

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Saving Souls - Martin Lewis, the 'money saving expert' made a video this month that went viral. He called on everyone to make a pact not to spend money on gifts that were overpriced or unnecessary. The point was to take the burden from other people who might be embarrassed into buying an expensive gift back, and to release poorer families from buying presents that would put them into debt. The idea was to side step the commercialism of Christmas. As Christians this message goes much deeper. Side stepping the commercialism of Christmas obviously isn't about saving money, it's about 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 ads 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.



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.

Useful links: Diocesan Safeguarding – <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/safeguarding/>
 Diocesan Website – <http://www.rcdea.org.uk>
 Notre Dame High School, Norwich – <http://www.ndhs.org.uk>
 Daily Liturgy Website – www.universalis.com

PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART AND ST. MARGARET MARY [Registered Charity 278742]

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Parish Website: <http://www.sacredheartdereham.org.uk>

Permanent Deacon: Rev. Martin Sanderson: Tel: 01362 822590

Email: martin.sanderson@rcdea.org.uk

Parish Music Leader: Michael King: Email: michaeljwking@gmail.com

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Kathleen Edmunds:

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2ND DECEMBER 2018 – 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Year C

[1st Week of the Year, Weekday Year I, Psalter Week 1]

Mass Times for the Week			Intentions
Sat. 1 st Dec.	6.00 pm	1 st Sunday of Advent [Parish Mass Book p82]	Priest's Int. Dorothy Ryan (Morris) People of the Parish
Sun. 2 nd Dec.	9.00 am 11.00 am		
Mon. 3 rd Dec.	10.00 am	St Francis Xavier	John Merrick (*Fdn.)
Tues. 4 th Dec.	-	Advent Feria	No Mass today – PP's day off
Weds. 5 th Dec.	10.00 am	Advent Feria	Pamela Barnwell
Thurs. 6 th Dec.	10.00 am	Advent Feria	Sandra Mealy
Fri. 7 th Dec.	10.00 am	St Ambrose	Holy Souls
Sat. 8 th Dec.	10.30 am	Immaculate Conception of BVM	Holy Souls
Sat. 8 th Dec.	6.00 pm	2 nd Sunday of Advent	Phyllis Thurstance Michael Reavey People of the Parish
Sun. 9 th Dec.	9.00 am 11.00 am		

*Fdn = Foundation Mass

Music for 1st Sunday of Advent – Setting: The Belmont Mass

Entry: 6pm – Angelus (said); Hymn 109 – Lo, he comes with clouds descending ...

Psalm is sung at the 6pm Mass this week: R: *To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.*

Offertory: Hymn 110 – The coming of our God ...

Recessional: 11am – Angelus (said); Hymn 982 – O Jesus Christ, remember ...

Anniversaries this week: Phyllis Howell, Les Rayner, John Merrick, Leonard Barnard, Dorothy Rayner, Frederick Lambert, Felix Jackson, David Lines, George Harmer, Adrian

Confession/Reconciliation: Saturday at 5.30pm, or by request/appointment

The parish newsletter (incl. back copies) is available to view on the parish website from Friday onward each week.

Ring-Davies, Mary Butler, Phyllis Thurstance, Fred Evans, Tony Lovelace and Kevin Bayne. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.*

Hospital Visits: If you or family members are admitted to the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital (NNUH) or Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, King's Lynn (QEII), and would like a visit from the Roman Catholic Chaplain, please call either St. John's Cathedral, Norwich (01603 624615) for visits to NNUH, or call the NNUH Hospital Chaplaincy direct on 01603 287470 for people needing urgent spiritual attention, or for visits to QEII Hospital, call Fr. Peter Rollings on 01553 772220. If you would like to receive the Sacrament or Anointing of the sick before going to hospital, please contact Fr. Brendan on 01362 694066.

Sick & Housebound [with GDPR Permissions] – Please pray for: David Peek, Janet Yardley, Jenny Rudd, Peter Gormans, Sarah Chaudri, Rita Smith, Carol Whitesides, Catherine (Kay) Garrard and Robert Nicol.

Money Matters: Thank you for your contribution to the day-to-day running of our parish which amounted to £434.55 last weekend, and for your offering of £149.68 to support the work of our Diocesan Youth Service.

