

## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



**Myopic Expectation** - It's at this time of year that our children are asking for every new toy they see on the TV. As discerning adults, we know the castle that lights up, shoots arrows and transforms into a fire spouting dragon will just be a frustrating lump of plastic once we get it home, with batteries that give up after three minutes. Our children's expectations are unrealistic and it is up to us to buy a toy that we know will be more fun. Today's gospel is all about myopic expectation.

From his prison cell John the Baptist sends word to Jesus. "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answers, "Go and tell John what you hear and see. The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them." It's interesting that Jesus doesn't send back a "Yes I am," kind of answer. Rather he sends a "Work it out yourself," kind of answer. He asks John to look at the evidence. It seems strange that John, normally so certain and so confident should declare a doubt, but perhaps we can understand his disappointment. John has been arrested and thrown into prison. He is feeling tired and disillusioned. It is likely that he'd had misguided expectations of Jesus. Perhaps he'd expected Jesus to come in the manner of a king or of a great warrior with the power to conquer the oppressor. John has some working out to do. John needs to understand that the work of a Messiah is to teach God's love, not just push a few Romans around.

So, what of our own expectations? Do we expect God to sort out all our problems and make our lives easy and comfortable? Or do we believe that God is there to help change us and guide us through our daily choices. Do we understand that God is preparing us for his kingdom or are we guilty of myopic expectation? Perhaps we have some working out of our own to do.

**Bitesize** – "Too many people miss the silver lining because they're expecting gold."

~Maurice Setter



**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](http://www.universalis.com)

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

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### 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2019 – 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Gaudete Sunday)

– Year A [3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Advent, Weekday Year II, Psalter Week 3]

Mass Times for the Week			Intentions
Sat. 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	6.00 pm	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent [Parish Mass Book p88]	Tba John Perkins The People of the Parish
Sun. 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	9.00 am 11.00 am		
Mon. 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	1.00pm	Requiem Mass for Rita Smith	
Tues. 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	-	Advent Feria	No Mass today-PP's day off
Weds. 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	10.00 am	Advent Feria	Anna Easton
Thurs. 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	10.00 am	Advent Feria	Terry Emberson
Fri. 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	10.00 am	Advent Feria	Deceased members of the Macdonald family
Sat. 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec.	-	Advent Feria	No morning Mass
Sun. 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec.	6.00 pm 9.00 am 11.00 am	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	Tony, George & Agnes Harmer Gerald Downes The People of the Parish

#### Music for 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

**Setting:** Sacred Heart Mass (Kyrie, Sanctus & Agnus Dei) & Belmont Mass (incl. Memorial Acclamation 1)

**Entry:** 6pm – Angelus (said); Hymn 851 – Awake, awake, fling off the night ...

**Psalm: (11am sung) R:** Come, Lord, and save us

**Offertory:** Hymn 992 – I rejoiced when I heard them say ...

**Recessional:** 11am – Angelus (said); Hymn 109 – Lo, he comes with clouds descending ...

#### 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.

**Anniversaries this week:** Fred English, Evelyn Flanagan, Pat Chapman, Gabriel Shelley, Frances Shaw, Margaret Doherty, Patrick Keatley, Agnes Harmer, Mary Lingwood, Priscilla Louise Reavey, Patricia Huizar and Florence Sayer. *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:** Janet Yardley, Jenny Rudd, Carol Whitesides, Robert Nicol, Eileen Brocklesby, Shirley Liebenhals, Catherine Carter, Alf Charlton, Frances Saville King, Una McWeeny, Derek Williams.

**Money Matters:** Thank you for your offering of £423.04 last weekend for the maintenance of our parish. **This weekend**, there is a retiring collection after all Masses for the Diocesan Dependant Priests' Fund.

**130 Club Draw for November 2019** - 1<sup>st</sup> Prize £20 – Ticket No. 124; 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize £15 – Ticket No. 113; 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize £10 – Ticket No. 50; 4<sup>th</sup> Prize £10 – Ticket No. 6; 5<sup>th</sup> Prize £10 – Ticket No. 15.

Diary Dates for this week -		
Tues. 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	7.30pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group – Emmaus Room
Weds. 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	6.30pm	Music selection & practice – Presbytery & Church. All volunteers welcome to make a joyful noise to the Lord!
Sat. 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec.	Saturday Club is on school holidays. Classes resume on 11 <sup>th</sup> January. <b>Please note there is no Saturday morning Mass during this time.</b>	

**Gaudete Sunday** - Gaudete Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent in the liturgical calendar of the Western churches. The Latin Gaudete is translated as Rejoice, the first word of the introit. The lesson we can take from this is that Christians ought to be the most hopeful and cheerful of people, bringing both joy and peace into their homes and families, workplaces and social circles.



**Nativity Play** – The children will be presenting their Nativity Play this **Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00pm in the Church.** We hope as many people as possible will be able to join us for this seasonal festivity.

**New Security Arrangements** – A new Key Safe has been installed in the sacristy and a key cupboard in the Presbytery. Also, the strong room door has been repaired.

**Church Lighting** – New LED lights are being installed in the Emmaus Room which will give much better light for meetings, catechism classes, etc. Groups using the Emmaus Room will have a choice about how much light they would like or need.

**Advance Notice of Christmas Mass Times –**



- ❖ **Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> December (Christmas Eve)** –
  - 6.00pm: First Mass of Christmas
  - 10.00pm: Mass during the Night
- ❖ **Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> December (Christmas Day)** –
  - 10.00am: Mass during the Day

❖ **Carols for Christmas – 30 minutes before each Christmas Mass**

**Readers and Lay Ministers of Communion and Offertory Collectors** – *Volunteers are needed to assist with the Christmas Liturgy – if you will be attending one of the Christmas Masses, please could you help by signing up for one of the vacancies on the Christmas Mass rota at the back of church. Thank you very much.*

**Epiphany Candlelight Mass - Sunday 5th January at 5pm** - For all young people and their families from across the diocese. Followed by hot dogs, a bonfire and fireworks. There will be a collection of presents for children who are refugees (please bring wrapped presents and indicate whether suitable for a boy or girl or either, and approximate age). Held at The White House, 21 Ugate, Poringland, Norwich. Organised by the Diocesan Youth Service.

The Angelus	
☩. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.	<i>℟. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit. Hail Mary ...</i>
☩. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.	<i>℟. Be it done unto me according to thy word. Hail Mary ...</i>
☩. And the Word was made flesh.	<i>℟. And dwelt among us. Hail Mary ...</i>
☩. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.	<i>℟. That we may be made worth of the promises of Christ.</i>
<b>Let us pray:</b> 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.	

