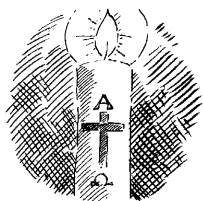


**GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Cosmic Dixie**



A man goes on a journey leaving his slaves in charge, each with a job to do. A doorkeeper keeps watch to alert the slaves as to his master’s return. The story illustrates the time of waiting between Jesus’ first coming as a little baby at Christmas to his second coming on Judgement Day. But did the slaves really need a doorkeeper to alert them to the master’s return? Could it be that the slaves were guilty

of only doing their jobs once they thought the master was returning? There’s a greater point here of course. Waiting for the second coming shouldn’t be a big cosmic game of ‘Dixie’. The point is not to wait for the master’s return before hurling ourselves into a great whirlwind of things we should have been doing all along. We’re not waiting for Jesus’ return in the same way we would wait for a bus, we have to spend our waiting time in preparation and constant readiness.

“Keep alert,” we are told “keep awake.” We are asked to keep alert and awake not for fear of being caught out like naughty school children, but in a spirit of ‘keeping our eye on the ball.’ We all know how we would like to contribute. Each of us is aware of our unique place on the planet and how we would like to be remembered. Sadly, all too often it is easy for us to ‘take our eye off the ball’ and get caught up in other concerns.

At the moment the news is full of people who have reached the end of their life unexpectedly. None of us has been afforded an exact time and date for our final preparations. We cannot afford to play ‘Cosmic Dixie’ Instead we are asked to live in a permanent state of readiness seizing every opportunity on a daily basis to prepare for God’s Kingdom. Our Advent goal needs to be about waiting in readiness from this day onwards.

**Bitesize** – “We must be willing to get rid of the life we’ve planned, so as to have the life that is waiting for us.” ~Joseph Campbell, *US folklorist & expert on mythology (1904-1987)*



**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]**

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**29 NOVEMBER 2020 - 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT- Year B**

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

Mass Times for the Week			Intentions
Sat. 28 Nov.	6.00 pm	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>	Holy Souls
Sun. 29 Nov.	10.00 am		The People of the Parish
Mon. 30 Nov.	10.00 am	S Andrew, Patron of Scotland	Terry Emberson (Mealy)
Tues. 1 Dec.	-	Advent Feria	<b>No Mass today</b> – Church open
Weds. 2 Dec.	10.00 am	Advent Feria	Patsy (Mealy)
Thurs. 3 Dec.	10.00 am	S Francis Xavier (Migrants’ Day)	John Merrick (Fdn.)
Fri. 4 Dec.	10.00 am	Advent Feria	NHS Staff
Sat. 5 Dec.	-	Advent Feria	<b>No morning Mass</b>
	6.00 pm	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>	The People of the Parish
Sun. 6 Dec.	9.00 am		Phyllis Thurstance
	11.00 am		

*All Celebrations of Mass are livestreamed on YouTube*

**CHURCH OPEN DAILY:** *The Church is open daily for private prayer until 4:00 pm*

**LATE EDITION EXTRA:** *Mass in public will be permitted again from Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December on Sundays and weekdays. Therefore, Sunday Mass from 6<sup>th</sup> December will revert to usual Mass times.*

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)

**MASS LIVE STREAM** – Search for **Dereham Catholic Church on YouTube**,  
 Or use the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCR-qWs-B40VTvbzeZ83MxQ/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:** Mona Murphy, John Lawrence, James Hooper, Jean English, Phyllis Howell, Les Rayner, John Merrick, Leonard Barnard, Dorothy Rayner, Frederick Lambert, Felix Jackson, 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, 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:** Jenny Rudd, Carol Whitesides, Shirley Liebenhals, Frances Saville King, Una McWeeny, Derek Williams, Greta Cummings.

**Money Matters:** 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.

**New Liturgical Year** – Today the liturgical cycle begins anew. The Sunday readings are taken from Year B and the weekday readings from Year I. During the season of Advent, the Gloria is not said, unless otherwise noted, and until 16 December the Preface of Advent I is used at all Masses (except Masses for the dead) unless otherwise noted.

**Christmas Masses:** There is no word as yet about the possibility of celebrating Mass in public at Christmas. If it is permitted, then I propose to celebrate Mass 4 times over Christmas. That will be twice on Christmas Eve and twice on Christmas Day. Admission will be by ticket only. I will share more information as soon as I receive it.

**Live Streaming:** Thanks to all of you who 'attend Mass' on livestreaming every day and at the weekend. I have a real sense of your presence during Mass and I am conscious of how important Mass is to you. It was said long ago: 'For Catholics, it is the Mass that matters.'

**Some repairs:** A second hand rail has been fitted to the steps on the London Road entrance. The hand rail on the Commercial Road entrance was repaired some months ago. A hand rail will be fitted at the top of the stairs by the door to the organ loft in due course. The first two of these works were planned by the Fabric Committee.

**S Francis Xavier: Day for Migrants and Refugees** – On Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 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.

**Posada: The Journey of Mary & Joseph for Advent 2020 – Making Room for Jesus this Christmas** – Posada is an old Mexican tradition where young people dressed as Mary and Joseph travelled from house to house asking for a room for the night and telling people



about the imminent arrival of Jesus in the weeks leading up to Christmas. On Christmas Eve they would visit the local church to re-enact the nativity and place figures of Mary and Joseph in a crib. Modern day Posada uses nativity figures of Mary and Joseph who travel from place to place. This gives each 'host' the chance to create their own celebration in their home or place in the community, worshipping and reaching out to their communities with

the real message of Christmas, making room for Jesus in their lives. But because Covid prevents us from following the usual arrangements for Posada around the parish this year, I propose to set up the statue in the church near the Advent Wreath, together with copies of the Posada poster and prayers, so that we can still be part of the journey of Mary and Joseph leading up to Christmas. Copies of the poster and prayers are also available on the parish website.

**Lighting the First Advent Candle** - Advent is a season of waiting, expecting, and hoping. Beginning four Sundays prior to Christmas and ending on Christmas Eve, Advent helps us to prepare for the coming, or "advent" of the Christ child at Christmas and his second coming at the end of time. For hundreds of years Christians have used an Advent wreath to inspire their hopes for the coming of Christ. There is no set meaning for the candles of the Advent wreath. Some wreaths use all white candles; others use three purple candles, one pink candle, and one white candle in the middle. The purple candles remind us of how serious and solemn God's people have been in waiting for the Messiah. The pink signifies the joy of our waiting. The white is triumphant and celebrative because Christ is born.



**Online Advent Calendars 2020** – CAFOD has launched its annual online Advent Calendar. Each day gives us a reflection and a call to action. You can find this at <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Advent-calendar>. Archbishop Eamon Martin has launched a 2020 online Advent Calendar, which will go live on the first Sunday of Advent. You can find this at [www.catholicbishops.ie](http://www.catholicbishops.ie) Now in its seventh year, the calendar offers resources for the parish, school and for families which can be accessed behind a virtual door each day during the season of Advent.