

THE GRAPE VINE



OCTOBER 2020

THE FIRST POST-COVID-19 LOCKDOWN ISSUE

OUR LADY OF THE ANNUNCIATION AND HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PARISH

Clergy:

The Very Rev Canon Peter Rollings VF
Parish Priest and Dean

Rev. John Belfield – *Deacon*

Rev. Martin Le Strange – *Deacon*

Rev. Shaun Morrison – *Deacon*

Father Gordon Adam
Assistant Priest, Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham

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Due to Covid-19 the Church offers Live Streaming of Sunday Mass.

Details of the Live Streaming of Sunday Mass for you:

From Our Lady's, London Road, King's Lynn

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/
UC8V030I7usRZiKoTlrwBAKg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8V030I7usRZiKoTlrwBAKg)

11.30am Sunday

The YouTube link is

<https://youtu.be/UvufRDE76Ho>

For attendance: you are invited to notify us of your intentions for attendance at Mass.

Please e-mail to parishpriest763@gmail.com , copied to gordonadam1962@btinternet.com , stating which Mass and how many people in your household group would like to attend by Saturday lunchtime please.

Mass readings are daily uploaded on the parish website:

<http://www.catholicparish-kingslynn.org.uk/>

**The parish newsletter for the week
can also be found on the website.**

For Mass Times please check the parish website:

<http://www.catholicparish-kingslynn.org.uk/>

EDITORIAL

Dear All, I hope that this long overdue issue finds you well.

The Corona pandemic has rammed a wedge into our lives. Everywhere, not just here, all around the globe. A new type of suffering, loneliness, mourning, unrest and sighing has sprung up – nothing is as it was at the start of this year.

Covid-19 has brought with it a trial that makes us all equal – we are all potential victims and also suffer with and understand the plight of everyone in the world. We live in a straitjacket and many have become ill with the virus. We cannot hug each other, comfort each other or give each other our time anymore since to be with a loved one, the most important thing in life, is so often not possible any more.

The other day, it was a day of terrible weather, I noticed a most fascinating sky: the sky above my head was charcoal-black and heavy with rain and the horizon was also black, but the clouds were fuzzy and gathering in thick mounds. Running right across the entire scene was a very narrow, clear slit, opening, like a zipper, the troubled weather front to show a turquoise-blue line of sky. This view made me think of the star of Bethlehem in the night sky that ushered in something entirely new.

The other thing I came across is the '*Rare 800-year-old figure of Christ returned to York*' (BBC) pictured on the front cover. It is a Christ figure without hands and with no feet. It has survived the most turbulent times, buried, hidden, saved, returned – and has lost somewhere its hands and feet. In life,

Jesus walked and walked and walked, healed, blessed, resurrected the little girl by taking her hand, broke the bread and shared the wine.

Hands speak. In art, we recognize at once that El Greco's hands are different from Raphael's, Picasso's different from Käthe Kollwitz's. Grigory Sokolov, the pianist, has different hands from the violinist Anne Marie Mutter, Leonard Bernstein's hands created a different 'Händel Messiah' or 'Haydn The Creation' than Simon Rattle's.

– Giving on distance-helping on distance – how does one do it!? Jesus said 'What you do to the least among you, you have done to me.' Teresa of Avila wrote: "*Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours.*"

At this point I want to say something about us. I may be speaking for myself, but I feel so blessed and so strengthened by everything I have received from our church. A wonderful person has connected us by installing broadcasting facilities so that congregation and clergy are now in communion with each other. That is something for which I cannot find the right words of thanks, it has been and is such a beneficial solution. I remember receiving 'Dear Friends' Emails daily, sometimes sent in the middle of night, with the most beautiful collection of Saint's quotes, letters and inspiring texts, 'Keeping-in-touch' Emails with all the news that concerned church, parish and events that I would have missed, (I have learned much about dogs and allotments) and our Father Peter has kept our heads above water with his clear, unwavering focus on what is important, away from the noise of the tabloids. We are so blessed!

