

## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

### Called to Witness

People often declare that their faith is a private and a very personal thing. Of course our faith is very personal, but does that mean it should be private? In keeping our faith private we are missing a very important opportunity. How often has our own faith taken a little leap forward because of something we have heard or something we have read? Similarly there may be something you have heard or learnt that would help someone else. You might not consider yourself a theologian, but there might be something seemingly small that you could contribute that would make a big difference to someone else.

Someone else's testimony is the way we learn. Without the internet, books, Catholic papers, TV documentaries, homilies and the testimonies of friends and family, how would we develop our faith? Without the work of missionaries, teachers and parents, how would our faith have been handed from generation to generation? Without the gospel writers, how would Jesus' work and God's word be remembered? Without John the Baptist and the first disciples, how else would Jesus' identity have been known?

Bearing witness is essential. Without witnesses we would know nothing of Jesus. Staying quiet and making religion a private matter is simply not an option. There are still those that would benefit from Christ's teaching either directly or indirectly. If Christianity is something very important to us, why be reticent about sharing it? If bearing witness to Christ can change lives, shouldn't we make our voices ever more persistently heard by friends, neighbours, family, politicians, community leaders TV producers and anyone else with the willingness and the know-how to bring about change?

Like John, we are called in our baptismal promises to be witnesses to the work of Christ. We are called to be witnesses in every circumstance of our lives.

### Feast of the Epiphany, Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January

Most of us get through life relying on the knowledge we already have. Today's challenge is to look for something new. Knowing where to look for our own guiding star is up to us, but one thing is for sure, if we are not looking for revelation, we will never find it. If we carry on doing the same things we will only get the same results.

**Bitesize** - It's not that some people have willpower and some don't. It's that some people are ready to change and others are not. *James Gordon, M.D*



**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 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – Second Sunday of Christmas

[Sundays Year A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Christmas, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week 2]

#### MASSES in the PARISH

<b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	<b>The Most Holy Name of Jesus</b>
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For the People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS</b>
09.00 MASS	Elaine Wilkes + (RB)
11.00 <i>MASS Live streamed</i>	Annamma Joseph (Intentions)
<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Christmas Feria</b>
- No Mass	
<b>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, SOLEMNITY – Holy Day of Obligation</b>
10.00 MASS	Maria de los Angeles Coto + (SS)
<b>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Christmas Feria</b>
10.00 MASS	Elaine Wilkes + (CP)
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Christmas Feria</b>
10.00 MASS	Elaine Wilkes + (JH, TK, AS, BW)
<b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Christmas Feria</b>
- No Mass	
<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Christmas Feria</b>
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For the Drury Family (Fdn)
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>BAPTISM OF THE LORD (Feast)</b>
09.00 MASS	For the People of the Parish
11.00 <i>MASS Live streamed</i>	Elaine Wilkes + (RM)

**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:** Rev Bernard Warwick (Deacon), Joseph Sadowsky, Matthew Murphy, Frank Pike, Philip Ward, Lillian Carter, Len Smith, Kathleen Strayton, Jane Elizabeth Winifred Oaksford, James Tinney, Margaret Jones, Pamela Whigham, Elizabeth Brocklehurst. *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 28<sup>th</sup> December 2025 Plate: £192.76.  
Second Collection (Crib): £35.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:rexbaker27@btinternet.com)).



**Upcoming Parish events:**

<b>Diary for week Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026 - Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b>	
Monday: 1900 - 2030	<b>AA Group Meeting</b> - Emmaus Room
Thursday: 1730 - 1830	<b>First Communion Group Mtg</b> – Emmaus Room
Friday: 1915 - 2045	<b>Confirmation Group Mtg</b> – Emmaus Room
<b>Parish Garden Club</b> – To volunteer, please contact Sonia on 07985 521578.	

**+Elaine Wilkes - Funeral Mass on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026, 1100 hours.**

The Funeral Mass of Elaine Wilkes will be celebrated on 15th January at 11.00am in the Parish. In this time of loss, we are consoled in hope as we commend her to the loving mercy of God. *Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.*

**Pilgrimage to Rome 2026 | 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> 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.'

**Upcoming Solemnity Mass:**

**6<sup>th</sup> January 2026 - The Epiphany of the Lord, Solemnity. Holy Day of Obligation.**

**1000 Mass**

