

## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



**Saving Souls** - The trouble with Advent is that Christmas comes at the end. We know that Advent is a time for taking stock, but with Christmas just around the corner, we're far too busy with shopping lists to think about the state of our souls.

It seems obvious that we should spend our lives in preparation for the final judgement day, but it is all too easy to take our eye off the ball. Life heaps demands on us day in and day out. We spend each and every day taking the children to school, going to work, cleaning the house, shopping, cooking, cleaning, fixing the car and paying the bills. At this time of year in particular it is easy to get swamped in the things that the TV adverts convince us we must do before Christmas. We end up feeling trapped and unable to see the bigger picture. All of a sudden it's too late. We never get to do the things we know we should have done.

The Gospel paints a frightening picture of the end of the world, but it is not meant to terrify us. Rather, the signs of the second coming are there to liberate us. Advent is a time of waiting and of looking forward. We are looking forward not just to Christmas but to the second coming of Jesus. The signs of the second coming are there to liberate us from the material preparations of Christmas and the other things that weigh us down. We are invited to take a step back from our fraught lives and take a long-term view. It would be a pity to get to the other side of Christmas only to realise that a host of fake Santa Clauses had distracted us from contemplating the real direction of our lives.

We thank all our many parish volunteers and groups for their help each week in supporting the running and daily and spiritual life of the parish.



**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](mailto:kathleenedmunds@yahoo.com)

## Sacred Heart & St Margaret Mary



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## Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

[Sundays Year C, 1<sup>st</sup> Week of Advent, Weekdays Year I, Psalter Week 1]

### MASSES in the PARISH

<b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December</b>	
18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i>
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December</b>	
09.00	MASS
For the People of the Parish	
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>	
+Sr Clare Bridgette, English Convent, Bruges (H. & P.)	
11.00	MASS <i>Live streamed</i>
+Frederick Beaven (PB)	
<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December</b>	
-	No Mass today
<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December</b>	
10.00	MASS
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December</b>	
10.00	MASS
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December</b>	
10.00	MASS & ADORATION
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December</b>	
-	No Mass today
<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December</b>	
18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i>
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December</b>	
09.00	MASS
11.00	MASS <i>Live streamed</i>

For the People of the Parish  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
 +Sr Clare Bridgette, English Convent, Bruges (H. & P.)  
 +Frederick Beaven (PB)  
**Advent Feria**  
**St Francis Xavier (Migrants' Day)**  
 +John Perkins (CP)  
**Advent Feria**  
 +Anisha Cyriac (CC)  
**Advent Feria**  
 For healing for Edwina Pastor  
**Advent Feria**  
**St Ambrose**  
 For the marriage of Joe & Miriam Meeks (JR)  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
 For the People of the Parish  
 +Phyllis Thurstance (JD)

**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:** James Hooper, Jean English, Brenda May, Phyllis Howell, Les Rayner, John Merrick, Leonard Barnard, Dorothy Rayner, Frederick Lambert, Felix Jackson, David Lines, George Harmer, Adrian Ring-Davies, Mary Butler, Fred Evans, Tony Lovelace, Kevin Bayne, Diana Mary Cater. *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, Greta Cummings, Katherine Vella, Pauline Organ, Kevin Pugh, Joy Bussey, Dorothy Edwards, Pat Grout.

**Money Matters:** Offering for last Sunday: Plate £240.41. Thank you.

**130 Club Draw for November 2024** – 1<sup>st</sup> Prize £20: Ticket No. 172, Kevyn Brook; 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize £15: Ticket No. 59, Sheila Goldner; 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize £10: Ticket No. 11, Anne Nicol; 4<sup>th</sup> Prize £10: Ticket No. 82, Betty Reavey.

**Liturgical Cycle** – Today we move to Cycle C for Sunday Readings and Year 1 for Weekday Readings.

**Disposal of Old Lectionaries & Parish Mass Books** – Plans are being made for the responsible disposal of old Lectionaries, Mass Books & Sunday Missals. If you have any of these books, please drop them in the box provided at the back of church. **New Missals** - Fr Jay is encouraging every family to have a copy of a new Missal to bring to Sunday Mass and if anyone would like a Missal ordered for them, please give your name & payment in an envelope to Fr. Jay in the first instance, so that an order can then be placed accordingly. (Fr. Jay has asked Donal to co-ordinate this.) The cheapest found at present is £15.39. The CTS New Sunday Missal 2025 at £9.95 as mentioned in last week's newsletter would appear to be only for the year 2025. The new Weekday Missal will not be available until next April.

**New Church Flooring** – Arrangements have now been made for the new flooring to be laid during the week commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> December. This work will be carried out avoiding the weekday morning Masses but will entail work carrying on immediately afterwards. Fr. Jay asks for your patience while the work is carried out. Thank you.

#### Diary for the week 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Sunday: 1100 Mass	<b>Children's Liturgy</b> – for children in Yr1 to 1 <sup>st</sup> Holy Communion age.
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#### Diary for the week 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Monday: 1730-1830	<b>First Communion (2)</b> – Emmaus Room
Monday: 1900-2030	<b>AA Group Meeting</b> - Emmaus Room
Tuesday: 1830-2030	<b>Advent Scripture Study</b> – Emmaus Room
Wednesday: 1430	<b>Queen of Peace Prayer Group</b> – Emmaus Room. All welcome.
Wednesday: 1830	<b>Parish Finance Committee</b> - Presbytery
Wednesday: 1900-2000	<b>RCIA Introductory Session</b> – Emmaus Room
Thursday: 1730-1830	<b>First Communion Class</b> – Emmaus Room
Friday: 1915-2030	<b>Altar Servers' Group</b> – Emmaus Room
<b>Parish Garden Club</b> – To volunteer, please contact Sonia on 07985 521578.	

**Baptism: 7<sup>th</sup> December at 1100** – We are glad to welcome Francisco Jose Ferreira Da Silva, Marianna Cristina Da Silva Coelho and Lucas Da Silva Coelho to the community as they begin their life of Faith and grace.

**Posada 2024** – Posada is an old Mexican tradition where young people dressed as Mary and Joseph travelled from house to house asking for a room for the night and telling people about the imminent arrival of Jesus in the weeks leading up to Christmas. On Christmas Eve they would visit the local church to re-enact the nativity and place figures of Mary and Joseph in a crib. Modern day Posada uses nativity figures of Mary and Joseph who travel from place to place. If you'd like to be a host for this year's Posada journey around the parish, please add your name & contact details to the Journey Rota at the back of church as soon as possible.

**7<sup>th</sup> Sacerdotal Anniversary of Fr Jay | 8<sup>th</sup> Dec at 1100 Mass and Lunch afterwards** - Grateful for this precious gift of Priesthood from the Lord, Fr Jay is inviting you to join us at this celebration. He's hoping to exhibit some of his paintings and half of the proceeds will go to EACH.

**Our Parish Christmas Party** takes place on **Sunday 15th December at Yaxham Village Hall, from 12:30 to 4:30pm** - 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. 1st and 8th December. This year we are hoping to include a small talent show after the meal starring YOU, our parishioners. If you have a talent to show case, either solo or as a group, please give details to Fr Jay. **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. Proceeds from the Raffle will be donated to Aid to the Church in Need, Holy Land.