BAPTISMS

Raphael Mathew Christy
Reya Dicianu
Dovidas Vaiciunas
James Harrison Cook
Eva Gabrielle Pociute
Oscar Artur Janusas
Aayan Joseph Desai
Gabriel Kunevik
Alphonsa Ivana Sherin Thomas

DEATHS

Joan Marie Walker
Rosa Francesca Carey
Lukas Kerulis
Monica Pauline Wagg
Patricia Mary Pressling
Dorothy Irene Eagles
Margaret Clough Eyre
Betty Devane
Enedina McLaren
Kenneth Holmwood
Thomas Nevin
Helen Martin



*This image is from the Swaffham Psalter
showing two angels gently carrying two souls into heaven.*

"TELL ME, WHAT DAY IS IT?"

LOCKDOWN 2020

"Mary Rose, can you tell me what day of the week is it?" "Saturday, I think. No! No! - It must be Friday, I had fish and chips for lunch today. Yes! It's Friday. It's definitely Friday." Throughout this long drawn out period of lockdown seclusion many have had similar conversations - on the telephone of course. Indeed some of us of a certain age, may still begin a friendly chat with that question. "What day of the week is it?" Lockdown isolation for most has meant staying at home, one day much the same as another. It's not surprising that we may sometimes get muddled with the days of the week. When I look back on these unique days, weeks, months I can only count the many blessings that have come my way.

Shopping has been made easy since Linda came back into my life. Did we not make front page news in the local paper? She is here to do my shopping. And what a grand shopper she is!

Linda, a pupil of 40 years ago at St Martha's and now the same lovely Linda. Irresistible, believe me! Long may my dear past pupil continue to bring joy into my life. Thank you Linda for the kindness you spread and always with a smile. Isolation does not mean loneliness, far from it. Many of us have experienced nothing but kindness coming our way from family, friends and strangers too. To all those good folk I send my heartfelt thanks. A special thank you to our priests

and deacons for all they do in their isolation to keep us together, our parish family united. Shaun, your Daily Email is a grand start to the day, an inspiration. Our lives are enriched by the gifts we share with each other. At no time during these lockdown days have I felt alone. I am just a phone call away from a friend. "Mary Rose when do you think the hair dressers will be open again? And tell me - what day of the week is it? "

Pauline McSherry.

June 21st, 2020.

It is by the path of **love**,
which is charity,
that God draws near to man,
and man to God.
But where charity is not found,
God cannot dwell.

If, then, we possess charity,
we possess God,
for 'God is Charity'.

St. Albert the Great, 13th C.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'Every record has been destroyed or falsified, every book rewritten, every picture has been repainted, every statue and street building has been renamed, every date has been altered. And the process is continuing day by day and minute by minute. History has stopped. Nothing exists except an endless present in which the Party is always right.'

(George Orwell, 1984)

Those who have read George Orwell's book '1984' cannot be surprised at how people react. We see mobs tear down statues. As national heroes' images, like those of Winston Churchill, are boarded up for protection, we hear no strong protests asking for careful deliberation. No defence is made of our predecessors' decisions to commemorate persons, once famous but now dead.

As you stand in the Abbey grounds in Walsingham you can see an example of the destruction wrought in the past by Henry VIII and Thomas Cromwell. The actions of the reformers went beyond the destruction of buildings and statues to the execution of people, ordinary and great, priests and faithful alike.

Neither mob rule nor state-imposed belief is correct, but informed debate is needed when feelings run high.

We do have an example in the New Testament, which makes us ponder on group actions. It occurs in John's Gospel. A woman was brought to Jesus who had been caught committing adultery. The scribes and Pharisees said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of

committing adultery, Moses in the Law has ordered us to condemn such women to death by stoning. What have you to say?’ They asked Jesus, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus started writing on the ground with his finger. As they kept repeating their question, he said, ‘If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her’. Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. The accusers then went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, standing there. He said, ‘Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?’ ‘No one, sir’ she replied. ‘Neither do I condemn you’, said Jesus ‘go, away, and don’t sin anymore.’

