

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Waiting for Judgement Day



A man goes on a journey leaving his slaves in charge, each with a job to do. A doorkeeper keeps watch to alert the slaves as to his master's return. The story illustrates the time of waiting between Jesus' first coming as a little baby at Christmas to his second coming on Judgement Day. Did the slaves really need a doorkeeper to alert them to the master's return? After all, waiting for the second coming shouldn't be the same as waiting for a bus! The point is not to wait for the master's return before hurling ourselves into great busy-ness. We have to spend our waiting time in preparation and constant readiness.

"Keep alert," we are told "keep awake." We are asked to keep alert and awake not for fear of being caught out like naughty school children, but in a spirit of 'keeping our eye on the ball.' We all know how we would like to contribute. Each of us is aware of our unique place on the planet and how we would like to be remembered. Sadly, all too often it is easy for us to 'take our eye off the ball' and get caught up in other concerns.

The news is full of people who have reached the end of their life unexpectedly. None of us has been afforded an exact time and date for our final preparations. Instead we are asked to live in a permanent state of readiness seizing every opportunity on a daily basis to prepare for God's Kingdom. Our Advent goal needs to be about waiting in readiness from this day until our last.

Today's invitation is to decide on our plans and bring them to fruition. Just in the same way as we draw up any other plan, we need to do the same for our Advent goals. In the same way as we put our plans in a diary, it helps to put our spiritual plans in a diary too. Who are we going to help today and how? Whose life can we impact and by when? It probably sounds hugely trite, but we need to put Judgement Day in the diary!

Bitesize – 'Too often too late comes too soon.' ~ *Dr. SunWolf, 2015*



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
Parish Music team: Judy Reid, Kathleen Edmunds & William Preddy.
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Sunday 3rd December 2023 – First Sunday of Advent – Year B

[1st Week of Advent, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week 1]

MASSES in the PARISH

Saturday 2nd December		
18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	Rosemary Preston (KP)
Sunday 3rd December		1st Sunday of Advent (Migrants' Day)
09.00	MASS	+John Merrick (<i>Foundation Mass</i>)
11.00	MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	For the People of the Parish
Monday 4th December		Advent Feria
10.00	MASS	Stuart Preston (KP)
Tuesday 5th December		Advent Feria
10.00	MASS	Raymond Wong Wai Bun (KP)
Wednesday 6th December		Advent Feria
10.00	MASS	Jean Maine Galimam (KP)
Thursday 7th December		Advent Feria
10.00	MASS & ADORATION	
Friday 8th December		Immaculate Conception of the BVM
11.30	MASS	Fr. Jay's Sacerdotal Anniversary
Saturday 9th December		Advent Feria
18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For Peace throughout the World (DH)
Sunday 10th December		2nd Sunday of Advent
09.00	MASS	For the People of the Parish
11.00	MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	+Pauline Ward (GW)

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.

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: Les Rayner, John Merrick, 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, Diana Mary Cater, Susan Frosdick. *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.

This will come in handy – In case of urgent hospital appointments, you may want to consider calling the Community Cars, Dereham on 07827 972163. Schedules are Mon., Tues., and Thurs. from 0900-1300. They charge less than the usual fare.

Sick & Housebound [with GDPR Permissions] – Please pray for: Shirley Liebenhals, Derek Williams, Patsy Gray, Colette Barrow-Nessian, Betty Reavey, Marion Ring-Davies, Fr. Brendan, William Dunne, Pauline Buckland, Gretta Cummings, Ena Marie Mifsud, Katherine Vella, Pauline Organ, Kevin Pugh, Joy Bussey, John Richardson.

+Vincent Gauci – Please pray for the repose of the soul of Vincent Gauci, whose **Funeral Service takes place on Thursday, 14th December at 13.30** in the parish, as we offer our heartfelt condolences to his family.

Money Matters: Offering for last Sunday: Plate £334.49. Thank you.

The Creed in Advent – Today, we begin using the Apostles' Creed at Mass until Christmas Day. Today is also the start of the new liturgical year and we change to Year B for the Sunday Mass readings and Year II for weekday Mass readings.

Migrants' Day, 3rd December 2023: Migrants and Refugees: "Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay." - On December 3rd 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. Each year there is a message from the Holy Father reflecting on



the plight of migrants and refugees. *"Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay"* is the theme chosen by the Holy Father for the 109th World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR). Pope Francis intends to promote a renewed reflection on a right that has not yet been codified at the international level: the right not to have to migrate or, in other words, the right to be able to remain in one's own land.

The Immaculate Conception, 8th December – Friday this week is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the BVM **and is also the Sacerdotal**

Anniversary of Fr. Jay. There will be Mass at 11.30, followed by a bring and share lunch in the Emmaus Room. As this day is a Solemnity, Friday abstinence from meat is suspended.

A Day of Prayer for Peace before the Blessed Sacrament – Saturday, 9th December: 08.30 – 17.30. If you can give some time to join in our prayer for peace before the Blessed Sacrament during the day, please enter your name & time(s) on the rota at the back of church.

Parish and Liturgical Calendar 2024 – A new Parish & Liturgical Calendar for 2024 is now available, offering us a compass to direct us to a more organized and ordered community in terms of nourishing aspects of our parish life. This will dictate our rhythm and hopefully will make efforts more fruitful and blessed; please take care of them.

Parish Christmas Party on Thursday, 21st December at Yaxham Village Hall, at 12:45pm to 6:00pm - This is a ticket only event so that sufficient food with minimum waste is provided. Tickets are £5 adults and £2 children. If providing food, please put your name on the sheet at the back of the church and claim your FREE ticket for each dish you will bring. Tickets will be available after each Mass on weekends. 3rd and 10th December. Looking forward to seeing you there and to having a jolly time together.

Wanted: suitable items for a Christmas Raffle to be drawn at the Christmas Party. These can be left in the sacristy but please inform Fr Jay.

Christmas Masses: Readers and Eucharistic Ministers are required for the Masses over Christmas. Can volunteers please place their name on the roster, on the notice board at the back of the Church. Thank you.

Latin Mass in Ordinary Form - It has been suggested to have a Latin Mass in Ordinary Form, (different from the Tridentine Mass), every Thursday at 1000 which could begin after the Epiphany next year. If you have any comments or suggestions, please feel free to speak with Fr Jay about this matter.

Parish Events for the week 3 rd – 9 th December	
Sunday: 1100	Children's Liturgy (for children <i>in Y1 to 1st Holy Communion age</i>)
Tuesday: 1900	Youth Club Chess & Table Tennis – Emmaus Room.
Thursday: 1730-1830	First Communion Class – Emmaus Room
Friday Garden Club – Volunteers are asked to please contact Sonia on 07985 521578 for next meeting date.	



To all our volunteers - for last week's Church's flower decoration, our foodbank regular givers, Mass collection counters, church cleaners' team, and the greeters' guild.