

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Difficult Decisions – If we are lucky, we might get through life without making any painful or difficult decisions, but we can't all be so lucky. There are some who will choose to give birth to a child knowing that the baby has a disability. There are those who will choose to care for a relative who is very ill or dying. These decisions are made with no real clue of what lies ahead, but they will always be made out of love.

There's no doubt about it, for people who make difficult decisions in life there will be great difficulties ahead. What is equally certain is that there will be great rewards too.

Our Nativity scenes show Mary and Joseph smiling fondly at the Baby Jesus as though bringing the son of God into the world had been one of the easiest decisions to make. As we look in at the cosy scene, we have to remember that the history of salvation would have been completely different if either Mary or Joseph had said 'no' to God's plan. Saying 'yes' to God's plan didn't give Mary or Joseph an easy life, but being part of God's plan in such a direct and practical way must have brought them great fulfilment, and of course, it earned them a place in the history books for all eternity.

We too are part of God's plan, though it probably doesn't feel like it. We too have a part to play in leaving the world a better place than we found it. What is God asking of each of us? Is there a nagging vocation that keeps throwing opportunities into our path, opportunities that up until now we have managed to sidestep? Advent is a time to make decisions that will turn our predictable lives into roller-coasters with difficult lows but rewarding highs.

Bitesize – '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 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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22ND DECEMBER 2019 – 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Year A

[4th Week of Advent, Weekday Year II, Psalter Week 4]

Mass Times for the Week			Intentions
Sat. 21 st Dec.	6.00 pm	4 th Sunday of Advent [Parish Mass Book p91]	Tony, George & Agnes Harmer Gerald Downes The People of the Parish
Sun. 22 nd Dec.	9.00 am 11.00 am		
Mon. 23 rd Dec.	10.00 am		
Tuesday, 24th December (Christmas Eve) –			Private Int. The People of the Parish
❖ 6.00pm: First Mass of Christmas			
❖ 10.00pm: Mass during the Night			
Wednesday, 25th December (Christmas Day) –			Private Int.
❖ 10.00am: Mass during the Day			
❖ Carols for Christmas – 30 minutes before each Christmas Mass			
Thurs. 26th Dec.	12 noon	S Stephen – Servers' Mass (The Guild of S Stephen)	Private Int.
Fri. 27 th Dec.	10.00 am	S John	Maria Heald
Sat. 28 th Dec.	-	Holy Innocents	No morning Mass
Sun. 29 th Dec.	6.00 pm 9.00 am 11.00 am	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	Rose Rownan The People of the Parish Pat Clarke



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.

Music for 4th Sunday of Advent

Setting: Belmont Mass (incl. Memorial Acclamation A)

Entry: 6pm – Angelus (said); Hymn 112 – O come, O come, Emmanuel ... (vv. 1-4)

Psalm: (said) R̄: *Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.*

Offertory: Hymn 113 – The angel Gabriel ...

Recessional: 11am – Angelus (said); Hymn 112 – O come, O come, Emmanuel ... (vv.5-7)

Anniversaries this week: John Thomas Macdonald, Kit Blackburn, Terence Blakiston, Genevieve Smith, Dorothy Jones, Frederick Power, Joseph Murphy, Ivy O’Shea, Charlie Secker, Mary Reeder, Charles Wilfred Hunt and Dorothy Pinner. *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 last weekend of £490.57 for the maintenance of our parish, for £290.73 for the Dependant Priests' Fund and for £407.00 for the parish by Standing Order during November. The Collection during Christmas Masses is the traditional offering to the parish priest. Along with the Easter Offering it is a significant part of my annual income, for which I thank you.

Diary Dates for this week -

Tues. 24 th Dec.	<i>Please note that the Queen of Peace Prayer Group is taking a Christmas/New Year break. Meetings resume on 14th January.</i>	
Fri. 27 th Dec.	6.30pm	Music selection & practice – Presbytery & Church. All volunteers welcome to make a joyful noise to the Lord!
Sat. 28 th Dec.	<i>Saturday Club is on Christmas holidays. Classes resume on 11th January. Please note there is no Saturday morning Mass during this time.</i>	

Holidays – I will be away on holiday from December 31st until January 15th. In my absence, Fr. Michael Stack will celebrate Mass at weekends and on Wednesdays, and be available for sick calls, etc. I am visiting Vietnam with some friends and I am looking forward to it very much.

Welcome to all our visitors who join us for Mass at Christmas and also to everyone who has come home for Christmas to spend time with their families.

Alternative Christmas Card - In lieu of Christmas cards this year, Deacon Martin and Terri have got a goat from CAFOD. The certificate can be seen at the back of church

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 Upgate, Poringland, Norwich. Organised by the Diocesan Youth Service.



CHRISTMAS LITURGY

❖ Carols before Mass -

- 1) 127 - O little town of Bethlehem
- 2) 133 - While shepherds watched their flocks by night
- 3) 144 - In the bleak midwinter
- 4) 135 - It came upon the midnight clear
- 5) 126 - A noble flow'r of Juda
- 6) 129 - God rest you merry gentlemen
- 7) 150 - The first Nowell the angel did say
- 8) 152 - Unto us is born a son
- 9) 155 - Hark! The herald angels sing
- 10) 156 - Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

❖ Parish Mass Book -

Christmas Eve: 6pm & 10pm Masses: p98 (Mass during the Night);
Christmas Day: 10am Mass: p103 (Mass during the Day)

❖ Music -

Setting: Dom Gregory Murray Mass (incl. Memorial Acclamation 1)

Entry: Hymn 128 – Once in royal David’s city ...

The Psalm R̄ is said.

Offertory: Hymn 136 – Silent night, holy night ...

Recessional: Hymn 159 – O come, all ye faithful ...