Gift Aid – For those who make their offertory by DD or standing order, please pick up an envelope from the letter rack in the porch for your Christmas offering.

Diary Dates for this week -		
Mon. 3 rd Dec.	2.00pm	Mother Teresa's knitting group meets – Emmaus Room. New members always welcome for a knit and natter over a cuppa.
Tues. 4 th Dec.	7.30pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group – Emmaus Room
Weds. 5 th Dec.	7.30pm	SVP Conference meets – Emmaus Room
Fri. 7 th Dec.	10.30am	SVP 'First Friday' Coffee Morning, after Mass. All welcome.
Sat. 8 th Dec.	11.00am	Saturday Club - Emmaus Room

Posada - The Posada statue begins its journey around the parish again. There are spaces on the list for people to fill in. If you would like to host the statue of Mary and Joseph on their journey to Bethlehem and have not signed up yet, please contact Fr. Brendan. I will keep a copy of the list and can fill in the space and make contact with the holder for you to arrange handing over the statue.

Advance Notice of Christmas Mass Times –

- ❖ Christmas Eve – 6.00pm and 10.00pm
- ❖ Christmas Day – 10.00am

A Christmas Celebration at St John's Cathedral, Norwich – Make a date for an evening of Christmas carols and motets with the Cathedral choirs and brass ensemble on **Wednesday, 19th December at 7.30pm**. Tickets £10, under-16s free – includes glass of mulled wine. Tickets available from the Cathedral shop and Cathedral website: www.sjbcathedral.org.uk. See the poster at the back of church.

Union of Catholic Mothers – Members of the UCM will be holding a gift stall this weekend after all Masses, with gifts priced from 50p to around £3 for people to buy. Also raffle tickets on sale this and next weekend. All proceeds go towards UCM nominated charities. The UCM is also appealing for unwanted hats, scarves and gloves over the next two weeks to be added to the Norwich Open Christmas handbags appeal for the homeless.

St Nicholas Fair, Saturday 8th December 10.30am – 5.00pm - Please join us for the St Nicholas Fair at The Narthex, Cathedral of St John the Baptist, Norwich. Browse for Christmas presents and see St Nicholas arrive at 4pm with gifts for the children! The Garden Café will be open throughout the day for food and refreshments and the Cathedral shop will be open for the sale of unique gifts and cards. All welcome!

ORDER OF MALTA PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES, Friday 3rd May to Thursday 9th May 2019 - The British Association of the Order of Malta takes a group of sick, disabled and older pilgrims with us every year on pilgrimage to Lourdes, flying from and back to Stansted. Our pilgrimage is part of the Order of Malta's International Pilgrimage, with 7,000 to 8,000 people attending in total. The pilgrimage includes a full programme of religious events. In addition, lively and fun activities and opportunities for sightseeing are available. Nursing and medical care is provided as necessary. We invite applications from interested sick, disabled and older people to join the pilgrimage, with accommodation in the Accueil Notre Dame. Pilgrims in the Accueil are asked to make a contribution of £300 towards the cost of some £600, but this can be reduced in cases of need. Anything over £300 would be gratefully received to help other less fortunate pilgrims. For further information and an application form, please contact Mrs Kim O'Connor, our Head Nurse, before 14 January 2019: Mrs Kim O'Connor, 32 Scalebor Gardens, Burley in Wharfedale, ILKLEY LS29 7BX, E-mail: k6oconnor@aol.com

Bitesize - 'Sometimes it seems like God is difficult to find and impossibly far away. We get so caught up in our small daily duties and irritations that they become the only things that we can focus on. What we forget is that God's love and beauty are all around us, every day, if only we would take the time to look up and see them.' ~ *Matthias, Correction Weblog, 11-01-03*

The Angelus

☩. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary. *℟. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit. Hail Mary ...*

☩. Behold the handmaid of the Lord. *℟. Be it done unto me according to thy word. Hail Mary ...*

☩. And the Word was made flesh. *℟. And dwelt among us. Hail Mary ...*

☩. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God. *℟. That we may be made worth of the promises of Christ.*

Let us pray: Pour forth, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ thy Son was made known by the message of an angel may, by his Passion and Cross, be brought to the glory of his Resurrection, through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen.