

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Finding 'You' Time - How prepared are you? Have you ordered all the presents and put up the tree? Preparation is one of the most important parts of Christmas, but Advent was never supposed to be about fixing the fairy lights. Advent is about spiritual preparation. In all the whirlwind preparations for the Christmas celebrations, we need to prepare a way for the Lord, and this preparation begins with a call from an eccentric man living alone in the desert over two thousand years ago

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance. Today we might easily dismiss the rantings of a strange man who dressed in camel hair and fed on locusts, but interestingly, people travelled miles into the desert to be baptised by him, so charismatic a man was he, and so important his message. Two thousand years later, his message is just as relevant to those of us who want greater meaning in our lives. The repentance that John teaches means so much more than being sorry for our sins. Repentance means changing the direction of our lives away from poor and ungodly choices. Was the direction of our life decided by what exams we did or didn't pass at the age of seventeen? Has the direction of our life been determined by arbitrary decisions and random circumstances? Advent is a time to decide what sort of a person we would really like to be, and in what direction we would really like to be heading.

"Prepare the way of the Lord," John tells us, "make straight his paths." To allow God into our lives, we are asked to remove any obstacles in God's path. How can we open our minds to God's will if our time is consumed in filling the freezer and making Christmas puddings? Advent is an opportunity for us to make some quiet time to contemplate and prioritise. What is it exactly that is preventing God's work in our lives?

"One mightier than I is coming after me," John tells us, "I have baptised you with water, he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit." In the desert of commercialism, we are reminded that the reason for the season is not turkeys and baubles. Preparation is a time of reflection; a little 'You' time.



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 10th December 2023 – 2nd Sunday of Advent – Year B

[2nd Week of Advent, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week 2]

MASSES in the PARISH

Saturday 9th December	18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For Peace throughout the World (<i>DH</i>)
Sunday 10th December	09.00	MASS	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time For the People of the Parish
	11.00	MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	+Pauline Ward (<i>GW</i>)
Monday 11th December	10.00	MASS	Advent Feria For those unknown to us who have no family or friends to pray for them
Tuesday 12th December	10.00	MASS	Advent Feria +John Perkins (<i>CP</i>)
Wednesday 13th December	10.00	MASS	St Lucy Kalavryta Massacre of 1943 (<i>Foundation Mass</i>)
Thursday 14th December	13:30	Funeral Mass of Vincent Gauci	St John of the Cross
Friday 15th December	-	No Mass today	Advent Feria
Saturday 16th December	18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	Advent Feria In Thanksgiving (<i>Union of Catholic Mothers</i>)
Sunday 17th December	09.00	MASS	3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time For the People of the Parish
	11.00	MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	+Roger Borthwick & +James Rodriguez (<i>KB</i>)

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: Olive Maude Thompson, John Hauzoter, Mary Rayner, Ethel Seabrook, Bridget Earthy, Fred English, Evelyn Flanagan, Pat Chapman, Gabriel Shelley. *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, Betty Reavey, William Dunne, Pauline Buckland, Gretta Cummings, Katherine Vella, Pauline Organ, Kevin Pugh, Joy Bussey.

Money Matters: Offering for last Sunday: Plate £301.86. Thank you. **Next Sunday** there will be a retiring collection after all Masses for the Diocesan Dependent Priests' Fund.

Funeral Mass of Vincent Gauci – Please pray for the repose of the soul of Vincent Gauci whose Funeral Mass will be held this coming **Thursday, 14th December at 13:30** in the Parish, as we offer our heartfelt condolences to his family.

Carols & Cake at the Convent - On the **16th December between 12pm-4pm**, COLW cordially invites you to the convent for hot drinks, homemade Christmas bakes, biscuit decorating and Christmas crafting! We will also be singing some carols around the nativity scene at 1pm and 3pm. Suggested donation is £5 per adult and £2 per child and you are all very welcome. Please RSVP at office@walsinghamcommunity.org and we can bake to scale.

Parish Christmas Decoration – We shall be decorating the Church on **Saturday, 16th December at 10:30**. Any creative or helping hands that can come are welcomed.

The Christmas Crib – Instead of the Sanctuary, this year the Crib will be placed in the Narthex near the window to maintain the Altar's sanctity in its simplicity.

Lost and Yet to be Found – The branch of lilies of the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham is lost. Any information about its whereabouts, kindly inform Fr. Jay.

Parish Christmas Party: Thursday, 21st December at Yaxham Village Hall, 12:45 – 18:00 - Tickets for the Parish Christmas Party are on sale this weekend. Remember to put your name down if bringing a dish to the Party and claim your **free** ticket. There will be a quiz and games, as well as Christmas Carols and readings at the Party. **Raffle tickets** for a large Christmas Hamper and many

other fabulous prizes are also for sale after all Masses. All proceeds go to *Aid to the Church in Need, Holy Land*. The Draw for the Raffle will take place at the end of the Christmas Party.

Parish Events for the week 10th – 16th December	
Sunday: 1100	Children's Liturgy (for children <i>in Y1 to 1st Holy Communion age</i>)
Monday: 1400-1600	Tea Buddies – Emmaus Room
Tuesday: 1900	Youth Club Chess & Table Tennis – Emmaus Room.
Thursday: 1730-1830	First Communion Class – Emmaus Room
Friday: 1915-2030	Altar Servers' Group – at the COLW Convent, House of Divine Will, Neatherd Moor, Dereham.
Friday Garden Club – Volunteers are asked to please contact Sonia on 07985 521578 for next meeting date.	

Latin Mass in Ordinary Form – It has been suggested that we have a Latin Mass in Ordinary Form (different from the Tridentine Mass) every Thursday at 10:00, which could begin after the Epiphany next year. If you have any comments or suggestions on this proposal, please feel free to speak with Fr. Jay.

Christmas Mass Times – A reminder of our Christmas Mass times:

- **24th December: Fourth Sunday of Advent** - Sunday Mass times will be as usual, i.e. (Saturday) 1800, Sunday 0900 and 1100. Fr. James Walsh will be kindly celebrating the 0900 & 1100 Masses for us.
- **24th December: Christmas Eve:**
1800 Carols / 1830 Christmas Eve Mass / 2230 Midnight Mass
- **25th December: Christmas Day:** 1000 Christmas Day Mass
- **26th December: St Stephen, Feast** (Boxing Day) - 1030 Altar Servers' Mass (and afterwards chess & table tennis tournament and pizza).

Readers & Eucharistic Ministers are required for the Christmas Masses. *Can volunteers please sign up on the list at the back of Church. Thank you.*



For last week's Advent Wreath decoration, we thank Jan D and Jan T, our foodbank regular givers, Mass collection counters, and the greeters' guild. Many thanks also to: Ann Blood and Donal for cleaning the carpets; Elaine for crafting the Parish and Liturgical Calendar 2024; and to Gerry McCarthy for making the Wall of Remembrance board posted on the wall of the Emmaus Room.

Pope Francis Prayer Intention for December 2023: For those with disabilities - This month's papal prayer intention is an invitation to consider the needs of those with disabilities in our communities. We are invited to pray "... *that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programmes which value their active participation.*"

