

## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 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 for instance our change of heart means giving more money to the poor, we will first have to identify what has stopped us doing that in the past. If our change of heart involves spending more time with an elderly relative, we must first delegate some of the work that keeps us from doing that in the here and now. If a character trait such as shyness, laziness or prejudice get in the way of things we would like to do, then perhaps now is a good time to devise some strategies that will help make change possible.

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.



**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.

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## Sacred Heart & St Margaret Mary

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### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent – Year A

[2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Advent, Weekdays Year I, Psalter Week 2]

#### MASSES in the PARISH

<b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December</b>		
1800	First MASS of Sunday	+John Merrick ( <i>Foundation Mass</i> )
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>
0900	MASS	Les, Mark & Janice Blows & Kathleen Perrin ( <i>AB</i> )
1100	MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	For the People of the Parish
<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>Advent Feria</b>
1000	MASS	+Brenda May ( <i>TP</i> )
<b>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>Advent Feria</b>
1000	MASS	+Diana Cater ( <i>CP</i> )
<b>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>St. Ambrose</b>
1130	Requiem Mass for +Diana Cater	
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>The Immaculate Conception of the BVM</b>
1000-1030	EXPOSITION	
1100	MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	+Brenda May ( <i>KB</i> )
<b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>Advent Feria</b>
-	No Mass today	
<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>Bls. Henry Heath &amp; John Robinson PP &amp; Companions</b> (East Anglia Pr.)
1800	First MASS of Sunday	
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>
0900	MASS	+Brenda May ( <i>UM</i> )
1100	MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	For the People of the Parish

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Thursday after 10.00 Mass and Saturday at 17.30**  
**EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION: Thursday after Mass**

For *Live Streamed Masses* Search for **Dereham Catholic Church** on **YouTube**, or use the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCR-qWs-B40VTvbezZ83MxQ/videos?view=2&flow=grid>

The parish newsletter is available on the parish website from Friday each week.

**Anniversaries this week:** Leonard Barnard, Dorothy Rayner, Frederick Lambert, Felix Jackson, David Lines, George Harmer, Adrian Ring-Davies, Mary Butler, Phyllis Thurstance, Fred Evans, Tony Lovelace, Kevin Bayne, Susan Frosdick, Olive Maude Thompson. *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, Frances Saville King, Derek Williams, Patsy Gray, Collette Barro-Nessian, Betty Reavey, Marion Ring-Davies, Fr. Brendan, William Dunn, Pauline Buckland, Gretta Cummings, Marco Johnson.

**+Diana Cater** - The Requiem Mass for +Diana Cater takes place on 7<sup>th</sup> December at 1130, followed by cremation at Breckland Crematorium, Norwich Road, Scoulton NR9 4NR.

**Money Matters:** Offering for last Sunday: Plate £280.73 and second collection £35.66. Thank you.

After all Masses **next weekend** (10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> December), there will be a retiring collection for the Dependent Priests' Fund.

For those who would like to make their regular offerings by Standing Order, the information you need is: Account name: **Catholic Church of Dereham.** The Sort Code is: **40-20-08** and the Account number is: **11311115.** If you are a tax payer, please also consider **Gift Aid.** **Gift Aid forms** are available at the back of church. This will help to maximize our donations in the Parish.

**Thursday Adoration** – Next Thursday's Adoration is offered for the preparation of the Episcopal Ordination of Canon Peter Collins.

**Episcopal Ordination Tickets** – To those who signed up for the Episcopal Ordination on 14<sup>th</sup> December at the Cathedral, please claim your tickets from Fr. Jay.

**World Migrants' Day** – On 3<sup>rd</sup> December the Church commemorates St. Francis Xavier. This is the day chosen by the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People to mark World Migration Day. Pope Benedict XVI's Message on this day in 2005 is still relevant for us today: *'Asylum seekers and refugees – I wish to underline how the tendency is to stop at the question of their arrival while disregarding the reasons for which they left their native land.'* Let us continue to pray for all refugees, migrants, and exiles, that they may find kindness and help in their time of need.

**UCM Christmas Raffle** – On sale this weekend, tickets for our Christmas Raffle to be held at the Parish Christmas Party on 11<sup>th</sup> December. The proceeds will go to the SVP, and half to the Parish to cover some expenses.

**Christmas Party Programme** – Please find the suggested programme for our Christmas Party at the back of the Church. If there are any additional, please feel free to write on the sheet provided.

**Parish Christmas Decoration** – This will take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> December. We may need your artistic ability on this matter.

Parish Events this week		
Tues. 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	1900-1930	<b>Chess Club</b> – Emmaus Room
Weds. 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	<b>SVP Monthly First Wednesday Coffee Morning</b> is cancelled due to the Requiem Mass for +Diana Cater.	
Weds. 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	1430	<b>Parish Finance Committee</b> – Presbytery
Weds. 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	1700-1800	<b>First Communion Class</b> – Emmaus Room
Thurs. 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	<b>Celebration</b> - On this Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, also the 5 <sup>th</sup> Sacerdotal Anniversary of Fr Jay, we are all invited for a lunch at 1145 which is preceded by Exposition from 1000-1030 and Mass at 1100.	
Fri. 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	1915-2030	<b>Altar Servers Meeting</b> – Emmaus Room
Sat. 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	1100	<b>Tennis</b> every Saturday at the Dereham Leisure Park
Sat. 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	1915	<b>Film Showing: Jurassic World Dominion (extended version)</b> – in the Presbytery. This movie is rated PG13 and minors should be accompanied by parents or guardians.
Sun. 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	1300-1800	<b>Parish Christmas Party</b> – Scarning Village Hall. Ample parking available in the layby opposite St Peter and Paul's Church.

**Volunteers for Christmas Masses** – Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Collectors and Offertory procession volunteers are needed for the Christmas Masses. There is a list at the back of church for volunteers to sign up for the relevant Mass and task. With grateful thanks in advance.

**Christmas Masses** – Please note the revised times for Christmas Masses:

- 24<sup>th</sup> December – Carols at 1830; Mass at 1900 and 2230
- 25<sup>th</sup> December – 1000
- 26<sup>th</sup> December – 1000 Altar Servers' Mass (Pizza afterwards)

**Parish Garden Club** – The Garden Club will meet every Thursday at 1145 starting in the Spring. Looking forward for you to take up your garden gloves and helping to make our parish grounds and garden even more wonderful.

**Bitesize** - Forgiveness does not change the past, but it does enlarge the future.

~Paul Boese