

**PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART
AND ST.MARGARET MARY, EAST DEREHAM, NORFOLK**

Parish Priest : Fr. John Barnes MA
The Presbytery, 35, London Road, East Dereham NR19 1AS Reg.Charity 278742
Tel.01362 694066 e-mail frjohn@sacredheartdereham.org.uk
Permanent Deacon: The Revd. Martin Sanderson Tel: 01362 822590
Parish website: <http://www.sacredheartdereham.org.uk>

JANUARY 26th 2014 : THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday Masses

Saturday 6.0pm Int. For the People
Sunday 9.0am Int. +Ethel Seabrooke
11.0am Int. +Jack & Ena Connolly

Weekday Masses

Monday FERIA
No services today
Tuesday ST.THOMAS AQUINAS
No services today
Wednesday FERIA
No services today
Thursday FERIA
No services today
Friday ST.JOHN BOSCO
No services today
Saturday FERIA
10.30am Int. +George Maguire
6.0pm Int. For the People

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday Noon and 5.30pm, or by appointment.

The Divine Office

The Office is said a quarter of an hour before the Mass on Weekdays. This week we use Psalter Week 3

The Mass today

The readings can be found on p.128 of the Parish Mass Book, and on p. of The Sunday Missal.

At the 6.0pm Mass	Eucharistic Prayer 2
<i>Sanctus & Benedictus</i>	Schubert
Hymns	(<i>Angelus</i>) 708, 761
At the 9.0am Mass	Eucharistic Prayer 1
<i>Sanctus & Benedictus</i>	Schubert
Hymns	466, 704, 772

At the 11.0am Mass	Eucharistic Prayer 3
<i>Gloria</i>	Sacred Heart
<i>Sanctus & Benedictus</i>	Schubert
Hymns	720, 762, 627, (<i>Angelus</i>) 652

The Psalm Response for all of the Masses is printed at the bottom of the page.

This Sunday the quarter-hour Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament before Mass will precede the 9.0am Mass. Next Sunday, it will take place before the 11.0am Mass.

THIS WEEK

Fr. John is hoping to take a few days off this week for a belated post-Christmas break

Monday 7.30pm Queen of Peace Prayer Group, meeting this week at George and Peggy Mealy's home. All welcome.

Saturday 10.30am – 11.30am Saturday Club, for young people aged five to twelve.
11.30am Reconciliation Service, at which the First Holy Communion children will make their First Confession.

Next Sunday Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas). The traditional Candlemas ceremonies will take place at the beginning of each of the three Sunday Masses.

PARISH NOTICEBOARD

Anniversaries Joe Kennedy (2007), Mary Hetherington (2011), Marguerite Eastwell (2004), Reginald Bowles (1991), Patricia Cox (2003), and Patrick Carroll (2007). May they Rest in Peace.

Money Matters Last Sunday £975.20 was given at the Offertory, and £88.90 in the retiring collection, which was for *PAX CHRISTI*.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM Copies of the Holy Father's recent Apostolic Exhortation, *THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL*, which we hope to study during Lent, have now arrived, and are available from Fr. John at the price of £5.0.

FIRST CONFESSION

Next Saturday morning the children who are currently preparing for First Holy Communion in the Summer will be making their First Confession. The initial part of the Course which the children follow in preparation for First Holy Communion is always devoted to preparation for this other Sacrament ; the second part is devoted – as one might expect – to the subject of Holy Communion itself.

This practice emphasizes, I suppose, the link between Confession and Holy Communion. Holy communion is always God's generous and free gift to us : we can never, as it were, 'earn' the privilege of receiving the Body and Blood of the Lord, and – as the Holy Father mentions in *Evangelii Gaudium* - Holy Communion is never a reward for being good, but rather a means by which we advance in holiness. Nevertheless, we have a duty to fit ourselves as far as lies within our power for the reception of so great and holy a gift. And obviously a primary way of doing this is to have our faults and failings washed away. The meaning of the word *Absolution* is just that : the washing-away of our sin. Leaving us clean, renewed, and as ready as we can be for the coming of Jesus to us in the Sacrament of the Altar..

In the past – the none too distant past – there was a very obvious linking of Confession and Communion. Within the memory of many older Catholics, it was usual to 'go to Confession' before each Communion. Maybe that was just a little 'over the top' – maybe under normal circumstances we don't need to make our confession before *every* Communion. But now the pendulum has swung too far in the other direction, and there seem to be not a few Catholics who receive Holy Communion regularly (good), but who rarely if ever make their Confession (bad). In our ordinary, secular, life washing and eating are

not divorced. We wouldn't sit down to eat a meal with dirty hands ; rather we'd wash them before eating food. I think that the same should be true in our spiritual life. There should be a relationship between the spiritual washing which is Confession and the spiritual eating which is the receiving of Holy Communion. We do not necessarily need to go to Confession before *every* Communion, as heretofore : but to be a regular communicant whilst neglecting Confession is surely to get things wrong.

So I hope that the linking of these two Sacraments in the First Holy Communion course (the children will make a further Confession the day before their First Holy Communion) will help the children to recognize how Confession prepares us in a necessary and excellent way for receiving the Body and Blood of the risen Lord. On Saturday they will receive the wonderful gift of God's forgiveness, and then next Sunday, at the 11.0am Mass, they will be given their First Confession certificates. The latter ceremony will help to underline, I hope, the importance of the Sacrament which they have received. And maybe it will help to remind us, too, of how a healthy and balanced spiritual life requires that we use both, and not just one, of these 2 life-giving Sacraments.

Please remember the children in your prayers this week.

CANDLEMAS

It's rather good that the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple, Candlemas, falls on a Sunday this year. It is one of the very joyful days in the Church's Year, and also one of great significance, and so it is good that more people will be celebrating it than would be the case if it fell on a weekday.

When we arrive for Mass next weekend, we will be given a candle, which will be blessed in due course, and lit. Ideally, we would then make a Procession in honour of Christ our Light, but sadly the geography of our church building does not allow for this. It will have to be left to the Clergy and Servers to form the 'procession', but all of us will be led by the lighted candle which we hold to remember that Jesus is indeed the 'Light to give light to the Nations', and our own light of life too.