None of us is wholly good or wholly bad. We must praise what we consider good and condemn what is evil.

John Cairns, King’s Lynn Catholic Church



Peter Bruegel, 'The Woman caught in Adultery' 1565



GLORY OF A GARDEN

I have just come in from my own garden, having risked life and limb to refill the bird feeders. Storm Francis, fast on the tail end of Storm Ellen and just as fierce, continues to blast its way across the country. Fierce and ferocious outside, calm and still indoors. Another 'lockdown day'. What's in store? Then, by way of my very old laptop, I travel across to Snettisham. With Ian my friend, knowledgeable birdwatcher, gardener and photographer, I have the joy of a guided tour of his garden; a small garden, full of God's glorious creation. The terracotta tray, a family heirloom I think, attracts many visitors - it has surely seen garden wildlife at its very best. In my short visit a young hedgehog comes for a drink. A Greenfinch was caught on Ian's camera, another visitor to the family garden dinner service. Ducklings soon follow... "are they residents Ian?" They do tend to overstay their welcome, especially at a "Duckling Foodbank". My visit took me to the 'tidy garden', flower beds full of colour, a haven for butterflies. I am sure that is

where Trish is in control. Through all weather conditions there is something to charm the visitor in Poppyfields Drive in Snettisham.

Thank you Ian and Trish. I have enjoyed my visit. I'll be back!

P. McS. August 27th 2020 —

"One is nearer God's heart in a garden than anywhere else here on earth."

(Dorothy Gurney English poet 1859 -1932)

"My garden has never looked so good – I have nothing else to do....." (J.B)

GLORY OF A BALCONY

"I don't know what I would do without my balcony in this crazy time. My hostas are now past their best and so I splashed out on – what seemed - a sturdy Hydrangea, blue with white flecks inside. However, the heat we have isn't doing her any good and so I also got a Japanese parasol to shield her from the sun." Catherine.

GLORY OF A VIEW

"Dear teacher, thank you for asking. We have no garden and no balcony, we live on the 3rd floor, but I can see a beautiful tree across the road, I think there are birds living in it. My father said it's a sycamore. We have not been out since lockdown started. My mother does the shopping."
Ben and Alicia.

RED WEDNESDAY



AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED

Aid to the Church in Need is a charity which does “exactly what it says on the tin”. As they say on their website at <http://acnuk.org>

“Aid to the Church in Need is a Pontifical Foundation of the Catholic Church, supporting the Catholic faithful and other Christians where they are persecuted, oppressed or in pastoral need”.

RED CHURCH

They are now beginning preparations for **“Red Wednesday 2020” which is on 25th November** (not as far away as it might sound!!). On that day the Houses of Parliament and other landmarks across the country including the Town Hall here in Lynn, and our own Parish Church, will be lit up in red to draw attention to the persecution of Christians in many parts of the world. On Red Wednesday ACN will be launching a report in Parliament called “Set Your Captives Free” drawing attention to the unjust detention of Christians

in various places including the case of Maira Shahbaz.

ACN are asking all of us – the Catholic community across the country – to write NOW to our MP asking them to attend the launch of that report and to offer their support to “Red Wednesday”. In our Parish Stephen Farr is championing this. He will be addressing the Sunday Masses briefly over the next two weekends and he has produced a leaflet. Stephen can be contacted for more information at

sfmountstreet55@gmail.com.

On his behalf I am very happy to promote this initiative and to encourage all of you to join in with writing to our MP, James Wilde.

<https://members.parliament.uk/member/4787/contact>

This piece comes from Fr. Gordon.



..... The plight of persecuted Christians can be seen in this that there are so many organizations, many more than I added to the “Aid to the Church in Need” appeal. The book ‘PERSECUTED - The Global Assault on Christians’ by P. Marshall, L. Gilbert, N. Shea ISBN 978-1- 4002-0441-0 has been rated by William A. Donohue in these words:

‘Make no mistake about it, this is the most authoritative account to date on this subject.’

