

## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



### God at The Wheel

What is the difference between a Christian and someone who is not a Christian but is simply a very good person? The answer is that a very good person uses his or her own agenda. A Christian testifies to Christ. John the Baptist understood this very well. John understood that he had come as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. John hadn't come to change the world or work miracles or offer salvation ... he had simply come to prepare the way for a man who could. The gospels and the course of history are filled with men and women who have borne witness to Christ, some very famous and some we will never hear of. John the Baptist was probably the most significant because he sets the precedent. So how is John's example relevant to the rest of us?

In a legal context a good witness is someone who doesn't try to put their own interpretation on events. A good witness is someone who recognises the importance of truth and doesn't taint it with their own agenda. John the Baptist takes 'witness' to another level. We are not just to report the truth, but to channel it with understanding, humility and an appreciation of our human limitations. We provide good witness when we have done something good or clever, but are careful to give God credit for it. We provide good witness when we follow Jesus' teaching but trust in God to magnify our human effort.

Advent is a time for us to wake up and see the light. Advent is a time for us to re-assess the job we feel God has set for us and to get on with it. Advent is a time we clear the obstacles and prepare straight pathways. Advent is the time we recognise that God is at the wheel.



**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](http://www.universalis.com)

### PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART AND ST. MARGARET MARY [Registered Charity 278742]

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

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

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Parish Music Leader: Michael King: Email: [michaeljwking@gmail.com](mailto:michaeljwking@gmail.com)

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Kathleen Edmunds:

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### 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2020 – 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Year B

[3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Advent, Weekday Year I, Psalter Week 3]

Mass Times for the Week			Intentions
Sat. 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	6.00 pm	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent <i>(Gaudete Sunday)</i>	Calvin & Becky Cummings (Cummings)
Sun. 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	9.00 am 11.00 am		Kalavryta Massacre victims (Fdn.) The People of the Parish
Mon. 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	10.00 am	S John of the Cross	Ann & Martin Bracken (Mealy)
Tues. 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	-	Advent Feria	<b>No Mass today</b>
Weds. 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	10.00 am	Advent Feria	John Perkins
Thurs. 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	10.00 am	Advent Feria	Jane Morrisoe (Cummings)
Fri. 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	10.00 am	Advent Feria	Bridget & William Murphy (Mealy)
Sat. 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	-	Advent Feria	<b>No morning Mass</b>
Sun. 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	6.00 pm 9.00 am 11.00 am	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	Patsy Gray The People of the Parish MacDonald Family & Roger Borthwick

*All Celebrations of Mass are livestreamed on YouTube*

**CHURCH OPEN DAILY:** *The Church is open daily until 4:00 pm*

**MASS LIVE STREAM** – Search for **Dereham Catholic Church** on YouTube,

*Or use the following link:*

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCR-qWs-B40VTvbezZ83MxQ/videos?view=2&flow=grid>

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

**Anniversaries this week:** Mary Rayner, Ethel Seabrook, Bridget Earthy, Fred English, Pat Chapman, Gabriel Shelley, Evelyn Flanagan, Frances Shaw, Margaret Doherty, Patrick Keatley, Agnes Harmer, Mary Lingwood. *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:** Jenny Rudd, Carol Whitesides, Shirley Liebenhals, Frances Saville King, Una McWeeny, Derek Williams.

**Money Matters:** Thank you for your offering of £883.50 last weekend for the day-to-day running of our parish. Offertory donations by standing order for November 2020 amounted to £1,032. Thank you very much.

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**. This is a great way for the parish to get additional funds from the tax reclaim benefits scheme; with this scheme you do not need to commit to a fixed amount as it will just be based on your total annual contribution. Let Fr. Brendan know if you would like to sign up to Gift Aid.



**Newsletter by Email** - Please let Fr. Brendan know if you would like to receive the parish's weekly bulletin by email. We have a GDPR compliant list of names for this purpose.

**Gaudete Sunday** - The Third Sunday of Advent is 'Gaudete Sunday', the Sunday we light the pink candle on the Advent wreath. If we still celebrated the Mass in Latin, we would find the Word 'Gaudete' in the first line of the Introit. It's an invitation for us to rejoice! These are the days leading up to the feast of our Saviour's birth, today we are reminded of the joy that is to come.



**Christmas Masses:** Christmas Eve: **3.00 pm & 8.00 pm**. Christmas Day: **9.00 am & 11.00 am**. Attendance at Christmas Mass is by ticket only. There are **50 tickets** available for each Mass. Altar Servers will not need a ticket. Tickets can be booked online via the parish website by following this link: <http://www.sacredheartdereham.org.uk/christmas>

## Posada: The Journey of Mary & Joseph for Advent 2020 – Making Room for Jesus this Christmas



Posada is an old Mexican tradition where young people dressed as Mary and Joseph travelled from house to house asking for a room for the night and telling people about the imminent arrival of Jesus in the weeks leading up to Christmas. On Christmas Eve they would visit the local church to re-enact the nativity and place figures of Mary and Joseph in a crib. Modern day Posada uses nativity figures of Mary and Joseph who travel from place to place. This gives each 'host' the chance to create their own

celebration in their home or place in the community, worshipping and reaching out to their communities with the real message of Christmas, making room for Jesus in their lives. But because Covid prevents us from following the usual arrangements for Posada around the parish this year, I propose to set up the statue in the church near the Advent Wreath, together with copies of the Posada poster and prayers, so that we can still be part of the journey of Mary and Joseph leading up to Christmas. Copies of the poster and prayers are also available on the parish website.

**SVP Appeal** – Can you help? To meet requests for help, the SVP is seeking donations of baby stuff (especially under 5 years), and cots, blankets, toys would also be helpful. Also, any kitchen dishes or utensils. Contact: Terri Sanderson 01362 822590, [ktsanderson@live.co.uk](mailto:ktsanderson@live.co.uk) who would be happy to pick up.

## Pope Francis's Prayer Intention for December 2020: For a life of prayer



Pope Francis tells us that the heart of the Church's mission is prayer. Prayer is the key for us to be able to enter into dialogue with the Father. Every time we read a short passage from the Gospel, we hear Jesus speaking to us; we have a conversation with Jesus; we listen to Jesus and we reply. This is prayer. By praying, we change reality, and we change our hearts. Our heart changes when we pray. We can do many things, but without prayer, it does not work. This month we are invited to join in Pope Francis's prayer intention. "... We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer. "

**Bitesize** – "The truth that makes men free is for the most part the truth which men prefer not to hear." ~ Herbert Agar

