

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Proof of the Pudding - Change is a difficult notion for most of us. Like the Pharisees and Sadducees, we probably think we are okay just the way we are. In our youth we might have had a go at some 'character building' but as we age, we tend to hope that others will accept us warts and all. Then along comes John the Baptist with his Advent message "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." It seems that staying just the way we are is not an option.

'Repentance' is an unfashionable word, but it simply means a 'change of direction'. It also implies that we should be sorry for our old way of life. But as John points out, saying 'sorry' isn't enough. We must be able to provide the proof of the pudding. Lip service is all too easy. Saying that we are sorry and that we want to change is good start, but unless we put any practical provision into place, our good intentions are going to remain exactly that.... good intentions.

John gives us a piece of very helpful advice for making our good intentions fruitful. In preparing a way for Christ in our lives we must "Make straight his paths." That means identifying the obstacles that have prevented us from getting things right in the past and removing them. If we are serious about wanting to change, John has more advice to offer. "There is one who is more powerful who is coming after me. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." With the best will in the world our own lack of willpower can prevent us from realising our good intentions. This is where the Holy Spirit can help us. We need to ask the Holy Spirit to give us the vision and the will to produce the proof of the pudding.

Christmas Party 21 Dec 25:

The Parish Christmas party will take place on 21st December. Please note the later than usual arrival time of 13:00, to start eating at 13:30. The event will continue until 18:00, followed by Karaoke for those who would like to stay longer. Tickets are £7.50 per adult and £2.50 per child. Alternatively, for every food dish brought to share, a complimentary ticket will be provided. If you are bringing food, please sign your name on the list and then claim your ticket. Tickets will be on sale after all masses on the 6th/7th and 13th/14th.

We invite you to wear a Christmas jumper or hat, and a prize will be awarded for the most Christmassy outfit. Please can you also consider donating prizes for the raffle, or buying tickets, which will be drawn at the Christmas Party. Thanks.



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 7th December 2025 – 2nd Week of Advent
 [Sundays Year A, 2nd Week of the Year, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week 2]

MASSES in the PARISH	
Saturday 6th December	Advent Feria
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	Elaine Wilkes (Health) (TK)
Sunday 7th December	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
09.00 MASS	For the People of the Parish
11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	Elaine Wilkes (Health) (BW,AJ,JT,TK)
Monday 8th December	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (Solemnity)
17.30 MASS	
Tuesday 9th December	Advent Feria
10.00 MASS	Michael Mealy + (PP)
Wednesday 10th December	Bls Henry Heath & Bls John Robinson
10.00 MASS	UK Matthew (CC)
Thursday 11th December	Advent Feria
10.00 MASS	John Merrick + (Fdn)
Friday 12th December	Advent Feria
-	No Mass today
Saturday 13th December	St Lucy
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	Kalavryta (Massacre 1943) + (Fdn)
Sunday 14th December	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
09.00 MASS	For the People of the Parish
11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	Eileen Dee + (KF & Fam)
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Thursday after 10.00 Mass and Saturday at 17.30	
EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION: Thursday after Mass	

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: Fred Evans, Tony Lovelace, Kevin Bayne, Diana Mary Cater, Susan Frosdick, Olive Maude Thompson, John Hauzoter, Mary Rayner, Ethel Seabrook. *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 30th November 2025 Plate: £345.70.
 Monthly Standing Orders/Bank Transfers for November 2025: £2,259.

A New Bank for the New Year! We will be changing to the **NatWest** bank on 1st January 2026. We will include details soon.

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).

Upcoming Parish events:

Diary for week Sunday 7th December - Saturday 13th December 2025	
Sunday: 1100	Children's Liturgy
Monday: 1200 - 1400	Soup Kitchen - Emmaus Room. All welcome.
Monday: 1415 - 1600	Tea Buddies - Monthly get-together for a friendly natter over a cuppa - Emmaus Room. All welcome. Every second Monday of the month.
Monday: 1900 - 2030	AA Group Meeting - Emmaus Room
Thursday: 1730 - 1830	First Communion Session – Emmaus Room
Friday: 1915 – 2030	Altar Servers Meeting – Emmaus Room
Parish Garden Club – To volunteer, please contact Sonia on 07985 521578.	

Posada: A list to sign up for taking the Holy Family into your home for a day or 2 in December is at the back of the Church.

Blessing of the Our Lady's Grotto and Fr Jay's 8th Sacerdotal Anniversary 8th 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 8th Sacerdotal Anniversary in gratitude and prayer for Christ's wonderful gift of grace.

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

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.

Altar Servers Nativity Play - We are delighted to have Nativity Play by our Altar Servers on the 14th 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 17th December at 1900 in the Parish.

Parish Christmas Party - This year's Parish Christmas Party will be on Sunday 21st December at Yaxham Hall, straight after the 1100 Mass. Come and celebrate. No Hog Roast this year, so we need food! Please bring some.

St Stephen's Day 26 Dec 25: Altar Servers' Mass and Pizza – Following 1100 Mass, Father Jay will be awarding 5 new Servers with medals. Then pizza!

Pilgrimage to Rome 2026: 21st – 25th September 2026 - Join us on a spiritual journey to Rome. Celebrate Mass, visit holy sites, and walk in the footsteps of the saints. Itinerary and quote provided by **All Saints Travel**. Posters are at the back of the Church. **Sign up to be part of this inspiring pilgrimage of our Community.**

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. 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.