And Leonard A. Leo writes ***‘Persecuted is a crucial primer on the threats and a clarion call to action.’***

PAGE FOR THE YOUNG



This beautiful picture is from Rionne, a 11-year-old pupil at Springwood High School. He did not give me a title for this picture but he made it after his first visit to the coast after lockdown had been lifted.

Rionne usually makes black and white line drawings, a medium he is very accomplished in, but now he is indulging in colour.

What a joy!



“This is my family. My dad, my mum, me and my brother.
I love them very much.” Vittoria

(AFTER) – LOCKDOWN THOUGHTS FOR THE YOUNG

Life during lockdown has been rather difficult for all, but especially so for the young. You are so full of energy, full of plans, hopes, expectations, you are accustomed to meeting your friends at school, during after-school-activities, at sport -, music - any kind of training sessions that you regularly attend because these commitments are part of your future either as a serious hobby or as the career you may want to embark upon. Suddenly you were stopped in your tracks.

Many of you have become an indispensable help at home, some of you have looked after younger siblings or have given a helping hand to your mothers. You did your school - apps - work - and so the weeks and months strung out.

The justified questions – What am I doing? What can I do? Does the pandemic ruin my life????? have not gone away.

At your age one is naturally struggling to find one's purpose in life.

What a much greater and harder challenge it is now! It is as if we were going through an 'existential autumn' – the leaves of 'how things used to be' are falling, it looks as if everything was dying down – when, actually, there is almost certainly the preparation for something new, a new territory, one that invites you to take possession of it and shape it, make it your future. Keep your eyes open.

Chin up!

"CARE OF THE ELDERLY."

Two times three and a half into eighty seven is a difficult mathematical problem, but soon solved. Paper, colouring pencils, the biscuit tin and all was well. Miles and Dougie, twin boys age three and a half, came with their dad to see me. Friendly, lively, energetic, and without any inhibitions.

I mean the boys not Andy their dad, they soon made themselves at home. I think they were impressed with my pictures of elephants, not too hard to draw. We had a good time together. What really did impress greatly was the help offered me. I was coming downstairs, at my pace, rather slowly. One little chap, I can't tell one from t'other, was there at the bottom of the stairs "I hep you. Take my hand." Now that's what I call "Care of the Elderly."

P. McS.

FAREWELL TO LOU AND MARY SMITH

Our thoughts, good wishes, prayers and love go
with Mary and Lou as they leave their home in Roydon
on August 26th after 61 years in this parish.

Our thanks to you, dear friends, for the happy and musical
memories you leave with us.

We wish you many happy years in your new home.

God go with you and bless you both.

From all of us in the parish with love.

P. McS.

From Brother Richard, of the Capuchin Franciscans
LOCKDOWN

Yes there is fear.

Yes there is isolation.

Yes there is panic buying.

Yes there is sickness.

Yes there is even death.

But,

They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise
you can hear the birds again.

They say that after just a few weeks of quiet
the sky is no longer thick with fumes
but blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi
people are singing to each other
across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open
so that those who are alone
may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today a young woman I know
is busy spreading fliers with her number
through the neighbourhood
so that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples
are preparing to welcome
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary.

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting

All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in
a new way

All over the world people are waking up to a new reality

To how big we really are.

To how little control we really have.

To what really matters.

To Love.

So we pray and we remember that

Yes there is fear.

But there does not have to be hate.

Yes there is isolation.

But there does not have to be loneliness.

Yes there is panic buying.

But there does not have to be meanness.

Yes there is sickness.

But there does not have to be disease of the soul.

Yes there is even death.

But there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.

Today, breathe.

Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic

the birds are singing again,

the sky is clearing,

Spring is coming,

and we are always encompassed by Love.

Open the windows of your soul

and though you may not be able

to touch across the empty square,

Sing.

March 13th 2020



JESUS CALMS THE STORM

- 35 That day when evening came, he said to his disciples,
“Let us go over to the other side.”
- 36 Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as
he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with
him.
- 37 A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the
boat, so that it was nearly swamped.
- 38 Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The
disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t
you care if we drown?”



