

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Work It Out For Yourself. It's at this time of year that our children are asking for every new toy they see on the TV. As discerning adults we know the castle that lights up, shoots arrows and transforms into a fire spouting dragon will just be a frustrating lump of plastic once we get it home, with batteries that give up after three minutes. Our children's expectations are unrealistic and it is up to us to buy a toy that we know will be more fun. Today's gospel is all about unrealistic expectation.

From his prison cell John the Baptist sends word to Jesus. "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answers, "Go and tell John what you hear and see. The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them." It's interesting that Jesus doesn't send back a "Yes I am," kind of answer. Rather he sends a "Work it out yourself," kind of answer. He asks John to look at the evidence. It seems strange that John, normally so certain and so confident should declare a doubt, but perhaps we can understand his disappointment. John has been arrested and thrown into prison. He is feeling tired and disillusioned. It is likely that he'd had misguided expectations of Jesus. Perhaps he'd expected Jesus to come in the manner of a king or of a great warrior with the power to conquer the oppressor. John has some working out to do. John needs to understand that the work of a Messiah is to teach God's love, not just push a few Romans around. So what of our own expectations?

Christmas Party

The parish Christmas party will take place on 21 Dec 25. Please note the later than usual arrival time of 13:00, to start eating at 13:30. The main event will continue until 18:00, followed by Karaoke until 21:00 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're bringing food, please sign your name on the list and then claim your ticket. Tickets will be on sale after all masses on 13th/14th. We'll provide tea & coffee, but please bring any other drinks you would like. **At present, we urgently need more people to offer to bring food.** We invite you to wear a Christmas jumper or hat, and a prize will be awarded for the most Christmassy outfit.

Christmas Raffle

The proceeds from this years Christmas raffle will be donated to Aid to the Church in Need. We urgently need more prizes, so please consider donating one. Tickets will be on sale after all masses, and the draw will be at the Christmas party.



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 14th December 2025 – 3rd Sunday of Advent
[Sundays Year A, 3rd Week of the Year, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week 3]

MASSES in the PARISH

Saturday 13th December	Advent Feria
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)
Monday 15th December	Advent Feria
- No Mass	
Tuesday 16th December	Advent Feria
10.00 MASS	John Perkins + (CP)
Wednesday 17th December	Advent Feria
10.00 MASS	
Thursday 18th December	Advent Feria
10.00 MASS	
Friday 19th December	Advent Feria
- No Mass today	
Saturday 20th December	Advent Feria
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	Michael Mealy + (TP)
Sunday 21st December	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
09.00 MASS	For the People of the Parish
11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	Anisha Cyriac + (CC)

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: Bridget Earthy, Vincent Michael Antony Gauci, Fred English, Evelyn Flanagan, Pat Chapman, Gabriel Shelley, Frances Shaw, Margaret Doherty, Patrick Keatley, Agnes Harmer, Mary Lingwood, Priscilla Louise Reavey, Patricia Huizar. *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, Kathleen Doyle.

Money Matters: Offerings for the week was as follows:
Sunday 7th December 2025 Plate: £355.92.

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).

130 Club Monthly Draw Results for December 2025:

1st Prize £20 – Ticket No.121, Colette Barrow-Nessian; 2nd Prize £15 – Ticket No.66, Martin Sanderson; 3rd Prize £10 – Ticket No.68, Kate Crowley; 4th Prize £10 – Ticket No.81, Margaret Godfrey.

Upcoming Parish events:

Diary for week Sunday 7th December - Saturday 13th December 2025	
Sunday: 1100	Children's Liturgy
Monday: 1900 - 2030	AA Group Meeting - Emmaus Room
Tuesday: 1830 - 2000	RCIA Meeting – Emmaus Room
Thursday: 1730 - 1830	First Communion Session – Emmaus Room
Friday: 1915 – 2045	Confirmation Group & Altar Servers – COLW.
Parish Garden Club – To volunteer, please contact Sonia on 07985 521578.	

Crib Offering 2025 - As last year, Crib Offering 2025 will be sent to Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, the Diocese twinned with the East Anglia as we show support especially at this time.

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.

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

RCIA Meeting Tuesday 16 Dec 25 - What Catholics believe about Mary, the Saints and Holiness. 6.30 pm in the Emmaus Room. All welcome.

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.

Confirmation Group and Altar Servers will meet on Friday 19th December from 7.15pm - 8.45pm at COLW, House of the Divine Will, Neatherd Moor, NR20 4AZ.

Parish Christmas Party - This year's Parish Christmas Party will be on Sunday 21st December at Yaxham Hall, at 1300 hours. Come and celebrate. No Hog Roast this year, so we need food! Please bring some.

Funeral Service - 22 December 0930 at the St Faith's Crematorium. We include to pray for the eternal repose of the soul of +Sheila Searle.

Baptism - 23 Dec 25 - We rejoice as we welcome Uma Joy Watchman into the family of faith, who will be baptized on 23rd December 2025 at the 1000 Mass.

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!

Parish Prayerline - If you would like someone to pray for your personal intentions, Silvia, a parishioner, is kindly offering her time in prayer sil17sill@hotmail.com.

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.

Plant Sale 2026. Helen has requested more middle sized pots. Please leave any donated pots in the garage. Thank you.

Winter Soup Project Grant – We're grateful to Dereham Town Council for awarding our Winter Soup Project a grant of £300, approved at their recent Council meeting.