

## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

### Preparing to Change



What does Jesus' baptism say to us? Jesus' thirty years of preparation before his public baptism remind us that it takes time to get ready for God's mission. How many countless hours did Jesus spend in prayer? What study, what thought, what agony must he have undergone before appearing in front of John to ask him to baptize him. It is never too late for any of us to say, "yes" to God.

January is a time for new beginnings and fresh resolution. John the Baptist was an expert on this. John's ministry was all about repentance and life changing reform ... that's what his baptism was all

about. But anyone who has ever seriously tried to change themselves will know how difficult change really is. Can we really entertain any hopes of becoming braver if we have spent our whole lives avoiding confrontation? Can we really become kinder if we have spent our whole lives only thinking of our own needs? All of us can point to parts of our life that remain stubbornly unchanged year in and year out. Those who were baptised by John were baptised as a sign of their intent to change from their old ways, but knowing how difficult change can be, we can't help wondering how successful they must have been. Perhaps John appreciated this too when he said "I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

We are told that the same Holy Spirit that empowered Jesus at the outset of his ministry, is the same Holy Spirit that is given to us in our baptism. This is an inspiring thought. Validating our baptism anew every day, knowing that we are filled with the Holy Spirit .... perhaps change isn't beyond us after all.

**Bitesize** - Make your life a mission - not an intermission. ~Arnold Glasgow



**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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SacredHeartDereham.org.uk

## Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – BAPTISM OF THE LORD

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

### MASSES in the PARISH

<b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January</b>		
18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For the People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January</b>		<b>Baptism of the Lord</b>
09.00	MASS	Sr Marie+
11.00	MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	For Sheeba's Ints.
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January</b>		<b>Feria</b>
-	No Mass today	
<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January</b>		<b>Feria</b>
10.00	MASS	George Mealy (for healing)
<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January</b>		<b>Feria</b>
10.00	MASS	English Family+ (Fdn)
<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January</b>		<b>St Fursey</b>
11.30	Funeral Mass for Dorothy Edwards+	
<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January</b>		<b>St Anthony</b>
-	No Mass today	
<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January</b>		<b>Feria</b>
18.00	<i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	Margaret Meade+ (PP)
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January</b>		<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
		<b>(Peace Day)</b>
09.00	MASS	Annie & James Whittingham+ (SG & Family)
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**

*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:** Harry Monk, Rachael McErleane, Cicely Harvey, Louise Bennett, Ellen Carey, Ellen Harrington, Lily Rawding, Nell Jones. *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, Peggy Mealy.


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

**Money Matters:** Offering for last Sunday: Plate £298.49. Thank you.

For those who would like to make their regular offerings by Standing Order, the information you need is: Account name: **Sacred Heart and St Margaret Mary Catholic Church.** 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. **Important** – The Parish bank account's name has now changed to: Sacred Heart and St Margaret Mary Catholic Church. The account's number remains.

**Adoration Resumes in March** – Due to upcoming church renovations, weekly Adoration is suspended and will resume in the first week of March.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025, 18th - 25th January** - Each day during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, CTBI (Churches Together in Britain and Ireland) provides a starting point, reflection, questions and a prayer based on the theme. Here you can turn your reflections into action with the charity's 'Go and Do' points. This is a great site with plenty of practical challenges on highly relevant themes. Visit [www.ctbi.org.uk/goanddo/](http://www.ctbi.org.uk/goanddo/)

<b>Diary for the week 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> January</b>	
Sunday: 1100 Mass	<b>Children's Liturgy</b> – for children in Yr1 to 1 <sup>st</sup> Holy Communion age.
Monday: 1400-1600	<b>Tea Buddies:</b> Monthly get-together for a friendly natter over a cuppa – Emmaus Room. All welcome. Every second Monday of the month. 
Monday: 1900-2030	<b>AA Group Meeting</b> - Emmaus Room

Wednesday: 1430	<b>Queen of Peace Prayer Group</b> – Emmaus Room. All welcome.
Wednesday: 1900-2000	<b>RCIA Group</b> – Emmaus Room
Thursday: 1730-1830	<b>First Holy Communion Class</b> – Emmaus Room
<b>Parish Garden Club</b> – To volunteer, please contact Sonia on 07985 521578.	

**Cambodian Immersion** - Two of our parishioners, Judy Reid & Myrna Kemp, are going on a Cambodian Immersion on January 23 with Fr Mark of Swaffham and some parishioners. They are visiting orphanage and Catholic schools so any small items you may have at home that you don't need anymore would be very welcome. Thank you very much in advance. Examples: colouring pencils, rubbers, rulers, pens, small colouring books, toothbrushes, paracetamol, plasters etc.

**Parish Jubilee Celebration | 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

**A Year of Hope: An Introduction to the Jubilee Year with CAFOD** - 2025 is a Jubilee year, but what does that mean? Catholic talk show host and author Nana Churcher, and CAFOD's Simon Giarchi will be hosting Fr Jan Nowotnik (Director of Mission for the Bishop's Conference), Christine Allen (CAFOD's Director) and Kayode Akintola (CAFOD's Head of Africa) and more for a lively start to the Jubilee. With a special appearance by Catholic band Ooberfuse. Saturday 18 Jan, 10:30am-midday, online. All welcome. Register here for free: [cafod.org.uk/jubilee](http://cafod.org.uk/jubilee)

**Book Launch | The Romero Rosary: Praying the Mysteries of Faith with Our Lady and St Oscar Romero** - 'This new book contains reflections on the traditional mysteries of the rosary and the NEW Romero mysteries illumined for reflection and prayer by St Oscar's own words. St Oscar Romero is a saint for our time, faithful to Christ and to the Church, and committed to the defence of human life and dignity. He calls us to love the Lord Jesus and Mary, his Mother, and to put our faith into practice. The rosary is a beautiful way to pray with him, united in spiritual *friendship*, asking for strength to live out our discipleship today.' *John Wilson, ISBN:9781904785866; £10.99 in Paperback. Archbishop John Wilson was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Leeds in 1995. He was ordained an Auxiliary Bishop in the Diocese of Westminster in 2016 and appointed Archbishop of Southwark in 2019.*

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