

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Final Answer? - "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you Do not be afraid, for you have found favour with God." Imagine for one moment, that instead of the Angel Gabriel speaking those words to Mary, that they had been spoken directly to you. How would you feel? It would of course be a life changing moment ... a moment filled both with great excitement and of great uncertainty. In that moment you would know that life would never be the same again. In

that moment you would know that God had great plans for you. How must Mary have felt? It must have taken huge courage for her to agree to conceive God's Son. By saying 'yes' to God's plan she was allowing her whole life to be turned upside down. By saying 'yes' she was to turn her back on the security of the normal life she had planned with Joseph, her husband-to-be.

God's call to Mary is what we refer to today as the "Annunciation" which means an announcement or a calling. There are other places in the Bible where we see people called unexpectedly from the normality of their hum-drum lives to serve God. The calling is always a two-way thing. God requires a response. Of course we don't have to respond to God's call if we don't want to. Mary didn't have to say 'yes' to God's plan. She could have declined and lived out her years in trouble free comfort.

God still calls people today. Sometimes the call is insistent, as many who have been called to religious vocation will testify. Often the call is less obvious, and yet we are told that God has called each of us, and that for each of us there is a role to play. We are favoured and chosen just as Mary was. The main difference is that Mary responded fully to her unique role, whilst we remain hesitant and half-hearted, plagued by doubts as to our worth. Answering God's call isn't a comfortable business. Answering God's call might involve difficult decisions and hardship; but it might also be hugely rewarding, exciting and invigorating. How do we see God's call? Do we see it as a great burden, or as a great gift? Although Mary was young and uneducated, she had the faith to see that what the Angel Gabriel was offering her in calling her for God was a great gift. The call is to us all. How does God call each of us? What talents skills and characteristics do we each possess that God can use? Advent is a time in which we can look for the ways in which God is calling us a time in which we can decide on the answer will give.

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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24TH DECEMBER 2017 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday Mass Times – Page 90 of Parish Mass Book

Saturday, 23rd Dec. 6.00 pm Int. Donor's Int.

Sunday, 24th Dec. 10.00 am Int. People of the Parish

CHRISTMAS EVE* 6.00 pm **First Mass of Christmas – Private Int.**

10.00 pm **Christmas Mass during the Night – Private Int.**

(*Parish Mass Book pp 94 & 97)

Music for 4th Sunday of Advent - Setting: Belmont Mass, incl. Memorial Acclamation 1

Entry 6pm – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 113 – The angel Gabriel from heaven came ...

Offertory Hymn 720 – Be still for the presence of the Lord ...

Communion *Instrumental Interlude/Sacred silence ...*

Recessional 11am – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 880 – Tell out my soul the greatness of the Lord

SEE INSIDE FOR MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY

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

Weekday Mass Times (Psalter for the Octave of Christmas)

Mon. 10.00 am **CHRISTMAS DAY*** – Int. People of the Parish

(*Parish Mass Book p102 – see inside for music)

Tues. 12 Noon **St Stephen, The first Martyr** – Int. Mary Reeder

Weds. 10.00 am St John, Ap. & Evangelist – Int. Kalavryta Massacre (*Fdn)

Thurs. 10.00 am Holy Innocents – Int. Rose Rowan

Fri. 10.00 am St Thomas Becket – Int. Mary Connolly

Sat. **No morning Mass** Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity

6.00 pm THE HOLY FAMILY – Int. Mgr. Austin Hunt

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



Carols before Christmas Masses

1. 127 – *O little town of Bethlehem*
2. 133 – *While shepherds watched their flocks by night*
3. 144 – *In the bleak midwinter*
4. 135 – *It came upon the midnight clear*
5. 126 – *A noble flow'r of Juda*
6. 129 – *God rest ye merry gentlemen*
7. 150 – *The first Nowell the angel did say*
8. 152 – *Unto us is born a Son*
9. 155 – *Hark! The herald angels sing*
10. 156 – *Joy to the world, the Lord has come*

Music for Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Masses – Mass Setting: *The New People's Mass* (Dom Gregory Murray), incl. Memorial Acclamation 1

Entry Hymn	128 – Once in royal David's City
Offertory Hymn	136 – Silent night, holy night
Communion Hymn	<i>Instrumental Interlude/Sacred silence ...</i>
Recessional Hymn	159 – O come, all ye faithful

Gospel Reflection for Christmas Day



Were you the parent who was asked by your child for a 'Hatchimal' at Christmas only to find that every single toy shop on the planet had sold out by the end of November! The tragedy of Christmas is that we are left feeling we have failed as parents, or as a spouse, or as friends, if we have not managed to buy those must-have presents, if we have missed somebody off the card list, or failed to create a Christmas day worthy of a centre fold in Harpers Bizarre. The media has turned Christmas into a frenzy of 'getting things right'.

But despite 'consumerism gone mad', the nativity of Jesus is an event that still grips millions of people. The birth of Jesus heralds a new way of living for each and every new generation, and we are reminded of this significance every year at this time. Yes the lights and the tinsel have to come down, but let's remind ourselves to live the Christmas message of giving and caring, each and every day of the year.

Anniversaries this week: Dorothy Jones, Frederick Power, Joseph Murphy, Ivy O'Shea, Charlie Secker, Mary Reeder, Charles Wilfred Hunt and Dorothy Pinner. *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, Janet Yardley, Josie Myhill, Mary Cawley, Ken Summerford and Patrick McKenna.

Money Matters – The collection last weekend for the maintenance of our parish amounted to £511.85 and the Dependant Priests' Fund Collection amounted to £198.19. During November the parish received £467.00 by Direct Debit/Standing Order. Thank you very much for your generous support. **Christmas Offering** - The collection during the Christmas Masses is the traditional offering to the parish priest.

Diary Dates for this week –

Tues. 26 th Dec.	Altar Servers Mass at 12 noon.
Tues. 26 th Dec.	Please note there is no Queen of Peace Prayer Group this week or next. Meetings resume on 9 th January.
Sat. 30 Dec.	Saturday Club is on holiday until 6 th Jan.

Mass Times - Thank you for your understanding with regard to changed Mass times over the weekend and Christmas. **St. Stephen's Day**, aka Boxing Day, is the day for our Altar Servers to renew the commitment to serving Mass. Four altar servers will receive their medal as member of the Archconfraternity of St. Stephen.

Welcome to all visitors to Sacred Heart, Dereham. If you have come home for Christmas or just visiting, you are very welcome and I hope you have a very enjoyable time.

Thanks to the ladies and gentlemen who have erected the Crib, cleaned the church, arranged the flowers and helped make the church look festive for the Holy Season of Christmastide.

Epiphany Candlelight Mass - Saturday 6th January, 5pm - For all young people and their families from 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 Upgate, Poringland, Norwich. Organised by the Diocesan Youth Service.

Bitesize – "Choices are the hinges of destiny." ~ *Edwin Markham*