

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



The Sands of Time

Does Christmas seem to come round faster every year? Do you ever feel that the sand of time is running fast though your fingers and that life is passing you by? As you make your way around the supermarket and hear the same old tunes as last Christmas, see the same products on the shelves as last Christmas, and follow the same adverts as last Christmas, do you ever long for something to change?

The hardest thing about living our lives is finding time to live our lives! Our days are ruled by the clock. Few of us can wake up and choose what to do. Our time is dictated by routine and before we know it life has passed us by before we have had time to live it. The biggest theme of Advent is 'change' but in the busy run up to Christmas, changing the way we live our lives is probably the last thing on our minds. We are much more likely to be making savings on the latest iphone than saving our souls!

Today we are given the biggest life changing piece of advice that we could ever have. Preparation! Preparation is essential whether we are setting out to buy a new washing machine or setting out to change the world. Without preparation we will end up wasting years of our time and missing all those heaven-sent opportunities. We might not think that we have the time to live our lives any differently from the way we do now, but with the right kind of planning we can transform who we are and what we do and still manage to fit in the day job. If Noah could find time to knock out an ark before the floods came, surely we could all find time to pencil some life changing plans into our calendar!

We hear a lot in the news of natural disasters and war around the world. Men women and children across the globe have lost their lives unexpectedly and prematurely. Death comes like a thief in the night, and so we must keep focussed and live in perpetual readiness. Jesus does not tell us this to frighten us but to encourage us to take responsibility for the here and now.



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.

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Sunday 27th November 2022 – 1st Sunday of Advent – Year A

[1st Week of Advent, Weekdays Year I, Psalter Week 1]

MASSES in the PARISH

Saturday 26th November

18.00 *First MASS of Sunday*

For the People of the Parish

Sunday 27th November

09.00 MASS

1st Sunday of Advent

+Pritchard Family (CP)

11.00 MASS *Live streamed*

+Sean Cullen (EK)

Monday 28th November

10.00 MASS

Advent Feria

+Les, Mark & Janice Blows and Kathleen Perrin (AB)

Tuesday 29th November

10.00 MASS

Advent Feria

+Brenda May (PM)

Wednesday 30th November

10.00 MASS

St Andrew, Patron Saint of Scotland. Feast

+Brenda May (JB)

Thursday 1st December

11.00 Funeral Mass for Brenda May

Advent Feria

Friday 2nd December

- No Mass today

Advent Feria

Saturday 3rd December

18.00 *First MASS of Sunday*

St. Francis Xavier

+John Merrick (*Foundation Mass*)

Sunday 4th December

09.00 MASS

2nd Sunday of Advent

+Les, Mark & Janice Blows and Kathleen Perrin (AB)

11.00 MASS *Live streamed*

For the People of the Parish

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Thursday after 10.00 Mass and Saturday at 17.30

EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION: Thursday after Mass

For Live Streamed Masses Search for Dereham Catholic Church on YouTube, or use the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCR-qWs-B4OVTvbezZ83MxQ/videos?view=2&flow=grid>

The parish newsletter is available on the parish website from Friday each week.

Anniversaries this week: Winifred Lovesay, Joseph Barker, Madeline Lambert, Mary Lambert, Frederick Shelock, Charles O’Kane, Mona Murphy, John Lawrence, Jams Hooper, Jean English, Phyllis Howell, John Merrick, Les Rayner. *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, Frances Saville King, Derek Williams, Patsy Gray, Collette Barro-Nessian, Betty Reavey, Marion Ring-Davies, Fr. Brendan, William Dunn, Pauline Buckland, Gretta Cummings, Marco Johnson.

+Diana Cater – The Requiem Mass for +Diana Cater will be here on Wednesday, 7th December at 1130, followed by a cremation at Breckland Crematorium, Norwich Road, Scoulton, Norfolk, NR9 4NR.

Money Matters: Offering for last Sunday: Plate £220.60. 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 is will help to maximize our donations in the Parish.

Volunteers for Christmas Masses – Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Collectors and Offertory procession volunteers are needed for the Christmas Masses. There is a list at the back of church for volunteers to sign up for the relevant Mass and task. With grateful thanks in advance.

Christmas Masses – Please note the revised times for Christmas Masses:

- 24th December – Carols at 1830; Mass at 1900 and 2230
- 25th December – 1000
- 26th December – 1000 Altar Servers’ Mass (Pizza afterwards)

UCM Christmas Raffle – Over the next two weekends, the UCM will be selling tickets for our Christmas Raffle. The proceeds will go to the chosen Charity, like the EACH or to the SVP, and half shall go to the Parish to cover some expenses.

Parish Garden Club – If you are interested in gardening, join others in the Parish and try your magical hands in our parish garden. Contact the office or speak to Fr. Jay about this.

Parish Events this week		
Tues. 29 th Nov.	1900-1930	Chess Club – Emmaus Room
Weds. 30 th Nov.	After 1000 Mass & at 1900	Faith talks – Final Session of the video course presented by Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa, the papal household preacher. This week’s theme is ‘ <i>Mary, the Mother of God, our Model</i> ’.
Weds. 30 th Nov.	1700-1800	First Communion Class – Emmaus Room
Fri. 2 nd Dec.	1915-2045	Confirmation Group – Emmaus Room
Sat. 3 rd Dec	1100	Tennis every Saturday at the Dereham Leisure Park
Sun. 4 th Dec..	After 1100 Mass	Youth Club table tennis – Emmaus Room

Union of Catholic Mothers – UCM members are asked to note that the final meeting of the Sacred Heart Foundation of the UCM, will be held at **11am on Tuesday, 20th December**. More details to follow.

8th December Celebration - On this Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, also the 5th Sacerdotal Anniversary of Fr Jay, we are all invited for a lunch at 1145 which is preceded by Exposition from 1000-1030 and Mass at 1100.

Re-Word – We now have volunteers to write for the Wednesday Gospel Reflection. Any other sharers of the Word are still welcome.

Columba Mission Appeal 2023 – The Columban Missionaries will be having their annual mission appeal in the Parish on the weekend on 25th-26th February 2023. One of their priests will be saying the weekend Masses for us on this occasion. There will be a donation box for them placed in the church nearer the time.

Film Showing: Jurassic World Dominion (extended version) – A film showing on **Saturday, 10th December at 1915 in the Presbytery**. This movie is rated PG13 and minors should be accompanied by parents or guardians. Since this is Gaudete Sunday, it would be good to break the monotony a little, relax and enjoy this day with the community.

Episcopal Ordination Tickets – At the moment we have 10 people signed up for the Episcopal Ordination of Canon Peter Collins on 14th December at 1130 in St John’s Cathedral, Norwich. The list will close on 1st December to allow for transport planning purposes.

Bitesize – “Don’t be fooled by the calendar. There are only as many days in the year as you make use of.” ~ *Anon*