

## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### In the Days of Noah

Does Christmas seem to come round faster every year? Do you ever feel that the sand of time is running fast through your fingers and that life is passing you by? The hardest thing about living our lives is finding time to live our lives! Our days are ruled by the clock. Few of us can wake up and choose what to do. Our time is dictated by routine and before we know it life has passed us by before we've had time to live it. The biggest theme of Advent is 'change' but in the busy run up to Christmas, changing the way we live our lives is probably the last thing on our minds. We are much more likely to be comparing prices of the latest iPhone!

Today we are given the biggest life changing piece of advice that we could ever have. Preparation! Preparation is essential whether we are setting out to buy a new washing machine or setting out to change the world. Without preparation we will end up wasting years of our time and missing all those heaven sent opportunities. We might not think that we have the time to live our lives any differently from the way we do now, but with the right kind of planning we can transform who we are and what we do and still manage to fit in the day job.

We hear a lot in the news of disasters around the world. Men women and children across the globe have lost their lives unexpectedly and prematurely. Death comes like a thief in the night just as it did in the days of Noah, and just as in the days of Noah, we must keep focussed and live in perpetual readiness. Jesus doesn't tell us this to frighten us but to encourage us to take responsibility for the here and now.

### Saint Nicholas - 6th December

The true story of Santa Claus begins with Saint Nicholas, who was born during the third century in the village of Patara. Taking to heart Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships.

**Bitesize**  
 `` Don't be fooled by the calendar. There are only as many days in the year as you make use of. *Charles Richards*



**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.

**Permanent Deacons:** Revs Martin Sanderson & Richard Jones (deaconrick@gmail.com)  
**Parish Music team:** Judy Reid, Kathleen Edmunds & Paul McIntee.  
**Parish Safeguarding Representatives:** Paul McIntee

## Sacred Heart & St Margaret Mary



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### Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025 – 1<sup>st</sup> Week of Advent

[Sundays Year A, 1<sup>st</sup> Week of the Year, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week 1]

MASSES in the PARISH		
<b>Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Feria</b>	
18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	Tony Richardson + (AM)
<b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	
09.00	MASS	For the People of the Parish
11.00	<i>MASS Live streamed</i>	
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December</b>	<b>Advent Feria</b>	
-	No Mass today	
<b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December</b>	<b>Advent Feria</b>	
10.00	MASS	Fr Noel Boyle + (JM)
<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December</b>	<b>St Francis Xavier</b>	
10.00	MASS	Michael Mealy + (JM)
<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Advent Feria</b>	
10.00	MASS	
<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Advent Feria</b>	
-	No Mass today	
<b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>St Nicholas</b>	
18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	Elaine Wilkes (Health) (TK)
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	
09.00	MASS	For the People of the Parish
11.00	<i>MASS Live streamed</i>	Elaine Wilkes (Health) (BW,AJ,JT,TK)
<b>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Thursday after 10.00 Mass and Saturday at 17.30</b>		
<b>EXPOSITION &amp; BENEDICTION: Thursday after Mass</b>		

*Rosary & Morning Prayer are said weekdays before Mass from 09:15.*

*Please note the 18.00 and 11.00 weekend Masses are normally sung.*

*For Live Streamed Masses Search for **Dereham Catholic Church** on YouTube, or use the link on the parish website.*

The parish newsletter is available on the parish website from Friday each week.

**Anniversaries this week:** Mona Murphy, John Lawrence, James Hooper, Jean English, Brenda May, Phyllis Howell, Les Rayner, John Merrick, Leonard Barnard, Dorothy Rayner, Frederick Lambert, Felix Jackson, David Lines, George Harmer, Adrian Ring-Davies, Mary Butler, Phyllis Thurstance. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.*

**Hospital Visits:** If you or any member of your family is admitted to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital and would like to have a visit from a Catholic Priest, please inform a nurse on the ward and contact will be made through the Chaplaincy. If you are admitted to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in King's Lynn, please contact Fr. Peter Rollings at the Presbytery on 01553 772220. If you would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick before going into hospital, please contact Fr. Jay either by phone or by email.

**Sick & Housebound [with GDPR Permissions] – Please pray for:** Shirley Liebenhals, Derek Williams, Patsy Gray, Colette Barrow-Nessian, William Dunne, Pauline Buckland, Katherine Vella, Pauline Organ, Pat Grout, George Mealy, Peggy Mealy, Richard Allison, Marion Ring-Davies, Patsy Thompson, Ann McWilliams, Margaret Glendon-Doyle, Mila Kaunaite, Elaine Wilkes, Anne Sibley, Terri Sanderson, Pat Sutton, Hillary Bushell, Ann Williams, Richard Grout, Peter Duffield.

