

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Choose a Better Way - We are good at digging ourselves into holes. We dig ourselves deep into places from which we cannot climb back out. Suddenly there is no way back from an argument we've had with a relative or a friend. Perhaps we've said things that can't be retracted or we've heard something we can't forgive. Suddenly there is no way back to a simpler way of life because we've somehow managed to over complicate or over commit. Suddenly there is no way we can get back to feeling good about ourselves because we have made mistakes that seem impossible to rectify. Today John the Baptist points us in a better direction. He tells us "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made straight."

Preparing a way for God in our lives is no different from any other preparation. Before we go Christmas shopping, we make a list of people we are going to buy for. Before we cook the Christmas dinner, we make a list of what we are going to need right down from the turkey to the tin foil. So too when we plan to make better paths for God to work in our lives, we need to make a list of holes we need to dig ourselves out of, and how exactly we are going to fill them back in. The holes that were once filled with doubt and worry need to be filled with positive thoughts and fresh determination. The holes that kept us trapped in feelings of guilt and regret need to be filled with belief in God's forgiveness. Where once we struggled with overly burdened lives we now need to stop and refocus on what's important.

Rebuilding our lives might not be something we can do overnight, but we can all begin with the will to be different; the will to climb out of the holes we have dug and choose a better path.

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
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Sacred Heart & St Margaret Mary



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Sunday 8th December 2024 – 2nd Sunday of Advent
 [Sundays Year C, 2nd Week of Advent, Weekdays Year I, Psalter Week 2]

MASSES in the PARISH

Saturday 7th December	
18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i> For the Marriage of Joe & Miriam Meeks (JR)
Sunday 8th December	
09.00	MASS For the People of the Parish
11.00	MASS <i>Live streamed</i> +Phyllis Thurstance (JD)
Monday 9th December	
10.00	MASS The Immaculate Conception of the BVM
Tuesday 10th December	
10.00	MASS Bls Henry Heath & John Robinson & Comps.
Wednesday 11th December	
10.00	MASS +John Merrick (<i>Foundation Mass</i>)
Thursday 12th December	
10.00	MASS & ADORATION Advent Feria
Friday 13th December	
-	No Mass today +Joan Marshall (CP)
Saturday 14th December	
18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i> Advent Feria
Sunday 15th December	
09.00	MASS For Kalavryta (Massacre, 13 Dec 1943)
11.00	MASS <i>Live streamed</i> St Lucy
3rd Sunday of Advent	
For Judith del Castillo	

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: Susan Frosdick, Olive Maude Thompson, John Hauzoter, Mary Rayner, Ethel Seabrook, Bridget Earthy, Vincent Michael Antony Gauci. *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 £238.56 and Offertory by Standing Order for November 2024 was £2050.00. Thank you. Next weekend there will be 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 is will help to maximize our donations in the Parish.

7th Sacerdotal Anniversary of Fr Jay | 8th Dec at 1100 Mass and Lunch - Grateful for this precious gift of Priesthood from the Lord, Fr Jay invites 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.

Weekday Mass Changes:

- **Immaculate Conception, Solemnity** - The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is moved to **Monday, 9th Dec. with Mass at 1000.**
- **Monday, 16th December** – There will be **Mass at 1000.**
- **Tuesday, 17th December** – There will be **No Mass.**


Convalidation of Nidhin Joy and Amulya Devassy | 7th December at 1300 - We congratulate Nidhin and Amulya as they exchange their consent before God and His people through the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.

Parish Mass Books | 40 copies available in the Church - Fr Jay has decided to purchase limited copies of the revised Mass books. Please acknowledge if you need to use one at Mass.

Disposal of Old Lectionaries and Parish Mass Books - Plans are being made for the responsible disposal of old Lectionaries, Mass Books, and Sunday

Missals. If you have any of those books, please drop them in the box provided at the Narthex.

Diary for the week 8th – 14th December

Sunday: 1100 Mass	Children's Liturgy – for children in Yr1 to 1 st Holy Communion age.
Monday: 1400-1600	Tea Buddies: Monthly get-together for a friendly natter over a cuppa – Emmaus Room. All welcome. Every second Monday of the month. 
Monday: 1730-1830	First Communion Group 2 – Emmaus Room
Monday: 1900-2030	AA Group Meeting - Emmaus Room
Wednesday: 1430	Queen of Peace Prayer Group – Emmaus Room. All welcome.
Wednesday: 1830-2030	Advent Scripture Study – Emmaus Room
Thursday: 1730-1830	First Communion Class – Emmaus Room
Saturday: 1030	Church Christmas Decoration
Parish Garden Club – To volunteer, please contact Sonia on 07985 521578.	



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.

Christmas Mass Times:

- 24th December – 1800 Carols**
 - 1830 Christmas Eve Mass
 - 2230 Midnight Mass
- 25th December – 1000 Christmas Day Mass**

Volunteers are required for all the Masses over Christmas. If you are able to volunteer, please place your name on the list at the back of the church.

Post-Christmas Recollection | 22nd January 2025 at 1830 - Andrew Rogerson, a historian in the Parish will facilitate this Recollection. The topic will be confirmed in the coming weeks.