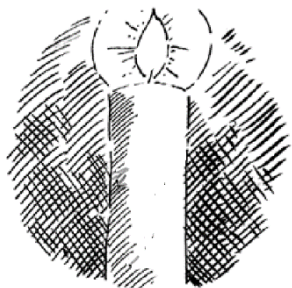


## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### Beware Fake Santas



The trouble with Advent is that Christmas comes at the end. We know that Advent is a time for taking stock but with Christmas just around the corner, we're far too busy with shopping lists to think about the state of our souls.

It seems obvious that we should spend our lives in preparation for the final judgement day, but it is all too easy to take our eye off the ball. Life heaps demands on us day in and day out. We spend each and every day taking the children to school, going to work, cleaning the house, shopping, cooking, cleaning, fixing the car and paying the bills. At this time of year in particular it is easy to get swamped in the things that the TV ads convince us we must do before Christmas. We end up feeling trapped and unable to see the bigger picture. All of a sudden, it's too late. We never get to do the things we know we should have done.

The gospel paints a frightening picture of the end of the world, but it is not meant to terrify us. Rather, the signs of the second coming are there to liberate us. Advent is a time of waiting and of looking forward. We are looking forward not just to Christmas but to the second coming of Jesus. The signs of the second coming are there to liberate us from the material preparations of Christmas and all the other things that weigh us down. We are invited to take a step back from our fraught lives and take a long-term view. We are asked to find time to see the bigger picture. How much of what we do is important, and how much of what we do is not only a waste of time, but a waste of life.

It would be a pity to get to the other side of Christmas only to realise that a host of fake Santas had distracted us from contemplating the real direction of our lives.

**Bitesize** – “The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time.” ~*Mark Twain*



**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.

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

**Parish Priest: Fr. Brendan Moffatt – Telephone: 01362 694066**

**Email: [Brendan.Moffatt@rcdea.org.uk](mailto:Brendan.Moffatt@rcdea.org.uk)**

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

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

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

Email: [martin.sanderson@rcdea.org.uk](mailto:martin.sanderson@rcdea.org.uk)

Parish Music Leader: Michael King: Email: [michaeljwking@gmail.com](mailto:michaeljwking@gmail.com)

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Kathleen Edmunds:

Email: [kathleenedmunds@yahoo.com](mailto:kathleenedmunds@yahoo.com)

### 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2021 – 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Year C

[1<sup>st</sup> Week of Advent, Weekday Year II, Psalter Week 1]

Mass Times for the Week			Intentions
Sat. 27 Nov.	6.00 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent	Anisha Cyriac (Anniversary) The People of the Parish Jade Arthur Chapman (Tinney)
Sun. 28 Nov.	9.00 am 11.00 am		
Mon. 29 Nov.	10.00 am	Advent Feria	Paschal Byrne (PM)
Tues. 30 Nov.	-	St Andrew, Patron of Scotland	<b>No Mass today</b>
Weds. 1 Dec.	10.00 am	Advent Feria	Anna Easton (PM)
Thurs. 2 Dec.	10.00 am	Advent Feria	Ann & Stephen Mealy (PM)
Fri. 3 Dec.	10.00 am	St Francis Xavier ( <i>Migrants' Day</i> )	John Merrick (Fdn.)
Sat. 4 Dec.	-	Advent Feria	<b>No morning Mass</b>
Sun. 5 Dec.	6.00 pm 9.00 am 11.00 am	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent	P. & H.'s Ints. The People of the Parish Holy Souls (2/2 – Sillince)

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - from 9.25 a.m. – 9.55 a.m.  
before each weekday Mass.**

*The Church is open daily until 5:00pm*

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)

**ALL MASSES ARE LIVE STREAMED ON YouTube –**

Search for **Dereham Catholic Church** on YouTube, or use the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCR-qWs-B40VTvbezZ83MxQ/videos?view=2&flow=grid>

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

**Anniversaries this week:** Joseph Barker, Madeline Lambert, Mary Lambert, Frederick Shelock, Charles O’Kane, Mona Murphy, John Lawrence, James Hooper, Jean English, Phyllis Howell, Les Rayner, John Merrick, Leonard Barnard. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.*

**Hospital Visits:** If you or any member of your family is admitted to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital and would like to have a visit from a Catholic Priest, please inform a nurse on the ward and contact will be made through the Chaplaincy. If you are admitted to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in King’s Lynn, please contact Fr. Peter Rollings at the Presbytery on 01553 772220. If you would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick before going into hospital, please contact Fr. Brendan either by phone or by email.

