

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Prioritising Our Priorities - With Covid and the ensuing recession and redundancies comes the inevitable advice about staying out of debt at Christmas and much of the advice is about priorities. More than ever we have to prioritise the amounts of money we are going to spend on different people, and we have to know where to draw the line. We have to decide what is important and what isn't. A year of Covid has probably taught us all something about the priorities that govern our lives. Now in Advent we are asked to stop and examine those priorities, and more importantly to ask whether our priorities are what they really ought to be in God's eyes.

Today we read how John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance. Today we might easily dismiss the rantings of a strange man who dressed in camel hair and fed on locusts, but interestingly, people travelled miles into the desert to be baptised by him, so charismatic a man was he, and so important his message. Two thousand years later, his message is just as relevant to those of us who want greater meaning in our lives. The repentance that John teaches means so much more than being sorry for our sins. Repentance means changing the direction of our lives away from poor choices. Was the direction of our life decided by what exams we did or didn't pass at the age of seventeen? Has the direction of our life been determined by arbitrary decisions and random circumstances? Is that the way we want to continue? Advent is a time to decide what sort of a person we would really like to be, and in what direction we would really like to be heading. That's an exciting thought!

"Prepare the way of the Lord," John tells us, "make straight his paths." To allow God into our lives, we are asked to remove any obstacles in God's path. How can we open our minds to God's will if our time is consumed in fixing fairy lights and making Christmas puddings? Advent is an opportunity for us to make some quiet time to contemplate and prioritise. What is it exactly that is preventing God's work in our lives?

"One mightier than I is coming after me," John tells us, "I have baptised you with water, he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit." In the desert of commercialism, we are encouraged to sit down for a moment and prioritise our priorities.



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

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Kathleen Edmunds:

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6TH DECEMBER 2020 – 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Year B

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

Mass Times for the Week			Intentions
Sat. 5 th Dec.	6.00 pm	2 nd Sunday of Advent	The People of the Parish Phyllis Thurstance Holy Souls
Sun. 6 th Dec.	9.00 am 11.00 am		
Mon. 7 th Dec.	10.00 am	S Ambrose	Covid-19 Sick
Tues. 8 th Dec.	-	Immaculate Conception	No Mass today
Weds. 9 th Dec.	10.00 am	Advent Feria	Ellen Harrington (Hannon)
Thurs. 10 th Dec.	10.00 am	Blessed Martyrs of East Anglia	Patrick Hannon (Hannon)
Fri. 11 th Dec.	10.00 am	Advent Feria	Patsy Gray (Cummings)
Sat. 12 th Dec.	-	Advent Feria	No morning Mass
Sun. 13 th Dec.	6.00 pm	3 rd Sunday of Advent	Calving & Becky Cummings (Cummings) Kalavryta Massacre victims (Fdn.) The People of the Parish
	9.00 am 11.00 am		

All Celebrations of Mass are livestreamed on YouTube

CHURCH OPEN DAILY: *The Church is open daily until 4:00 pm*

MASS LIVE STREAM – 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: George Harmer, Adrian Ring-Davies, Mary Butler, Phyllis Thurstance, Fred Evans, Tony Lovelace, Kevin Bayne, Susan Frostdick, Olive Maude Thompson and John Hauzoter. *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: Jenny Rudd, Carol Whitesides, Shirley Liebenhals, Frances Saville King, Una McWeeny, Derek Williams.

Money Matters: 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.

Christmas Masses: I have had to make an executive decision with regard to Mass at Christmas. Attendance at each Mass will be limited to **ticket holders only**. **The tickets will be free**. There will be a maximum of **50 people** at each Mass. I will hold some extra tickets for **Altar Servers** and for people without internet access. **Mass Times: Christmas Eve 3.00 pm & 8.00 pm. Christmas Day: 9.00 am & 11.00 am**. Details on how to get tickets will be available soon. It will be impossible to satisfy everyone and not everyone will be pleased with this, but it is the best solution I can come up with at the moment. **Please do not book to attend more than one Christmas Mass.**

Posada: The Journey of Mary & Joseph for Advent 2020 – Making Room for Jesus this Christmas – Posada is an old Mexican tradition where young people dressed as Mary and Joseph travelled from house to house asking for a room for the night and telling people about the imminent arrival of Jesus in the weeks leading up to Christmas. On Christmas Eve they would visit the local church to re-enact the nativity and place figures of Mary and Joseph in a crib. Modern day Posada uses nativity figures of Mary and Joseph who travel from place to place. This gives each 'host' the chance to create their own celebration



in their home or place in the community, worshipping and reaching out to their communities with the real message of Christmas, making room for Jesus in their lives. But because Covid prevents us from following the usual arrangements for Posada around the parish this year, I propose to set up the statue in the church near the Advent Wreath, together with copies of the Posada poster and prayers, so that we can still be part of the journey of Mary and Joseph leading up to Christmas. Copies of the poster and prayers are also available on the parish website.

Advent greetings from CAFOD in East Anglia – “Heartfelt thanks for all that you and your parish have done to support CAFOD during this difficult year. I am writing with a short CAFOD update and information about our Advent resources for parishes. Although the needs are huge the generosity of the Catholic community in England and Wales has enabled CAFOD to continue our work this year. Together we have supported some of the world's poorest communities most impacted by the virus, reaching people in more than 33 countries. These include Yemen, Syria, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo and Brazil where communities were already facing tough challenges. Over six million people received health advice, and more than half a million people received hygiene supplies and services to prevent and reduce infection. Many more poor and vulnerable families have been supported with food supplies when they had no way to earn a living during lockdown. To pass our thanks on to your parishioners. Kayode Akintola, who works for CAFOD in Sierra Leone, West Africa, recorded a [message of thanks](#) for all of our supporters, for sharing via social media, websites and newsletters. CAFOD's Advent parish resources and prayers include [Advent prayer cards](#) (one for each week), a series of daily [Advent reflections](#), [online prayer events](#), an online carol service guide with a carol sheet, a chance to join or organise a fun run and other social events. For more information on all of these please see [cafod.org.uk/parishes](#) We have had an increase in requests for details of Christmas gifts which also make a practical difference to struggling communities around the world. Consequently, we'll soon be sending parishes a fewer than usual number of World Gift catalogues. These can be used for Christmas and other special moments such as birthdays or baptisms until Autumn 2021. We would be grateful if they can be made available in your church. With all good wishes for a holy and happy Advent and a restful and joyful Christmas. ~ *Jane Crone, Community Participation Coordinator – CAFOD in East Anglia and Brentwood.*”

The Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, December 8th - Today is the day on which we celebrate the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary. Note that it is she, Mary herself, who is the Immaculate Conception; the day does not refer to Mary's conceiving Jesus by the Holy Ghost, but to the conception of Mary in the womb of her mother, St. Anne, by Mary's father, St. Joachim. What makes her conception immaculate is not that she was conceived by the Holy Ghost of a virgin, as was Christ Our Lord, but that from the very moment of her conception, she was filled with grace by God. The doctrine asserts that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was preserved by God from the stain of original sin at the time of her own conception. The dogma of Mary being conceived without sin was defined by Pope Pius IX in 1854.