

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Finding 'You' Time

How prepared are you? Have you ordered all the presents and put up the tree? Preparation is one of the most important parts of Christmas, but Advent was never supposed to be about fixing the fairy lights. Advent is about spiritual preparation. In all the whirlwind preparations for the Christmas celebrations, we need to prepare a way for the Lord, and this preparation begins with a call from an eccentric man living alone in the desert over two thousand years ago

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance. Today we might easily dismiss the rantings of a strange man who dressed in camel hair and fed on locusts, but interestingly, people travelled miles into the desert to be baptised by him, so charismatic a man was he, and so important his message. Two thousand years later, his message is just as relevant to those of us who want greater meaning in our lives. The repentance that John teaches means so much more than being sorry for our sins. Repentance means changing the direction of our lives away from poor and ungodly choices. Was the direction of our life decided by what exams we did or didn't pass at the age of seventeen? Has the direction of our life been determined by arbitrary decisions and random circumstances? Advent is a time to decide what sort of a person we would really like to be, and in what direction we would really like to be heading.

"Prepare the way of the Lord," John tells us, "make straight his paths." To allow God into our lives, we are asked to remove any obstacles in God's path. How can we open our minds to God's will if our time is consumed in filling the freezer and making Christmas puddings? Advent is an opportunity for us to make some quiet time to contemplate and prioritise. What is it exactly that is preventing God's work in our lives?

"One mightier than I is coming after me," John tells us, "I have baptised you with water, he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit." In the desert of commercialism, we are reminded that the reason for the season is not turkeys and baubles. Preparation is a time of reflection; a little 'You' time.

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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Parish Safeguarding Representative: Kathleen Edmunds -

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10TH DECEMBER 2017 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday Masses - Page 85 of Parish Mass Book

Saturday	6.00 pm	Int. Tony, George & Agnes Harmer
Sunday	9.00 am	Int. Phyllis Thurstance
	11.00 am	Int. People of the Parish

Music for Sunday Masses - Setting: Belmont Mass

Entry 6pm - Angelus (said); Hymn 92 - Hark! A herald voice is calling ...

Offertory Hymn 103 - Promised Lord, and Christ is he ...

Communion Instrumental Interlude/Sacred silence ...

Recessional 11am - Angelus (said); Hymn 100 - Come, thou long-expected Jesus ...

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

Weekday Mass Times	(2 nd week of Advent)	[Psalter Week 2]
Mon.	10.00 am	Advent Feria - Fr. Michael Adams
Tues.	No Mass today 7.30 pm	Advent Feria Queen of Peace Prayer Group - in Emmaus Room
Weds.	No Mass today	St. Lucy
Thurs.	10.00 am	St John of the Cross - Int. Ken Summerford (Sanderson)
Fri.	10.00 am	Advent Feria - Int. Susan Murray
Sat.	10.30 am	Advent Feria - Int. Mary Northway
	6.00 pm	3 rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Int. Thelma Jones (Harris)

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

Anniversaries this week: Olive Maude Thompson, John Hauzoter, Mary Rayner, Ethel Seabrook, Bridget Earthy, Fred English, Evelyn Flanagan, Pat Chapman and Gabriel Shelley. *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 maintenance of the parish last weekend amounted to £538.30. Thank you for your generosity. **Next Sunday**, there will be a retiring collection for the Diocesan Dependent Priests’ Fund.

Diary Dates for this week –	
Weds. 13 Dec.	Union of Catholic Mothers meeting – 11.00am in Emmaus Room. The UCM Raffle draw will take place. Members are invited to bring a shared plate.
Fri. 15 Dec.	Altar Servers meet – 7.15pm – 8.15pm in Emmaus Room.
Sat. 16 Dec.	Saturday Club meets - 11.00am in Emmaus Room. Final practice session for the Children’s Nativity and Carols to be presented tomorrow, Sunday 17 th December, after the Parish Christmas Lunch.

Wednesday, 13th December – Please note that there will not be a Mass on Wednesday as I have to celebrate a Requiem Mass in Lowestoft.

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.

Posada Statue: The Posada Statue began its journey around the homes in the parish last 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.

Music cards and laminated Mass cards - I have had to order extra copies of these as our supply has greatly diminished. If you have taken them home by mistake with your newsletter, I would be grateful if they were returned. Please take the newsletter home with you as it has the Christmas Mass times in it, but leave the music sheet and Mass card behind.

The Community of Our Lady of Walsingham, founded in 2004, is moving into the parish thanks to the generosity of the Discalced Carmelite Fathers and many other benefactors. The sisters run Dowry House Retreat for the shrine at Walsingham, having previously run the House of Prayer for Brentwood Diocese for 13 years. They hope to develop their new home over time, look forward to meeting parishioners and welcoming them to their first convent once they have settled in. They are entrusting the project to St Withburga, asking for your prayers and sending everyone best wishes for a joyful Advent.

Bite Size - “What would be the use of immortality to a person who cannot use well a half an hour.” ~ *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES



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

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**