**Sick & Housebound [with GDPR Permissions] – Please pray for:** Carol Whitesides, Shirley Liebenhals, Frances Saville King, Derek Williams, Greta Cummings, Patsy Gray, Allan Michael Howard, Collette Barrow-Nessian, Terri Sanderson, Ellen Harrington, Christopher Bingham, Betty Reavey, Marion Ring-Davies.

**Money Matters:** Thank you for your offering ‘on the plate’ of £136.38 last weekend for the day-to-day running of our parish.

For those who would like to make their regular offerings by Standing Order, the information you need is: Account name: **Catholic Church of Dereham**. The Sort Code is: **40-20-08** and the Account number is: **11311115**. If you are a tax payer, please also consider **Gift Aid**. This is a great way for the parish to get additional funds from the tax reclaim benefits scheme; with this scheme you do not need to commit to a fixed amount as it will just be based on your total annual contribution. Let Fr. Brendan know if you would like to sign up to Gift Aid.



**Newsletter by Email** - Please let Fr. Brendan know if you would like to receive the parish’s weekly bulletin by email. We have a GDPR compliant list of names for this purpose.

**First Communion Class** – Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> December, 10.30-11.30 a.m. in the Emmaus Room.

**Saint Andrew the Apostle, November 30<sup>th</sup>** - As one of the twelve apostles, Andrew worked closely with Our Lord during his public life. He was present at the Last Supper, beheld the risen Lord, witnessed the Ascension and shared in the graces and gifts of the first Pentecost. The good deeds and preaching of St. Andrew became known in all parts of the world. According to tradition, a part of the remains of St. Andrew were taken to Scotland, and he was chosen as the Protector of the Scottish people. The Cross of St. Andrew also adorns the British flag where it was placed after the union of Scotland and England.



**Migrants’ Day** – On December 3<sup>rd</sup> the Church commemorates St Francis Xavier. This is the day chosen by the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People to mark World Migration Day. We are asked to pray for all migrants and refugees and those in need of our help.

**New Routes** is a Norfolk based charity that has been providing advice, help, and support to refugees, migrants and asylum seekers and their wider communities for over 15 years. New Routes has recently teamed up with South Norfolk District Council and Broadland District Council in order to make their many ‘Help’ Hub services more accessible. If you, your loved ones, or members of your wider community would benefit from: additional support around housing, training, employment, recreational opportunities, health, or a wide variety of social issues, then please contact either: [Geecook@newroutes.org.uk](mailto:Geecook@newroutes.org.uk); [Richardevans@newroutes.org.uk](mailto:Richardevans@newroutes.org.uk); or [Sarahwynn@newroutes.org.uk](mailto:Sarahwynn@newroutes.org.uk). Please do not hesitate to get in touch, we may be able to assist you quickly with a wide variety of services. New Routes is delighted to be working alongside the Catholic community.

**Parish Multicultural Bring and Share Meal, Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> December, 1pm - 5pm** to celebrate the imminent arrival of baby Jesus on Christmas Day! Join us at the Convent of the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham, Neatherd Moor, NR20 4AQ for an afternoon of sharing, fun and prayer. Tea, coffee and soft drinks provided. To book please email Emily: [office@walsinghamcommunity.org](mailto:office@walsinghamcommunity.org) or call 01362 421442.

**Christmas Mass Times** – Mass times for Christmas will be as follows:

- ❖ Fri. 24<sup>th</sup> December (Christmas Eve) - 6.00 p.m. & 10.00 p.m.
- ❖ Sat. 25<sup>th</sup> December (Christmas Day) - 10.00 a.m.

**The Synodal Path** - The survey for the Synodal Path in our Diocese will go online on our Diocesan and parish website from this weekend, November 27/28, Advent Sunday. Please take the time over the coming weeks to prayerfully complete the survey and return it to the Parish Team Leader, Ken Summerford, at [ksummerford@gmail.com](mailto:ksummerford@gmail.com). Every response is valuable!

**CAFOD Thank you:** Like many women around the world, Garmah in Liberia had no legal rights to her home when her husband died. CAFOD worked with local experts to help her and now Garmah and her children live rightfully and happily together in their family home. “I feel safe, my children have a place to rest their head and I can make a garden to feed them and myself. God sent redeemers to fight for my land rights. I am overfilled with joy.” **Thank you for your support** which enables hundreds of women like Garmah remain in their homes during times of struggle. Other examples of our work can be found in our World Gift catalogues or website [worldgifts.cafod.org.uk](http://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk) Have a wonderful Christmas.”

**Prayer for the Election of a Bishop** - God, eternal shepherd, who govern your flock with unflinching care, grant in your boundless fatherly love a pastor for your Church who will please you by his holiness and to us show watchful care. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

St Felix: *Pray for us*; St Fursey: *Pray for us*; St Edmund: *Pray for us*;  
All Holy Martyrs and Saints of East Anglia: *Pray for us*.