

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



A Change of Heart

Much of television transmission over Christmas will be taken up by soaps. As sophisticated audiences we have become familiar with how soaps work. We understand that soaps have certain character types and that those characters rarely change their spots. We have become accustomed to watching characters making the same old mistakes over and over again. They may show remorse for their failings, they may even promise their loved ones that they can be different, but we know deep down that they cannot change. We know that sooner or later they will go slipping on those same old banana skins. Change isn't easy.

In today's gospel we are being taught an important lesson. We are taught that repentance is more than just being sorry. We can be sorry yet re-offend. We can be sorry that we have told a lie yet lie again. We can be sorry that we have succumbed to crime or self-indulgence, yet go down that path again. The true meaning of repentance means to change direction to choose a different path altogether.

Choosing a new path sounds easy. It obviously isn't or the world would already be a perfect place. We all know what changes we would like to make in our own lives, and we know equally well the excuses we use that bar our path to God.

In Luke's gospel, John tells us, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth..."

We are being told that Advent is a time of preparation and of change. In the same way that Dickens' immortal Scrooge secured his salvation by changing his ways, so too must we choose a new path through life and smooth our way along it by clearing the obstacles. Rebuilding our lives might not be something we can do overnight, but we can all begin with the will to be differentthe will to change direction a change of heart.



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.

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

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5TH DECEMBER 2021 – 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Year C

[2nd Week of Advent, Weekday Year II, Psalter Week 2]

Mass Times for the Week			Intentions
Sat. 4 Dec.	6.00 pm	2 nd Sunday of Advent	P. & H.'s Ints. (8/10)
Sun. 5 Dec.	9.00 am 11.00 am		The People of the Parish Holy Souls (2/2 – Sillince)
Mon. 6 Dec.	10.00 am	Advent Feria	Phyllis Thurstance (Duffield)
Tues. 7 Dec.	-	St Ambrose	No Mass today
Weds. 8 Dec.	10.00 am	Immaculate Conception of the BVM	Mary Mealy & Seamus (PM)
Thurs. 9 Dec.	10.00 am	Advent Feria	Ann & Martin Bracken (PM)
Fri. 10 Dec.	10.00 am	Blessed Martyrs of East Anglia	Stephen & Bernadette Mealy & Family (PM)
Sat. 11 Dec.	-	Advent Feria	No morning Mass
Sun. 12 Dec.	6.00 pm 9.00 am 11.00 am	3 rd Sunday of Advent (<i>Gaudete Sunday</i>)	P. & H.'s Ints. (9/10) Holy Souls The People of the Parish

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - from 9.25 a.m. – 9.55 a.m.
before each weekday Mass.**

The Church is open daily until 5:00pm

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

ALL MASSES ARE LIVE STREAMED ON YouTube –

Search for **Dereham Catholic Church** on YouTube, or use the following link:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCR-qWs-B40VTvbezZ83MxQ/videos?view=2&flow=grid>

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

Anniversaries this week: Dorothy Rayner, Adrian Ring-Davies, Mary Butler, Phyllis Thurstance, David Lines, George Harmer, Frederick Lambert, Felix Jackson, Fred Evans, Tony Lovelace, Kevin Bayne, Susan Frosdick, Olive Maude Thompson. *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. Brendan either by phone or by email.

Sick & Housebound [with GDPR Permissions] – **Please pray for:** Carol Whitesides, Shirley Liebenhals, Frances Saville King, Derek Williams, Greta Cummings, Patsy Gray, Allan Michael Howard, Collette Barrow-Nessian, Terri Sanderson, Ellen Harrington, Christopher Bingham, Betty Reavey, Marion Ring-Davies.

Money Matters: Next Weekend, there will be a retiring collection for the Dependent Priests' Fund after all Masses.

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**. This is a great way for the parish to get additional funds from the tax reclaim benefits scheme; with this scheme you do not need to commit to a fixed amount as it will just be based on your total annual contribution. Let Fr. Brendan know if you would like to sign up to Gift Aid.



Newsletter by Email - Please let Fr. Brendan know if you would like to receive the parish's weekly bulletin by email. We have a GDPR compliant list of names for this purpose.

First Holy Communion Class – Saturday, 11th December 2021 at 10.30-11.30 a.m. in the Emmaus Room.

Advent Talk - On **Wednesday 8th December at 7.00 pm** at Our Lady and St Thomas of Canterbury, Wymondham, there will be an Advent talk by Fr Bob Eccles O.P from Cambridge entitled: **With Our Lady in Advent**. **All welcome to attend**. Tea/coffee etc after the talk. The talk will be streamed on our parish YouTube channel. https://www.youtube/channel/UCmPstVjBimy3N0oC3ZmIn8g/videos?live_view=502&view=2

Synodal Survey Steps - Our Parish Representative, Ken Summerford, has provided the following guide to help those wishing to take part in the online Synodal Survey:

1. Access the Internet.
2. Type in <https://www.sjbcathedral.org.uk/synodal-way-survey>
3. Scroll down until you see 'Journeying Together' and a picture of Pope Francis.
4. On the image click 'Tell us'.

5. Then click on 'start with a prayer'.
6. Then the Box that applies to you (Under-/over-18).
7. Fill the next page if you would like to receive Diocesan news.
8. Hit next!' Our Journeying Companions'.

Some questions you respond to using a sliding scale. Other questions invite you to comment in a text box. Hit 'Next' until you have finished the survey. It would be great if you are able to help those who do not have access to the Internet. Feel free to drop me an email - kensummerford@gmail.com - if you need any help! Many thanks for your participation. (The following link will take you direct to the Diocesan website to access the survey in the event of any problems using the link from the Parish website: <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/synodal-pathway/>.)

Parish Multicultural Bring and Share Meal, Sunday, 19th December, 1pm - 5pm to celebrate the imminent arrival of baby Jesus on Christmas Day! Join us at the Convent of the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham, Neatherd Moor, NR20 4AQ for an afternoon of sharing, fun and prayer. Tea, coffee and soft drinks provided. To book please email Emily: office@walsinghamcommunity.org or call 01362 421442.

Christmas Mass Times – Mass times for Christmas will be as follows:

- ❖ Fri. 24th December (Christmas Eve) - 6.00 p.m. & 10.00 p.m.
- ❖ Sat. 25th December (Christmas Day) - 10.00 a.m.

CAFOD News – “**Register for our online review of the year!** Join us for a review of the year, where we will share all that the Catholic community has made possible this year with their support. Please join our Director Christine Allen, online on **Thursday 25 November at 7pm-8pm**. [Register here](#). **Sign up for our daily Advent reflections:** These reflections have been very popular and offer an opportunity to pause and reflect, pray and take action as we prepare for Christmas. Visit our [Interactive online Advent calendar | CAFOD](#) for more details. There are also free Advent children's liturgy resources that parish catechists may find useful. [Children's Liturgy | CAFOD](#).”

Bitesize – “You have brains in your head / You have feet in your shoes / You can steer yourself any direction you choose / You're on your own / And you know what you know / And YOU are the one who'll decide where to go...”

Dr. Seuss, Oh! The Places You'll Go! US author & illustrator (1904 - 1991)

Prayer for the Election of a Bishop - God, eternal shepherd, who govern your flock with unfailing care, grant in your boundless fatherly love a pastor for your Church who will please you by his holiness and to us show watchful care. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

St Felix: *Pray for us*; St Fursey: *Pray for us*; St Edmund: *Pray for us*;
All Holy Martyrs and Saints of East Anglia: *Pray for us*.