**Money Matters:** Offerings for the week was as follows:  
 Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2025 Plate: £240.11.  
 Second Collection, Philippines: £332.89. We gathered a generous 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection for the Typhoon flood victims in Cebu, Philippines. The funds will be sent through Caritas Cebu, the Catholic Church's charitable arm, to ensure they reach those most in need.

For regular offerings by Standing Order, the information you need is: Account name: Sacred Heart & St Margaret Mary Catholic Church. The Sort Code is: 40-20-08 and the Account number is: 11311115. If a tax payer, please consider Gift Aid (forms at back of church, or contact Rex Baker: Telephone 01362 694801 or email [rexbaker27@btinternet.com](mailto:rexbaker27@btinternet.com)).

**Upcoming Parish events:**

<b>Diary for week Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November - Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2025</b>	
Sunday: 1100	<b>Children's Liturgy</b>
Monday: 1200 - 1400	<b>Soup Kitchen</b> - Emmaus Room. All welcome.
Monday: 1900 - 2030	<b>AA Group Meeting</b> - Emmaus Room
Wednesday: 1430	<b>Queen of Peace Prayer Group</b> – Emmaus Room.
Thursday: 1730 - 1830	<b>First Communion Session</b> – Emmaus Room
Friday: 1915 – 2045	<b>Confirmation Group Meeting</b> – Emmaus Room
<b>Parish Garden Club</b> – To volunteer, please contact Sonia on 07985 521578.	

**Posada:** Rotation starts 1 Dec 25 - A list to sign up is at the back of the Church.

**Parish Winter Soup** – Mondays from 1200 - 1400 (POC = Jo Hurst 07809016600).

**Blessing of the Our Lady's Grotto and Fr Jay's 8<sup>th</sup> Sacerdotal Anniversary 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025** - The Blessing of Our Lady's Grotto will take place on 8 Dec 25, at 1700, followed by Mass at 1730, as Fr Jay joyfully celebrates his 8<sup>th</sup> Sacerdotal Anniversary in gratitude and prayer for Christ's wonderful gift of grace.

**Carols at the Convent** - The Sisters of the COLW warmly invite you to their annual Advent celebration on Saturday 13 Dec 25, 1200 – 1400 hours, at the House of the Divine Will, Neatherd Moor, for carols, homemade mince pies and cakes, bakes and a variety of crafts, for a suggested donation of £5 per adult and £2.50 per child.

**Church Christmas Decorations** - We shall be having the Christmas Decoration in the Church on the 13<sup>th</sup> December, around 1000. Volunteers needed.

**Altar Servers Nativity Play** - We are delighted to have Nativity Play by our Altar Servers on the 14<sup>th</sup> December after the 1100 Mass. We are all invited

**Readers for Christmas Masses** – We're looking for volunteers to read the Bible readings during our Christmas Masses. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of the church, for your preferred scheduled Mass. Thanks.

**Simbang Gabi** (Filipino Christmas Dawn Masses): Please join us for this Mass on the 17<sup>th</sup> December at 1900 in the Parish.

**Parish Christmas Party** - This year's Parish Christmas Party will be on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December at Yaxham Hall, straight after the 1100 Mass. Come and celebrate.

**Pilgrimage to Rome 2026 - September 2026.** We're considering a Parish pilgrimage to Rome in September 2026. If you're interested in joining this spiritual journey, please sign-up on the sheet provided at the back of the Church.

**Parish Prayerline** - If you would like someone to pray for your personal intentions, Silvia, a parishioner, is kindly offering her time in prayer. You may contact her at: [sil17sill@hotmail.com](mailto:sil17sill@hotmail.com). All requests will be treated with complete discretion.

**Christmas Day Film Showing - 1430 at the Emmaus Room** - On Christmas Day at 1430 in the Emmaus Room, we shall be showing the animated film David

**Christmas Mass Schedule - 24 Dec 25**, Christmas Eve: 1800 Carols; 1830 Mass, 2230 Midnight Mass; **25 Dec 25**, Christmas Day: 1000 Mass.

**Lovely Bench at the Garden** - We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Pugh Family for the beautiful bench they have generously donated for the garden at Our Lady's Grotto. Crafted by Dunstan, it now stands as a lovely addition that enhances the grotto's beauty and offers a quiet place for all who visit.