

## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

### All God's Children

Has anyone ever told you that they're proud of you? It's a good feeling .... it's a feeling that empowers ..... a feeling that makes you believe you can do anything. Imagine for a moment that day on the River Jordan at Jesus' baptism. Consider how Jesus must have felt when the heavens opened and the Spirit of God spoke the words, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Remember that this significant event took place at the beginning of Jesus' ministry before he had gone out into the world to teach or to heal. Before Jesus had done anything at all, God was already well pleased with him.

As baptism identified Jesus, so too are we identified in our baptism as children of God. So what significance does baptism have in our lives? Do we feel proud at God's affirmation? Do we feel empowered to carry out God's plan? In truth most of us would be confounded if we had to provide an answer to these questions. To most of us, our baptism is an old photo in a forgotten album of childhood memories, or a neglected christening mug collecting dust on a high up shelf. In our own baptism we do not have the obvious benefit of God speaking directly to us from the heavens. Nevertheless, we have made promises in baptism and confirmation, and like any other promise we have to work at keeping them. Baptism isn't a one off event. Baptism is a sacrament that we have to work at daily .... setting aside time to think about what we are meant to be doing and having the faith that God is supporting us in our efforts.

Jesus said of his baptism. "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness." Jesus didn't explain what he meant by this, but in biblical context, the word 'righteousness' is often used to express a good relationship with God. By this, we understand that our own baptism sends us off on the road to building a good relationship with God and with others, and by believing in God's backing, we are empowered to do more than we can imagine.

**Bitesize** - There is no need to reach high for the stars. They are already within you — just reach deep into yourself! *Terri Guillemets*



**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 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – Baptism of The Lord

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

#### MASSES in the PARISH

<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 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	Elaine Wilkes + (RM)
<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Feria</b>
- No Mass	
<b>Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Feria</b>
10.00 MASS	Michael Manley + (JB)
<b>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Feria</b>
10.00 MASS	
<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Feria</b>
11.00 MASS	Funeral Mass for Elaine Wilkes
<b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>St Fursey</b>
- No Mass	
<b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>St Anthony</b>
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	Michael & Anna Mealy + (PM)
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
09.00 MASS	For the People of the Parish
11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	Michael Manley + (JM)

**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:** Nell Hunt, V Rev Canon Herbert Gray (1<sup>st</sup> priest Dereham), Harry Monk, Racheal McErleane, Cicely Harvey, Louise Bennett, Ellen Carey, Ellen Harrington, Dorothy Edwards, Lily Rawding. *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 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026 Plate: £246.22.

Monthly Standing Orders/Bank Transfers, Gift Aid and other special donations for December 2025: £2,917.45.

**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)). This will help to maximize donations.

### **130 Club Draw for January 2026:**

Quarterly Prize £100 – Ticket No.1, Peggy Mealy.

1st Prize £20 – Ticket No.188, Chris Sayer; 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize £15 – Ticket No.10, Steve Rymarz; 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize £10 – Ticket No.52, Derek & Patty Lloyd; 4<sup>th</sup> Prize £10 – Ticket No.33, Michael Fenton.

### **Upcoming Parish events:**

<b>Diary for week Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026 - Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b>	
Sunday: 1100	<b>Children's Liturgy</b>
Sunday: 1100	<b>RCIA Rite of Welcome - Mass</b>
Monday: 1400 - 1600	<b>Tea Buddies</b> – Monthly get together for a friendly natter over a cuppa – Emmaus Room. All welcome. Every second Monday of the month.
Monday: 1900 - 2030	<b>AA Group Meeting</b> - Emmaus Room
Thursday: 1730 - 1830	<b>First Communion Group Mtg</b> – Emmaus Room
<b>Parish Garden Club</b> – To volunteer, please contact Sonia on 07985 521578.	

### **+Michael Manley - *Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord...***

We are saddened to announce the death of Michael Manley, a member of the Parish Garden Team, who passed away on 7 January. We offer our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends and commend him to the mercy of God.

### **+Elaine Wilkes - Funeral Mass on Thursday 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.*

### **15-Minute Silence Before Mass - Mandatory**

Silence before Mass prepares our hearts to encounter the Lord. Please observe silence in the Church during the 15 minutes before each Mass, as many allot this time for praying. Conversation with one another is warmly encouraged after Mass.

**130 Club** - 130 Club reminders will be ready for collection from the pigeon holes in due course. Please watch this space for a date shortly. Thank you.

### **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.'