

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



'Count Me In.'

Our Nativity scenes show Mary smiling fondly at the newborn baby Jesus and Joseph looking protective and relaxed as though bringing up the Son of God might be the most normal thing in the world. The couple look like they have slipped into the history books with the greatest of ease, but nothing could be further from the truth. Without the benefit of hindsight, things must have felt very different. Mary was taking terrible risks by saying 'yes' to God's plan, yet without her agreement the history of salvation would have looked very different. Joseph's agreement

to God's plan was of equal importance. Without Joseph, Mary would have had no one to support her. Without Joseph, Mary would not even have been accepted. Without Joseph, Jesus would have had no family in which to grow up. It is a tribute Mary and Joseph's faith that they were prepared to accept what was being asked of them without the faintest idea of where God's plan might take them.

The interesting lesson to learn is that what might originally seemed to have been difficult demands on the couple turned out to be gifts of hope and joy and love, not in a 'happy ever after' kind of way, but in a 'lasting fulfilment' kind of way.

We too are part of God's plan. We too have a part to play in leaving the world a better place than we found it. The challenge is to discover what God is asking us to do, and to say 'Count me in' to his plan wherever that plan might take us.

Bite Size

"Say "Yes" to the seedlings and a giant forest cleaves the sky." ~ Brooks Atkinson

**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 Website: <http://www.rcdea.org.uk>
Notre Dame High School, <http://www.ndhs.org.uk>

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

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

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

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Kathleen Edmunds –
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18TH DECEMBER 2016 – 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday Masses – Page 90 of Parish Mass Book

Saturday	6.00 pm	Int. Tony Harmer, & George and Agnes Harmer
Sunday	9.00 am	Int. People of the Parish
	11.00 am	Int. The MacDonald Family
	2.00 pm	The Children's Nativity

Music for Sunday Masses - *Setting: Dom Gregory Murray Mass*

Entry 6pm – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 113 – The angel Gabriel from heaven came ...

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

Communion *Instrumental Interlude/Sacred silence ...*

Recessional 11am – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 366 – Holy Virgin, by God's decree ...

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

Weekday Mass Times (4th week of Advent) [*Psalter Week 4*]

Mon.	10.00 am	Advent Feria – Int. The Barrie Family
Tues.	No Mass today	Advent Feria
	7.30pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group - *see Diary Dates note
Weds.	10.00 am	Advent Feria – Int. Nora Casey
Thurs.	10.00 am	Advent Feria – Donor's Int.
Fri.	12 noon	Advent Feria – Donor's Int.
	5.45 pm	Exposition & Silent Prayer
	6.15 pm	Evening Prayer (Vespers)

❖ CHRISTMAS EVE

- 6.00 pm - **First Mass of Christmas** (Int. Francis Lynch)

- 9.30 pm - **Christmas Carols**

- 10.00 pm – **'Midnight Mass'** (Int. People of the Parish)

❖ **CHRISTMAS DAY - 10.00 am - Mass during the day** (Private Int.)



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

Anniversaries this week: Patrick Keatley, Agnes Harmer, Mary Lingwood, Priscilla Louise Reavey, Patricia Huizar, Florence Sayer, John Thomas Macdonald, Kit Blackburn, Terence Blakiston, Genevieve Smith, Dorothy Jones and Frederick Power. *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, Michelle Smith, Rita Smith, Eileen Brockleby, Pat Howe, Kathleen (Jenny) Rudd, Ellen Flood, Margaret Leggett, Peter Brown, James Maxwell and Pamela & Catherine Evans.

Money Matters – The Collection for the parish last weekend was £361.85. The collection for the Dependant Priests Fund was £250.19. Thank you very much.

Christmas Offering - The collection at the Christmas Masses is the traditional offering to the parish priest.

130 Club November Draw - 1st Prize £20 – Michael Fenton; 2nd Prize £15 – Rex Baker; 3rd Prize £10 – Lorraine Bugeja; 4th Prize £10 – Diane Rosi; 5th Prize - £10 – Enda Perrin.

Diary Dates for this week –

- Tues. 20th Dec. – Mary & Sid Gledhill are hosting this week's Queen of Peace Prayer Group at their home at Greenwood Cottage, Dereham Road, Westfield, Dereham NR19 1QF at 7.30pm. This is the last meeting until after the New Year.
- Fri. 23rd Dec. – Please note the change of Mass time to 12 noon.
- Sat. 24th Dec. – Saturday Club is on Christmas Holidays until 7th January.

Forty Hours Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Can two people spare an hour before and after daily Mass this week? Please put your name on the list. An all night vigil has been suggested for Friday following Vespers. Donal is willing to stay all night in vigil.

Christmas Liturgy – I should be most grateful if any Readers and Eucharistic Ministers who will be attending Christmas services could help with the Christmas Liturgy by volunteering for one of the readings or Communion slots on the list at the back of Church.



26th December, St. Stephen's Day (Boxing Day) - All of our wonderful Altar Servers are asked to attend Mass and renew their commitment in the Guild of St. Stephen. Mass will be at 12.00 noon.

Epiphany Candlelight Mass - Sunday 8th January at 5pm - For all young people and their families 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 Uppgate, Poringland, Norwich. Organised by the Diocesan Youth Service.

Looking ahead a bit - In February of this year we held an Open Parish Meeting which was very well attended and enjoyed by all. I propose to have another such meeting to present the accounts to the parish and hear the treasurer's report. It is also an opportunity to hear reports from the other groups active in the parish. As at the last meeting, the Agenda will be set by parishioners. I would like to re-form the parish Social Committee with new members.

A Date for your 2017 Diary – A *Celebration of Our Lady of Lourdes* will take place at a Solemn Mass and Anointing of the Sick with Bishop Alan Hopes at 11.30 a.m. on Saturday, 11th February 2017, at St John's Cathedral, Norwich.

Introducing Ignite Lite - Whereas the Ignite Team is full-time, *Ignite Lite* is an exciting opportunity for people age 16-30 to be involved in evangelisation in youth ministry as part-time volunteers as and when they are available. There is a training weekend January 20th - 22nd. For more information, please email: igniteteam@east-angliadiocese.org.uk or see www.rcdea.org.uk/youth

The Place of Silence – The Department for Christian Life and Worship Liturgy Committee has produced some information and recommendations on the place of silence in the liturgy, a copy of which is on the noticeboard at the back of Church.

Prayer for Pope Francis - *We give thanks for the life and ministry of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, who celebrates his 80th Birthday this weekend. May the Lord continue to bless him and give him all the graces he needs to Shepherd and Guide the Church.*

