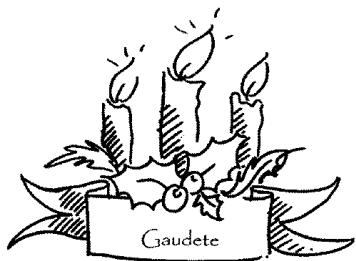


GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Recognising Jesus In Our Lives



If we were still using the Latin Mass, one of the first words we would have heard this Sunday would have been 'Gaudete' meaning 'Rejoice.' The third Sunday of Advent, otherwise known as 'Gaudete Sunday' is a day upon which we are invited to rejoice. But what if we don't feel as though there is much to rejoice about? Should we pretend? Should we put on a smile and thank God for our blessings with a joy that we don't honestly feel in our hearts?

There's a well know saying that goes "Every cloud has a silver lining." The old adage is telling us to look for good in every circumstance, but in truth it's not always easy to believe in silver linings or know how to find them. Our lives can sometimes feel like a pointless spiral of problems, and finding joy can be elusive.

In the days of John the Baptist, the Jewish people had been praying for a messiah who would come in great power like a regal warrior to restore Israel. They were unable to recognise Jesus as the answer to their problems, because he was just the humble son of a poor carpenter. They didn't recognise him because he wasn't what they were expecting. They were unable to embrace their 'silver lining'.

Today it is easy to recognise Jesus in our lives when things are going well, but in our suffering Jesus' presence can be harder to recognise. God's agenda is hardly ever our own agenda. The solutions we yearn for and pray for are probably not God's solutions. Today's challenge is to rejoice in God's presence in all of life's circumstances both good and bad. We need to recognise God when he comes to us in ways we do not expect.

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
Parish Music team: Judy Reid, Kathleen Edmunds & William Preddy.
Parish Safeguarding Representative: Kathleen Edmunds
kathleenedmunds@yahoo.com

Sacred Heart & St Margaret Mary



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SacredHeartDereham.org.uk

Sunday 17th December 2023 – 3rd Sunday of Advent – Year B Gaudete Sunday

[3rd Week of Advent, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week 3]

MASSES in the PARISH

Saturday 16th December		
18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For the People of the Parish
Sunday 17th December		3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
09.00	MASS	For Joy Bussey (for healing) (CP)
11.00	MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	+Roger Borthwick & +James Rodriguez (KB)
Monday 18th December		Advent Feria
10.00	MASS	-
Tuesday 19th December		Advent Feria
10.00	MASS	-
19.00	Filipino Simbang Gabi (<i>Traditional Filipino Christmas Dawn Mass</i>)	
Wednesday 20th December		Advent Feria
10.00	MASS	For the Macdonald Family (KB)
Thursday 21st December		Advent Feria
10.00	MASS & ADORATION	For Joy Bussey (for healing) (CP)
Friday 22nd December		Advent Feria
-	No Mass today	-
Saturday 23rd December		Advent Feria
18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	+Eugenia Pilibaitiene
Sunday 24th December		4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
09.00	MASS	For the People of the Parish
11.00	MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	For the intentions of the UCM in thanksgiving

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Thursday after 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: Frances Shaw, Margaret Doherty, Patrick Keatley, Agnes Harmer, Mary Lingwood, Priscilla Louise Reavey, Patricia Huizar, Florence Sayer, John Thomas Macdonald, Kit Blackburn, Terence Blakiston, Genevieve Smith. *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 £361.61. The monthly Offertory by way of Standing Orders was £2,411.00 in October and £2,298.00 in November. In October we received a one-off payment included in the total, but our thanks to the new contributors and to the many who have increased their offertory in support of the Parish as reflected in November's figure. Thank you.

This weekend, there is a retiring collection after all Masses 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.

130 Club Draw for December 2023 - Quarterly Prize £100 - Ticket No. 57, Derrick Harris; 1st Prize £20 – Ticket No. 87, Maureen Jessup; 2nd Prize £15 – Ticket No. 76, Kate Meehan; 3rd Prize £10 – Ticket No. 175, Irene Batista; 4th Prize £10 – Ticket No. 84, Anne Nicol; 5th Prize £10 – Ticket No. 106, Michael Fenton.

Tuesday Mass Times – This week on Tuesday, there is the usual Mass in the morning at 10.00. In addition, a Filipino Simbang Gabi Mass will be celebrated at 19.00, which is a traditional Filipino Christmas dawn Mass.

2024 Diocesan Yearbook & Calendar – The Diocesan Yearbook for 2024 is now available but copies are limited and a donation of £2 at least per copy would be greatly appreciated.

Missio – The parish collection for World Mission Sunday 2023 raised £114.27 and a letter of thanks for the gift has been received from *Missio's* National Director. The letter can be seen on the noticeboard at the back of the church.

Parish Events for the week 17th – 23rd December	
Sunday: 11.00	Children's Liturgy (for children <i>in Y1 to 1st Holy Communion age</i>).
Tuesday: 19.00	Please note: There is no Youth Chess Club this week , to allow for the Filipino Simbang Gabi Mass.
First Communion Class is on Christmas holidays. Classes resume on Thursday, 11 th January 2024.	
Altar Servers' Group is on Christmas holidays. Meetings resume on Friday, 12 th January 2024.	

Parish Christmas Party - Thursday, 21st December at Yaxham Village Hall, between 12:45pm - 6:00pm.
Please also support our **Christmas Raffle**. There are lots of fabulous prizes and all proceeds go to *Aid to the Church in Need*, Tickets are on sale after the Masses this weekend and at the Christmas Party, where the Raffle will take place.



Posada – The Posada concludes its journey around the parish on Saturday, 23rd December, and the statue of Mary and Joseph will return to the Parish.

Fourth Sunday of Advent (24th December) – Next weekend, 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.

- Christmas Mass Times**
- **Christmas Eve (Sunday, 24th December): 18.00** Carols / 18.30 Christmas Eve Mass / 22.30 Midnight Mass
 - **Christmas Day (Monday, 25th December):** 10.00 Christmas Day Mass
 - **St Stephen, Feast (Tuesday, 26th December, Boxing Day)** – 10.30 Altar Servers' Mass

Readers & Eucharistic Ministers are required for the Christmas Masses, especially for the 18:30 and 22.30 Masses on Christmas Eve. Can volunteers please sign up on the list at the back of Church. Thank you.

For last week's Advent wreath, we thank Jan D. and Jan T., our foodbank regular givers, Mass collection counters, church cleaners' team, and the greeters' guild.



Parish Magazine – Copies of the latest issue of *The Shack* are now available at the back of church and on the parish website.