

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Recognising Jesus In Our Lives

If we were still using the Latin Mass, one of the first words we would have heard this Sunday would have been 'Gaudete' meaning 'rejoice'. The third Sunday of Advent, otherwise known as 'Gaudete Sunday' is a day upon which we are invited to rejoice. But what if we don't feel as though there is much to rejoice about? Should we pretend? Should

we put on a smile and thank God for our blessings with a joy that we don't honestly feel in our hearts?

There's a well known saying that goes "Every cloud has a silver lining." The old adage is telling us to look for good in every circumstance, but in truth it's not always easy to believe in silver linings or know how to find them. Our lives can sometimes feel like a pointless spiral of problems, and finding joy can be elusive.

In the days of John the Baptist, the Jewish people had been praying for a messiah who would come in great power like a regal warrior to restore Israel. They were unable to recognise Jesus as the answer to their problems, because he was just the humble son of a poor carpenter. They didn't recognise him because he wasn't what they were expecting. They were unable to embrace their 'silver lining'.

Today it is easy to recognise Jesus in our lives when things are going well, but in our suffering Jesus' presence can be harder to recognise. God's agenda is hardly ever our own agenda. The solutions we yearn for and pray for are probably not God's solutions. Today's challenge is to rejoice in God's presence in all of life's circumstances both good and bad. We need to recognise God when he comes to us in ways we do not expect.

Bite Size

"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

PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART AND ST MARGARET MARY

[Reg. Charity 278742]

Parish Priest: Fr. Brendan Moffatt - email: brendanmoffatt@yahoo.co.uk

Address: The Presbytery, 35 London Road, Dereham NR19 1AS

Telephone: 01362 694066.

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

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

email: dcnmsanderson@hotmail.com

Parish Music Leader: Michael King - email: michaeljwking@gmail.com

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Kathleen Edmunds -

email: kathleenedmunds@yahoo.com

17TH DECEMBER 2017 - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday Masses – Page 87 of Parish Mass Book

Saturday	6.00 pm	Int. Thelma Jones (Harris)
Sunday	9.00 am	Int. John Perkins
	11.00 am	Int. People of the Parish

Music for Sunday Masses - Setting: Belmont Mass

Entry 6pm – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 112 – O come, O come, Emmanuel ...

Offertory Hymn 607 – Let all mortal flesh keep silence ...

Communion *Instrumental Interlude/Sacred silence ...*

Recessional 11am – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 851 – Awake, awake, fling off the night ...

CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION: Saturday at 5.30pm, or on request / by appointment

Weekday Mass Times	(3 rd week of Advent)	[Psalter Week 3]
Mon.	10.00 am	Advent Feria – Int. Margaret Blackadder Gussoni
Tues.	No Mass today 7.30 pm	Advent Feria Queen of Peace Prayer Group – in Emmaus Room
Weds.	10.00 am	Advent Feria – Int. Ken Summerford (Mealy)
Thurs.	12.30 pm	Advent Feria – Int. Juliana Morrisroe
Fri.	10.00 am	Advent Feria – Int. Peter Murphy (Mealy)
Sat.	No Morning Mass 6.00 pm	Advent Feria 4 TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Donor's Int.

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

Anniversaries this week: Frances Shaw, Margaret Doherty, Patrick Keatley, Agnes Harmer, Mary Lingwood, Priscilla Louise Reavey, Patricia Huizar, Florence Sayer, John Thomas Macdonald, Kit Blackburn, Terence Blakiston and Genevieve Smith. *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 (QEII), King’s Lynn, 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 Fr Peter Rollings (01553 772220) for visits to QEII. If you would like to receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the sick before going to hospital, please contact Fr. Brendan on 01362 694066.

Sick List - Please pray for: Joan Blakiston, David Peek, Robert Nicol, Shirley Liebenhals, Sarah Chaudri, Anne & Derek Williams, Rita Smith, Eileen Brockleby, Kathleen (Jenny) Rudd, Ellen Flood, Margaret Leggett, Peter Brown, Robert Anderson, Carole Whitesides, Doris Hipper, Janet Yardley, Josie Myhill, Mary Cawley and Ken Summerford.

