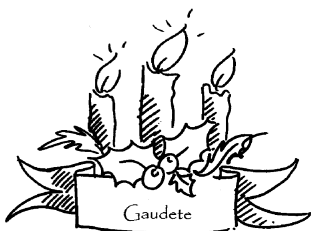


GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



What Must We Do?

How many times are we shamed into saying, "I'll never grumble again!" We watch children who have life threatening illnesses finding something to smile about. We see families living in poverty, seemingly happy when they have every excuse to be deeply unhappy. We read about the men and women, who despite disability or overwhelming odds, adopt a positive attitude and achieve great things. These people are living proof that happiness doesn't come from everything being right in our lives.

The third Sunday in Advent is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday, Gaudete meaning to rejoice. Rejoicing, exulting, being happy and singing for joy are the themes in today's liturgy. But how are we to feel happy in a world where there isn't much to feel happy about what must we do? John the Baptist gives us the answer, "If anyone has two tunics," he says, he must share with the man who has none." We have all experienced the joy of giving a gift..... the inner glow that comes with knowing we have bought someone exactly what they always wanted. We experience this same pleasure in sharing what we have with those who have nothing.

To the tax collector and the soldier John says, "Exact no more than your rate. Be content with your pay." What joy is there in gain if it's at someone else's expense? Do we really get any satisfaction at saving a couple of pence at the supermarket knowing it is at the expense of a third world farmer working for virtually nothing at all. At this season in particular we remember not to exploit those who work hard for little profit. We remember whilst doing our Christmas shopping to look for the 'Fair Trade' labels. If we are employers we remember not to make unreasonable demands in order to line our own pockets.

Most importantly this Christmas, we remember that happiness comes from being content with what we have.

**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 Website: <http://www.rcdea.org.uk>

Notre Dame High School, Norwich Website: <http://www.ndhs.org.uk>

PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART AND ST MARGARET MARY

Parish Priest: Fr. Brendan Moffatt - email: brendanmoffatt@yahoo.co.uk

Address: The Presbytery, 35 London Road, Dereham NR19 1AS

Telephone: 01362 694066.

Parish website: <http://www.sacredheartdereham.org.uk>

Permanent Deacon: Rev. Martin Sanderson – Tel: 01362 822590

email: dcnmsanderson@hotmail.com

13TH DECEMBER 2015 – 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE SUNDAY)

Sunday Masses – Page 87 of Parish Mass Book

Saturday	6.00 pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	9.00 am	Josepiado Pinto
	11.00 am	Kaluaryta Massacre (Foundation Mass)

Music for Sunday Masses - *Setting: Belmont Mass*

Entry 6pm – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 90 – When the King shall come again ...

Offertory Hymn 109 – Lo, He comes with clouds descending ...

Communion *Instrumental Interlude/Sacred silence ...*

Recessional 11am – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 102 – Hail to the Lord's anointed ...

CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION - Saturday at 5.30 - 5.55 pm

Weekday Mass Times (3rd week of Advent) [*Psalter Week 3*]

Mon.	10.00 am	Alfred Thomas English - St John of the Cross
Tues.	No Mass today	- Advent Feria
	7.30 pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group – in Emmaus Room
Weds.	No Mass today	- Advent Feria
Thurs.	10.00 am	John Perkins - Advent Feria
Fri.	10.00 am	Maria Heald - Advent Feria
	5.45 pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Silent Prayer
	6.15 pm	Evening Prayer (Vespers)
Sat.	10.30 am	Jean Clarke - Advent Feria
	6.00 pm	Tony & Agnes Harmer - 4 th Sunday of Advent

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

[Reg. Charity 278742]

Anniversaries this week: Mary Rayner, Ethel Seabrook, Bridget Earthy, Fred English, Evelyn Flanagan, Pat Chapman, Gabriel Shelley, Frances Shaw, Margaret Doherty, Patrick Keatley and Agnes Harmer. *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: Michelle Redmond, Joan Blakiston, David Peek, Michael Reavey, Sheila Christie, Robert Nicol, Doreen Kanssen, Shirley Liebenhals, Sarah Chaudri, Anne & Derek Williams, David & Anna Thompkins, Michelle Smith, Rita Smith, Rhonda Darby, Collette Barrow-Nessian and Eileen Brockleby.

