

## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 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? Do we expect God to sort out all our problems and make our lives easy and comfortable? Or do we believe that God is there to help change us and guide us through our daily choices. Do we understand that God is preparing us for his kingdom? Perhaps we have some working out of our own to do.

**Bitesize** - Too many people miss the silver lining because they're expecting gold.  
*Maurice Setter*



**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 Deacon:** Rev. Martin Sanderson: Tel: 01362 822590  
Email: [martin.sanderson@rcdea.org.uk](mailto:martin.sanderson@rcdea.org.uk)  
**Parish Music team:** Judy Reid, Kathleen Edmunds & William Preddy.  
**Parish Safeguarding Representative:** Kathleen Edmunds:  
Email: [kathleenedmunds@yahoo.com](mailto:kathleenedmunds@yahoo.com)



## Sacred Heart & St Margaret Mary

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

### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2022 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent – Year A

[3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Advent, Weekdays Year I, Psalter Week 3]

#### MASSES in the PARISH

<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December</b>		
18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	Jane Carolan+
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> <i>Gaudete Sunday</i>
09.00	MASS	Brenda May+ (UM)
11.00	<i>MASS Live streamed</i>	For the People of the Parish
<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>Advent Feria</b>
10.00	MASS	Calvin & Becky (Sick)
<b>Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>St Lucy</b>
10.00	MASS	In Remembrance of the Kalavryta Massacre in 1943 ( <i>Foundation Mass</i> )
<b>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>St John of the Cross</b>
11.30	<i>The Episcopal Ordination of Bishop-Elect Peter Collins at St John's Cathedral, Norwich</i>	
<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>Advent Feria</b>
10.00	MASS & ADORATION <i>Live streamed</i>	Elvira Lobo+ and in Thanksgiving
<b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>Advent Feria</b>
-	No Mass today	
<b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>Advent Feria</b>
18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For the People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>
09.00	MASS	John Perkins+ (CP)
11.00	<i>MASS Live streamed</i>	Anne Hannon+ (DH)

**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-B40VTvbzezZ83MxQ/videos?view=2&flow=grid>

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

**Anniversaries this week:** John Hauzoter, Mary Rayner, Ethel Seabrook, Bridget Earchy, Fred English, Evelyn Flanagan, Pat Chapman, Gabriel Shelley, Frances Shaw, Margaret 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, Frances Saville King, Derek Williams, Patsy Gray, Colette Barro-Nessian, Betty Reavey, Marion Ring-Davies, Fr. Brendan, William Dunn, Pauline Buckland, Gretta Cummings, Marco Johnson.

**Money Matters:** Offering for last Sunday: Plate £360.62. Thank you.

**This weekend** there is a retiring collection after all Masses for the **Diocesan 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.

**Change to Mass Times –** Please note there is no 1000 Mass on **Wednesday this week (14<sup>th</sup> December)** in view of the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop-elect Peter Collins, which is taking place at 1130 at St. John's Cathedral, Norwich.

**Episcopal Ordination Tickets –** For those who signed up for the Episcopal Ordination on 14<sup>th</sup> December, if you have not already done so, please claim your tickets from Fr. Jay.

**Gaudete Sunday** - The third Sunday of Advent is called 'Gaudete Sunday' and is a day for rejoicing, 'Gaudete' being the Latin word for 'rejoice'. At this midpoint in Advent we pause to remember everything that we should feel joyful about. Today is the day we light the rose-coloured candle in the Advent wreath.



Parish Events this week		
Mon. 12 Dec.	1400-1600	<b>Afternoon Tea Social – Emmaus Room</b>
Tues. 13 Dec.	1430	<b>SVP Committee – Emmaus Room</b>
Tues. 13 Dec.	1900-1930	<b>Chess Club – Emmaus Room</b>

Parish Events this week		
Weds. 14 Dec.	1700-1800	<b>First Communion Class – Emmaus Room</b>
Fri. 16 Dec.	1915-2115	<b>Confirmation Group meet at House of the Divine Will, Neatherd Moor</b>
Sat. 17 Dec.	1100	<b>Tennis</b> every Saturday at the Dereham Leisure Park
Sun. 18 Dec.	After 1100 Mass	<b>Youth Club table tennis – Emmaus Room</b>

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

**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)

**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.

**Celebrating International Migrants Day, 18th December** - Immigration is a key part of the society we live in. Many of us are migrants, and all of us benefit from the contribution that migrants bring. "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." (Mt 25:35) Today the immigrant comes before us like that 'stranger' in whom Jesus asks to be recognised. To welcome him and to show him solidarity is a duty of hospitality and fidelity to Christian identity itself.

**Help protect children in Ukraine this Christmas** - Millions of children and families are in immediate danger as war continues in Ukraine. 3.3 million children in Ukraine are in need of support. Homes, schools, water supplies and hospitals have been damaged or destroyed. Children have been separated from their families, and hundreds of thousands of people have been left without clean water, food or electricity. Explosives are a daily threat to children's lives. UNICEF is working around the clock in Ukraine and at the borders of neighbouring countries, providing access to clean water, health care services and other critical support. You can help more children and families affected by this crisis. You can donate online at [www.unicef.org.uk/donate/donate-now-to-protect-children-in-ukraine/](http://www.unicef.org.uk/donate/donate-now-to-protect-children-in-ukraine/)

**Parish Magazine –** The second edition of the new parish magazine, 'The Shack' is published this weekend. Copies are available at the back of church and you can also find it on the parish website.