JESUS HAS CALMED THE STORM

Detail of an embroidery by one of the Carmelite Sisters
at
Quidenham Monastery

NEWS AND PRAYERS

PRAYERS FOR VOCATION

‘The reason why men choose to become priests is ultimately because Christ is calling them. The way He calls them, and the paths by which they come to Him will vary hugely, but the priesthood is always a response to God’s initiative, His calling. As He said to Simon Peter: *‘It is not flesh and blood that has revealed this to you, but My Father in heaven.’*

<https://www.rcdea.org.uk/vocations/>

PRAYERS FOR THE BEREAVED

We offer prayers for all who are in mourning, having lost a dearly beloved family member or a close friend.

We offer most heartfelt and sincere prayers for young couples who have suffered a miscarriage.

May Our Lord comfort them.

LATIN REQUIEM MASS

The Association for Latin in the Liturgy will be having a Sung Requiem on Saturday 7th November at 3.00pm in Our Lady’s Church. All are welcome.

THE AMERICAN KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FROM RAF LAKENHEATH

The Knights have donated a new ciborium in memory of their brother Knight, Charlie Busuttil. The event has been live streamed on the 12th of September. // The Defibrillator Fund Raising that Charlie Busuttil initiated still needs more sponsors.



40 boys and girls have now received Communion for the first time. May Our Lord bless, guide and protect them and fill their hearts with ever growing love for Our Saviour.

Morning Prayer:

*“Father, We thank thee for
the night,
And for the pleasant
morning light;
For rest and food and loving
care,
And all that makes the day
so fair.
Help us to do the things we
should,
To be to others kind and
good; In all we do, in work
or play,
To grow more loving every
day.”*

Before a meal:

*“Come, Lord Jesus,
be you our guest
And share those foods
that you have blessed.”*

Blessing –

*“The Lord bless you and
keep you,
the Lord make his face shine
upon you and be gracious to
you,
the Lord turn his face toward
you and give you peace.”*

HARVEST FESTIVAL



This Sunday we are keeping a “Harvest Festival” theme, and you are invited to bring along donations to support the work of the Winter Night Shelter.



Who am I?

*I am Natacha.
Just like you.*

*I am Natacha
Just like you.*

*Who am I ?
I am Natacha.
Disabled ? Maybe, but able
Just like you.*

*What can I do
in my wheelchair ?
I can play, I can pray and
laugh and listen and love.
Sometimes I'm sad, but
Oh! So glad to be
Just like you.*

*Am I someone special ?
Not really, I am just me
Loved by all my family,
My really special family.
I am truly blessed
Just like you.*

*What is my life
in a wheelchair ?
I can't run, I can't jump,
I can't dance.
But I am seen and
I'm here, so stylish
and happy to be
Just like you.*

*Yesterday I went to a party
Cath, my cousin was just
eighteen.
We all celebrated this
happy day and I joined in
the fun and had a great
time
Just like you.*

*So, what more can I say
at the start of each day
With my mum and dad by
my side ?
I am Natacha and I thank
you dear God for your love
And for all who love me
Just like you.*



CONTEMPLATING THE SCRIPTURES



MARY THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN



SUNDAY SERVICE AT OUR LADY'S CHURCH

ANNE SOPHIE MUTTER

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=232984284509242>



Anne Sophie Mutter had tested positive in March and her first thoughts were with the ones who were in isolation, ill or dying. Here is her touching message to us, playing the ‘Ave Maria’ and sending us her love in these words *“My thoughts and prayers are with all of you in this Corona crisis – with all the loved ones who are ill and suffering and who hopefully will prevail and with all the loved ones whom we have lost and whom we are mourning. Music will bind us together and will help us in this difficult time.”*



Thank you to the clergy for tirelessly feeding us with services, daily blogs, keeping us up to date with important events and appeals and your prayers.

Thank you to those who have installed broadcasting so that we have never been separated from the church.

Thank you to all altar servers.

Thank you to the organist and singers.

Thank you for the beautiful flower arrangements.

