

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Standing Up to Herod

Along the mantelpiece, our Christmas cards depict angels and shepherds and the Baby Jesus surrounded by the love of his family. Today however, we are given a picture of the Holy Family fleeing to safety from a ruthless and murderous dictator.


Herod, realising the wise men had tricked him, was infuriated and commanded that all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under should be killed. In a dream, an angel appears to Joseph, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there, for Herod is about to search for the child to destroy him." It is difficult to imagine anyone as cruel or as wicked as Herod. It is hard to imagine anyone so insanely jealous that they could put innocent babies to death. In the context of the 'Feast of the Holy Family', we have to admire how promptly Joseph responded to the angel's message and how well he protects his family from the formidable Herod. In the wider context, perhaps the main point of the story is that no amount of wickedness or evil could sabotage God's plan. All over the globe, people suffer tragedy and loss and terrible injustice, yet still they somehow manage to retain their faith in God. This has to be testimony to the presence of God in our lives, and testimony to the spirit in each of us that abhors evil.

A lot is spoken nowadays of family values, but sadly, those values can often be more about becoming successful and making lots of money than becoming good people. The Holy Family reminds us that real family values are about standing up to the 'Herods' in our world and creating a culture of justice and love. Evil only exists if we allow it.

Most Holy Name of Jesus - 3rd January

The name of Jesus means 'saviour'. We read in the Bible how the Angel Gabriel revealed the name to Mary. "You shall call His name Jesus." And to Joseph the angel not only revealed the name but explained its meaning, "You shall call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins." So on this day we are reminded that Jesus' very name tells us of the greatest gift we are ever to receive 'salvation'!

Bitesize - The world is a dangerous place to live; not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything about it. *Albert Einstein*



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



Parish Priest: Fr Jay T. Magpuyo
 35 London Road, Dereham, Norfolk, NR191AS
 Tel: 01362 694066. Email:
edsacredheart@gmail.com
 Registered Charity No. 278742
www.sacredheartdereham.org.uk



Sunday 28th December 2025 – Sunday Within Octave of Christmas
 [Sundays Year A, 1st Week of Christmas, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week 1]

MASSES in the PARISH	
Saturday 27th December 18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	ST JOHN (Apostle & Evangelist) For the People of the Parish
Sunday 28th December 09.00 MASS 11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH (Feast) Anisha Cyriac + (CC) Manuel Batista (VB)
Monday 29th December - No Mass	ST THOMAS BECKET
Tuesday 30th December 10.00 MASS	Sixth Day within Octave of Nativity Elaine Wilkes + (MS)
Wednesday 31st December 10.00 MASS	Seventh Day within Octave of Nativity Preston Family (Thanksgiving)
Thursday 1st January 10.00 MASS	SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD Elaine Wilkes + (J&D H)
Friday 2nd January - No Mass	Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen
Saturday 3rd January 18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	The Most Holy Name of Jesus For the People of the Parish
Sunday 4th January 09.00 MASS 11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS Elaine Wilkes + (RB) Annamma Joseph (Intentions)
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: Harry Dempsey, Helen Phyllis Coin, Alda Dias, Caroline Rolfe, Ellen (Nell) Raiteri, Robert Clark, Eira Whitehouse, Patricia Gravestock, John Doherty. *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, 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 21st December 2025 Plate: £327.95.

A New Bank for the New Year! Our new banking details are: The Sacred Heart Church, S/C 52-41-29, A/C 44725132. Please use these details for any new BACS payments. There is no need to alter your standing orders yet - your current standing orders will be forwarded automatically. Watch the newsletter for information in January. Any queries please send to treasurer@sacredheartdereham.org.uk. 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 28th December 2025 - Saturday 3d January 2026	
Monday: 1900 - 2030	AA Group Meeting - Emmaus Room
Parish Garden Club – To volunteer, please contact Sonia on 07985 521578.	

+Elaine Wilkes - *Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord...*

We are saddened to announce the passing of our beloved Elaine Wilkes. Our prayers and heartfelt condolences go to her family and to all who knew her and shared in her life. Elaine's warmth and generosity will be deeply missed. The date of her funeral will be confirmed in due course.

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.

Pilgrimage to Rome 2026 | 20th – 24th September 2026

To those who are joining the Pilgrimage next year, please contact the tour directly at: <https://www.allsaintstravel.co.uk/RM1138>
The booking deadline at the advertised price is 30 Jan 2026. If you are booking after this date, contact us first for the current price. Deposit required to secure your place: £350 (by debit card or by bank transfer).
Final balance to be paid 2 months prior to travel. Flexible monthly payments are available. Contact us for details.

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

A Word of Thanks

Fr Jay would like to thank you most sincerely for the Christmas cards, bottles of wine, chocolates, biscuits, and for your very generous Christmas offering. Your kindness, thoughtfulness, and continued support are deeply appreciated.

Upcoming Solemnity Masses:

1st January 2026 - Mary, the Holy Mary of God, Solemnity
1000 Mass

6th January 2026 - The Epiphany of the Lord, Solemnity
1000 Mass

