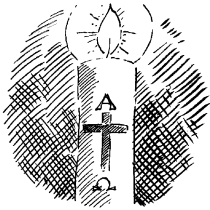


GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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 ad's 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 Santa Clauses had distracted us from contemplating the real direction of our lives.

Bite Size

"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

Useful links:

Diocesan Website: <http://www.rcdea.org.uk>

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

PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART AND ST MARGARET MARY

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

29th NOVEMBER 2015 – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday Masses – Page 82 of Parish Mass Book

Saturday	6.00 pm	SVP Dereham Conference 25 th Anniversary
Sunday	9.00 am	Una O'Dwyer
	11.00 am	People of the Parish

Music for Sunday Masses - *Setting: Belmont Mass*

Entry 6pm – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 82 – Bright and clear, as a trumpet blast ...

Offertory Hymn 983 – Hills of the north, rejoice ...

Communion *Instrumental Interlude/Sacred silence ...*

Recessional 11am – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 92 – Hark! a herald voice is calling ...

CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION - Saturday at 5.30 - 5.55 pm

Weekday Mass Times (1st week of Advent) [*Psalter Week 1*]

Mon.	10.00 am	Jean Maxwell English - St Andrew
Tues.	No Mass today	- Advent Feria
	7.30 pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group – in Emmaus Room
Weds.	10.00 am	Estella Morris Int. - Advent Feria
Thurs.	12.00 Noon	John Merrick - St Francis Xavier
Fri.	10.00 am	Sidney Gledhill - Advent Feria
	5.45 pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Silent Prayer
	6.15 pm	Vespers
Sat.	10.30 am	Donor's Intention - Advent Feria
	6.00 pm	John & Ivy Jones - 2 nd Sunday of Advent

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

[Reg. Charity 278742]

Anniversaries this week: Mona Murphy, John Lawrence, James Hooper, Jean English, Phyllis Howell, Les Rayner, John Merrick, Leonard Barnard, Dorothy Rayner, Frederick Lambert, Felix Jackson and David Lines. *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: Michelle Redmond, Joan Blakiston, David Peek, Michael Reavey, Sheila Christie, Robert Nicol, Doreen Kanssen, Shirley Liebenhals, Sarah Chaudri, Anne & Derek Williams, David & Anna Thompkins, Michelle Smith, Rita Smith, Rhonda Darby, Collette Barrow-Nessian and Eileen Brockleby.

Money Matters – The collection last weekend amounted to £425.45 and the retiring Collection for the Diocesan Youth Service was £161.93. Thank you for your generosity.

Advent - Today the liturgical cycle begins anew. The Sunday Reading Cycle is taken from Year **C** and the Weekday Cycle from Year **2**. The Gloria is not sung or said during Advent.

Diary Dates for this week –

- Weds. 2nd December – UCM monthly meeting (brought forward) – 2pm in the Emmaus Room. Members are asked to bring along a small plate of food to share.
- Thurs. 3rd December – Please note that Mass is at 12 noon today.
- Fri. 4th December – Altar Servers meet – 7.15–8.15pm in the Emmaus Room
- Sat. 5th December – Saturday Club meets (first Nativity rehearsal) – 11.00am in Emmaus Room

Saturday Club Nativity Rehearsals - The children are invited to attend these rehearsals for the next three weeks and must be available to attend the Nativity on the afternoon of Sunday 20th December.



The Advent Wreath - Today we light the first of our Advent candles. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. Three candles are purple and one is rose. The purple candles symbolize the prayer, sacrifices, and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead. The light signifies Christ, the Light of the world.

UCM - Please support our gift stall and seasonal raffle, available today and next weekend. The raffle will be drawn after the 9 am Mass on Sunday, 13th December. Many thanks for your support, for the benefit of several charities, mainly with a local interest.

Saint Andrew the Apostle - November 30th - 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.



Sacrament of Reconciliation - Part 4: Absolution - Having examined our conscience and become aware of our sins, and become contrite and confessed them and been given a penance to do then we receive Absolution. This is the moment when we are freed from our sins and our reconciliation with God and the Church is effected. Absolution is to free us from sin, and restore the life of God's friendship and grace within us. The priest is the minister of the Sacrament, but it is God himself who forgives us and set us free and restores His life in us.

Posada - The Posada begins in the parish this Sunday. The Statue will be blessed at Mass and sent on its way. With it will be the list of names and telephone numbers of the people who have signed up. I have a copy in the Presbytery. There is a plastic wallet with the suggested prayers and the little book I showed last Sunday. I would be grateful if the person who has the statue would contact the next person on the list to arrange collection or delivery. If there is a gap on the list please hold on to it till the next person is ready to accept it. Thank you for participating in this.

Learning Together: Young People, Faith and Evangelisation - A day to explore the challenges of faith and evangelisation amongst young people. Led by Hamish MacQueen (Director of Diocesan Youth Service) and the Ignite Youth Mission Team. Held on December 5th at The Conference Centre, 21 Ugate, Poringland, 11am - 3pm. Please bring a packed lunch.

Hearing the message of Jesus - At Clare Priory - Wednesday, 2nd December 9.30am to 3.30pm; *Repeated on ...* Thursday, 3rd December 9.30am to 3.30pm - This event has been planned to give us the opportunity to listen to the words of Jesus from within our hearts. This tradition of prayer flows out of the Hebrew method of studying the scriptures. It was part of the devotional practice of the Jews in the days of Jesus. This "Sacred Reading" was practiced by the mothers and fathers of the desert in the 4th century and later in monasteries in both the East and the West. Cost £20 to include a soup lunch. To book a place please ring Kathy at Clare Priory 01787 277326.