

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Learning What You Live



When the Infant Jesus was presented at the temple, Simeon told Mary and Joseph, "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed...." Then Joseph and Mary returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. "And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him."

Mary and Joseph had a very important job to do. In fact they were given a job that is not so different from any parent's job, to give the growing child a sense of worth, security, wisdom and love.

In a nearby school the famous verses of Dorothy Law Nolte are pinned up in each classroom. The piece entitled 'Children Learn What They Live' begins, "....If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn. If children live with hostility they learn to fight. If children live with fear, they learn to be apprehensive." In other words, we teach by our example. If we want our children to be truthful then we ourselves must be honest. If we want our children to learn justice, we must ourselves be fair. If we want our children to learn respect, we must first of all treat them with kindness and consideration. Whether we are parents, stepparents, grandparents, guardians, aunt or uncles, we must follow the example set by the Holy Family and live the lives we want our children to live.

Bitesize: 'It's not only children who grow. Parents do too. As much as we watch to see what our children do with their lives, they are watching us to see what we do with ours. I can't tell my children to reach for the sun. All I can do is reach for it, myself.' ~Joyce Maynard



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 31st December 2023 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph – Year B

[Sunday within the Octave of Christmas, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week 1]

MASSES in the PARISH

Saturday 30th December	
18:00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	Ena Marie Zannit (for healing) (MAE)
Sunday 31st December	Feast of the Holy Family
09:00 MASS	+Anisha Cyriac (CC)
11:00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	For the People of the Parish
Monday 1st January 2024	Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God
10:00 MASS	+Robert McCarthy (GM)
Tuesday 2nd January	Ss Basil the Gt & Gregory Nazianzen
10:00 MASS	+Annamamma (LJ)
Wednesday 3rd January	Christmas Feria
10:00 MASS	
Thursday 4th January	Christmas Feria
10:00 MASS & ADORATION	
Friday 5th January – No Mass today	Christmas Feria
Saturday 6th January	Christmas Feria
18:00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	
Sunday 7th January	The Epiphany of the Lord – Solemnity
	<i>[Holy Day of Obligation]</i>
09:00 MASS	
11:00 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

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: Caroline Rolfe, Ellen (Nell) Raiteri, Robert Clark, Eira Whitehouse, Patricia Gravestock, John Doherty, Rev. Bernard Warwick (*Deacon at Sacred Heart*), Joseph Sadowsky, Matthew Murphy, Frank Pike, Philip Ward, Lillian Carter, Len 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 £282.77. Thank you.


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.

A Word of Thanks - Father Jay extends his heartfelt gratitude for your generous contributions during the Christmas offering. Your kindness and support are greatly appreciated during this festive season.

Weekday Liturgy Change – Please note that commencing on **Monday, 15th January 2024 at 10:00** there will be **Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion** and every Monday thereafter.

Parish Music Practice – A reminder that Judy Reid will be holding a twice-monthly music practice on Tuesdays at 10:30 so that we can learn the hymns to be used at Mass, commencing on **9th January 2024.** Please make time for this important aspect of our Liturgy, the Sacred Music.



 A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to making our Christmas celebration a resounding success. Special appreciation goes to the dedicated Flower Ladies and all who assisted in decorating the Church, our diligent Lectors, the devoted Eucharistic Ministers, the committed Altar Servers, and the welcoming members of the Greeters' Guild. Your collective efforts have added immeasurable warmth and spirit to our festivities.

Restoration of the Christmas Decoration in the Church - This will be happening on **Saturday, 6th January 2024 at 10:30.** We will need some helping hands for this activity.

Parish Events for the week 31st December 2023 – 6th January 2024

All activities are currently on their Christmas break but please note the following recommencement dates:

- **Children's Liturgy resumes on Sunday 7th January at 11:00 Mass** (for children *in Y1 to 1st Holy Communion age*)
- **Youth Club Chess & Table Tennis Club resumes on Tuesday, 9th January at 19:00** - Emmaus Room.
- **First Communion Classes resume on Thursday, 11th January at 17:30-18:30** – Emmaus Room
- **Altar Servers' Group meetings resume on Friday 12th January 19:15-20:30** – Emmaus Room
- **Friday Garden Club** – Volunteers are asked to please contact Sonia on 07985 521578 for next meeting date.



Solemnity of Mary Mother of God, January 1st - Today we observe the solemnity of Mary the Mother of God. This is a natural theme having just celebrated the birth of her son Jesus. The birth of a child is always a sign of hope ... hope not just for the parents and immediate family, but also for the whole community. The lives of Mary and Jesus spell a vision of a hope, a vision of justice and peace, a vision of freedom and liberation, a vision of social change and concern for the common good. It spells a vision of God present in the poor child and the holy young woman of Nazareth; a vision of God to be found in all the people and things of our world and especially among the poor.

Pope Francis' Monthly Prayer intention: For The Gift Of Diversity In The Church: January 2024 - This month, Pope Francis invites us to join in his prayer intention, "... *that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.*"



Second Collections for 2024

- ❖ 25th February - CAFOD Family Fast Day
- ❖ 29th March, Good Friday - Holy Places of Palestine
- ❖ 21st April - Vocations Sunday
- ❖ 12th May - World Communications Sunday
- ❖ 16th June - Day for Life
- ❖ 30th June - Peter's Pence
- ❖ 14th July - Stella Maris
- ❖ 15th September - Home Mission Sunday
- ❖ 4th October - CAFOD Family Fast Day
- ❖ 20th October - World Mission Sunday
- ❖ 15th December - Diocesan Dependent Priest's Fund