

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



That Epiphany Moment - The wise men in the Epiphany gospel were visionaries with a star that they were determined to follow whatever the obstacles. The wise men began their quest with a hunger for the truth and a determination to find answers. When they finally found Jesus lying in a lowly stable, they came away happier and wiser men as a result. Following their star had given the three men a focus in their life and new meaning. We don't know what happened to them next,

but it is likely they spent their lives sharing the good news with everyone they met, Jews and Gentiles alike. Following their star helped the Magi to be the people God had meant them to be. Sadly, the same cannot be said for our own lives. We live our lives trying to be all things to all people. We live our lives dizzy with trying to live up to other people's expectations. We very rarely get time to be ourselves. We very rarely get that Epiphany moment of our own or get to know what God really wants of us.

So how do we follow our star? Firstly, we have to have a vision. The new year stretches ahead like a clean sheet of paper. What does God want of us? Some people agonise over this question, but for many of us it's simply a case of looking at our talents and using them to make the world a better place. For others it might be about looking around and choosing one other person to build up. If we have impossibly busy jobs our vision might be a small one; if we have lots of free time, we might be able to set a life changing goal. Having a vision is all well and good, but next we have to make plans and put those plans into action. This might involve sitting down and identifying obstacles. Remember that obstacles aren't always put in our way by other people. More often or not obstacles exist in our own minds and in our own character traits. We have to be able to recognise Jesus in our lives, and once we have found him, allow him to navigate.

For all those who are heading into the new year feeling lost, or tired, or lonely, or disillusioned, remember that good things await those who listen to God, and that God is ready to guide those who recognise his star quality.



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



Parish Priest: Fr Jay T. Magpuyo
 35 London Road, Dereham, Norfolk, NR191AS
 Tel: 01362 694066. Email: edsacredheart@gmail.com
 Registered Charity No. 278742
www.sacredheartdereham.org.uk



SacredHeartDereham.org.uk

Sunday 5th January 2025 – The Epiphany of the Lord

[Sundays Year C, 2nd Week of Christmas, Weekdays Year I, Psalter Week 2]

MASSSES in the PARISH

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| Saturday 4th January | |
| 18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i> | For the People of the Parish |
| Sunday 5th January | The Epiphany of the Lord. Solemnity. |
| 09.00 MASS | +Sr Marie Casey (JH) |
| 11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i> | +Dorothy Edwards |
| Monday 6th January | Christmas Feria |
| - No Mass today | |
| Tuesday 7th January | Christmas Feria |
| 10.00 MASS | +Mariam & in Thanksgiving (CC) |
| Wednesday 8th January | Christmas Feria |
| 10.00 MASS | For the Drury Family (Fdn) |
| Thursday 9th January | Christmas Feria |
| 10.00 MASS & ADORATION | For the Seabrooke Family (Fdn) |
| Friday 10th January | Christmas Feria |
| - No Mass today | |
| Saturday 11th January | Christmas Feria |
| 18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i> | For the People of the Parish |
| Sunday 12th January | The Baptism of the Lord. |
| 09.00 MASS | +Sr Marie |
| 11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i> | For Sheeba's Ints. |

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: Joseph Sadowsky, Frank Pike, Philip Ward, Lilian Carter, Len Smith, Kathleen Strayton, Jane Elizabeth Winifred Oaksford, James Tinney, Margaret Jones, Pamela Whigham, Elizabeth Brocklehurst, Nell Hunt, V. Rev. Canon Herbert Gray (1st Priest at Dereham). *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, Joy Bussey, Pat Grout, George Mealy.

Funeral Mass for +Dorothy Edwards | Dorothy's funeral Mass will take place on **Thursday, 16th January 2025 at 1130** in the Parish. Please keep her in our prayers.

Money Matters: Offering for last Sunday: Plate £183.14. 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.

Baptism | William Bingham on 5th January at 11am Mass.

A Word of Thanks - Fr Jay would like to thank all of you for your generosity during Christmas. For the wonderful Christmas cards, bottles of wine and champagne, boxes of chocolate and your very generous Christmas offering. Blessings!

| Diary for the week 5 th – 11 th January 2025 | |
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| <i>Note: Children's Sunday Liturgy resumes on 12th January at 11am Mass.</i> | |
| Monday: 1900-2030 | AA Group Meeting - Emmaus Room |
| Wednesday: 1430 | Queen of Peace Prayer Group – Emmaus Room. All welcome. |
| Thursday: 1730-1830 | First Holy Communion Class – Emmaus Room |
| Friday: 1915-2030 | Altar Servers' Group – Emmaus Room |
| Parish Garden Club – To volunteer, please contact Sonia on 07985 521578. | |

Christmas Decoration Restoration | 11 January at 1030 - We need some hands to pack away our Christmas decorations in the Church, if you could help us, that would be great.

Post-Christmas Recollection | 22 January 2025 at 1830 - Step back in time and join us for an enlightening Recollection with Andrew Rogerson, our Parish historian. Don't miss this interesting journey into the past: *'How Archaeological Finds Illuminate the Religious Lives of People in Medieval Norfolk.'*


Parish Jubilee Celebration | 25th July 2025 - To mark this important milestone on the life of our Church, the Parish Finance and AiF Project Committee proposes using the remaining AiF funds this year to build a grotto for Our Lady in the Parish Garden and enhance the garden's décor. This project will coincide with the Bishop's visit, during which he will bless the grotto. Please add your signature to the sheet at the back of the Church if you support this initiative. Many thanks.

Chasuble Donation | Thank you - The Parish would like to thank Rex, Catherine, and Joy for donating the white chasuble from Watts and Co. We have now a set of decent chasuble that could last a lifetime. This is truly a gift and a treasure in the Sacristy.

Pope Francis's Prayer Intention for January 2025 - Pope Francis has warned that, "We're experiencing an educational catastrophe," and underscores, "This is no exaggeration." There are 250 million boys and girls worldwide without an education due to wars, migration, and poverty. "All children and youth have the right to go to school," the Pope insisted, "regardless of their immigration status." Education, he went on to say, is a hope for everyone. In addition, he reminded, "it can save migrants and refugees from discrimination, criminal networks, and exploitation." Education opens the doors to a better future. This month Pope Francis invites us to join in his prayer intention that ".... the right to an education, which is necessary to build a more human world, might always be respected."



Bitesize – 'If we value the pursuit of knowledge, we must be free to follow wherever that search may lead us. The free mind is not a barking dog, to be tethered on a ten-foot chain.' ~ *Adlai E. Stevenson Jr.*

 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.