Money Matters – The collection for the maintenance of our parish last weekend amounted to £429.92. Thank you very much for your continuing support. **There is a retiring collection today for the Diocesan Dependent Priests’ Fund.**

130 Club November Draw - 1st Prize £20 – Richard Grout; 2nd Prize £15 – Brian Liebenhals; 3rd Prize £10 – Dorothy Wheeler; 4th Prize £10 – Shirley Liebenhals; 5th Prize £10 - Marion Ring-Davies.

Diary Dates for this week –	
Sat. 23 rd Dec.	Saturday Club is on holiday until 6 th January.

Parish Christmas Lunch and Children’s Nativity takes place on **Sunday, 17th December at Toftwood Village Hall from 12noon to 3.00pm.** After lunch, the children will perform their Nativity tableau and there will be carol singing. Father Christmas will be there to distribute presents to those up to 12 years of age.

Mass Times for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas - Please note the changed Mass times. Sunday, 24th December is the Fourth Sunday of Advent in the morning and Christmas Eve in the evening. ***Please also note the changed Mass time of Thursday of this week.***

Altar Servers’ Mass – Please note that the Altar Servers’ Mass will be at **12 Noon on St. Stephen’s Day (Boxing Day).**

Epiphany Candlelight Mass - Saturday 6th January, 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 Upgate, Poringland, Norwich. Organised by the Diocesan Youth Service.

UCM Thank You – “The Union of Catholic Mothers thanks everyone in the parish who bought raffle tickets, supported the Christmas gift stall, and throughout the year have supported the cake stalls.. This year we have been able to give £952 to charity, many of them local. There is a list available at the back of church with the charities helped. Thank you once more and we hope you will feel able to support us next year. We would be delighted to welcome new members from the parish to join our group which meets at 11am on the second Wednesday of each month. *Anne Sibley, President*”

Diocesan Year Book - The Diocesan Year Books for 2018 are now on sale at the back of the church. All the information you need about the Church in East Anglia and the Liturgical Calendar for the coming year.

From our Rome Correspondent – “Advent Greetings to everyone, and hoping that this season is bringing many good things to all. College life is slowing down now as we head towards a break, when I will be back in the United Kingdom for a couple of weeks (inclement weather permitting!) and will spend some time in the diocese and also with family and friends. Recently I took a very important step with my fellow third year seminarians, including my two colleagues from East Anglia. We were admitted to candidacy for ordained ministry in a rite that represents a significant milestone in our formation, consisting of a public statement of intent to live out the responsibilities of the clerical state in the service of the Church. Permission to apply for candidacy is granted by the seminary and then a letter of formal request is sent to the bishop or religious superior responsible for formation. Bishop Alan was gracious enough to grant the application of all three of us from East Anglia, and so after the enactment of this rite within the context of a mass celebrated by Bishop Paul Tighe, Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Culture at the Vatican. – and a festive meal to celebrate the occasion – we are now hoping to be ordained as transitional deacons in June of 2018. I am sure that reaching this point is the product of many prayers and intentions by yourselves and other people praying for vocations. Thank you for all your support and ongoing help, and I look forward to seeing people soon. My best wishes and my own prayers are offered for you all until then. *In Christ, Mike Brookes*”

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES	
◇	Saturday, 23rd December – No morning Mass (<i>Advent FERIA</i>) 6.00pm Mass – 4th Sunday of Advent
◇	Sunday, 24th December - 4th Sunday of Advent - 10.00am Mass
◇	Sunday, 24th December - Christmas Eve - 5.30pm – <i>Carols</i> 6.00pm – First Mass of Christmas 9.30pm – <i>Carols</i> 10.00pm – Mass During the Night
◇	Monday, 25th December – Christmas Day - 9.30am – <i>Carols</i> 10.00am – Mass During the Day

