Lord into the world be a time of peace for all. *In Christ, Rev. Mike Brookes, Pontifical Beda College, Rome.*"

The Angelus

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

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

∇. And the Word was made flesh. **R.** *And dwelt among us. Hail Mary ...*

∇. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God. **R.** *That we may be made worth 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.