Money Matters – The collection last weekend was £449.64. Thank you very much. This weekend there is a retiring collection for the Sick and Retired Priests of the Diocese.

Diary Dates for this week –

- Weds. 16th Dec. – Please note there is no Mass today as I will be attending the Ministry to Priests at Clare
- Weds. 16th Dec. – Parish Finance Committee – 7.30pm in the Presbytery
- Fri. 18th Dec. – Altar Servers meet – 7.15-8.15pm in Emmaus Room
- Sat. 19th Dec. – Saturday Club meets - 11.00am in Emmaus Room (final Nativity Rehearsal)

Gaudete Sunday - The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday. The Latin ‘*Gaudete*’ is translated as ‘*Rejoice*’, the first word of the introit. The reference to joy, hope and optimism are dominant at this point in Advent.

Posada - You are invited to join in the Posada’s Journey **this Sunday, 13th December** at 7:00pm in the Emmaus Room. Prayer and reflection; stay afterwards for a cup of tea and a chat.

Mass Times at Christmas –

- ◇ **Christmas Eve**
 - 6.00 pm - First Mass of Christmas (Private Intention)
 - 11.30 pm - Christmas Carols
 - 12 Midnight – Midnight Mass (Private Intention)
- ◇ **Christmas Day**
 - 10.00 am Mass (People of the Parish)



The Parish Christmas Lunch - at the Yaxham Village Hall on **Sunday, 20th December** , from 12.30pm. TICKETS on sale after all Masses this weekend - Adults £6, Children £3 (inc. a present). A complimentary ticket for each dish you bring to share (please put

down what you are bringing on the notice board; hot dishes should arrive hot, and only need warming). If you are purchasing a child’s ticket, please put their name and age on the other notice, so that Santa can bring an appropriate gift. Hot and cold drinks provided, but please bring your own alcoholic drinks. The Lunch will be followed by the BETHLEHEM TABLEAUX AND CAROLS and by a VISIT FROM FATHER CHRISTMAS.

New Year Epiphany Candlelight Mass - January 3rd at 5pm - For all young people and their families across the diocese. Followed by hot dogs, a bonfire and fireworks. There will be a collection of presents for children who are refugees (please bring wrapped presents and indicate whether suitable for a boy or girl or either, and approximate age). Held at The White House, 21 Uppgate, Poringland, Norwich. Organised by the Diocesan Youth Service.



Advent Greetings from our Rome Correspondent - “Nearly three months have gone by since our arrival in Rome. The routine here is now well-established, and although the days are quite long – 6.30AM until 10.30PM is the usual commitment, with a couple of hours free in the course of the day plus Sunday afternoon and all of Thursday off – the weeks pass very quickly, and it’s started to feel ‘normal’ to be here. Advent has begun and there are a few signs of Christmas visible in the streets and in the shops, but it’s refreshing to note that the massively overdone commercialisation of the season that we see in the UK is largely absent here. Decorations are attractive, and usually have more obviously religious significance, and there is a great fondness for nativity scenes – if you have internet access, do an online search for the figures on view in St Peter’s Square, and you will see a particularly magnificent example on show. The crib scene was invented by St Francis of Assisi in the early 13th century at Greccio, near to Rome, and the tradition is strongly maintained in Italy. As I write this, today is the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, and as you may have seen on the news the Year of Mercy was inaugurated with the Pope’s opening of St Peter’s Holy Door for the first time since 2000. I believe that we are witnessing a very important time in the life of the Church, and I am very blessed to be here to witness some of these important events. Today as always I have offered my prayers for the diocese, her people and her clergy, and I extend my continuing thanks to all of you along with my best wishes for the season. I will be home for a brief stay between Christmas and New Year, and look forward to catching up with people then. *In Christ, Mike Brookes, (Your correspondent in Rome, but not a Vatican insider!).*”

Bite Size

“Well,” said Pooh, “what I like best,” and then he had to stop and think. Because although Eating Honey was a very good thing to do, there was a moment just before you began to eat it which was better than when you were, but he didn’t know what it was called. ‘ (A.A. Milne)