



**KEEPING IN TOUCH
WITH
FR. GORDON ADAM**

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF KING'S LYNN

The Church of Our Lady of the Annunciation

London Road, King's Lynn, Norfolk. PE30 5HQ.

and

Holy Family Church

Field Lane, Gaywood, King's Lynn, Norfolk. PE30 1AY

Wednesday December 30, 2020

Dear All

As ever, I hope this finds you well and that you have managed to find some pleasure and enjoyment in the Christmas festival, and that you will continue to do so.

In this household we decided that we wanted to socially distance as much as possible and did not want to share a dining room with others in the Stuart House Hotel, as we have done for the last 7 years. So, for the first time in all these years a Christmas dinner was cooked at home – albeit with the considerable help of food largely pre-prepared by Messrs Marks and Spencer!



All of us in the clergy team are very grateful for the many greetings received, for the printed enclosures courtesy of the Bank of England, and for the many bottles and other treats received – you are generous indeed. Thank you.

Thank you also to those who contributed to the SVP fundraising for Christmas. Just shy of £1,000 was raised and this has been applied to help local families in poverty (with all appropriate safeguards to protect peoples' confidentiality). More thanks to those who have made financial donations to go to "EACH", (East Anglia Children's Hospice), in lieu of sending Christmas cards to each other. At the time of writing £370 has been raised.

It is now time to invite you to notify us of your intentions for attending Mass this coming Sunday (3rd January, Second Sunday of Christmas). As always please send an e-mail to parishpriest763@gmail.com copied to gordonadam1962@btinternet.com. Remember to tell us how many people are in your family / bubble group and which specific Mass you plan to attend. This is probably a good opportunity to remind you that Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord is no longer transferred to the closest Sunday, but kept on its "proper" date of

6th January. On that day there will be Mass in Holy Family Church at 9.30am and in Our Lady's Church at 7.30pm. The evening Mass will be live-streamed. A further reminder is that Friday this week is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God which falls on New Year's Day. It is therefore a Bank Holiday so Mass is at 10.30am in Our Lady's.

The Christmas tree in Our Lady's this year



*Principal credit for construction / decoration
– Clive Bond)*

On the subject of Mass attendance, whilst the general message of being under tier 4 regulations is to stay home, everybody is permitted by the regulations to leave home for the purpose of attending a place of worship for communal worship. It is perfectly possible to attend Mass every day of the week without any breach of the regulations.

See <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tier-4-stay-at-home> - you will need to read down a bit to find the sections about worship (“Communal worship and life events”).

Looking forward and considering the prospect of the New Year there seems to be good reasons to be cheerful. Use of the Pfizer Covid vaccine had already begun in King's Lynn before Christmas, and this week it has now reached the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. We also learn this week that the Oxford / AstraZenica vaccine has been cleared for use and many, many millions of doses are on order. Roll out is expected to begin next week, and this is especially good news because (despite much “fake news” to the contrary on the internet) the Oxford / AstraZenica vaccine has **no association** with any human tissue obtained from an aborted foetus. I am sure that it will take time for roll out of vaccination to take effect on the extent of the pandemic, and of course we need to remember that this is not just a problem for our nation, it is global.

But as we head towards the end of 2020, I think we might allow ourselves to have hope that as 2021 progresses we will slowly start to see something of what we used to recognise as normal life begin to return. As we do so we should offer thanksgiving to God for the skill and work of the scientists that have made this possible.

My concluding muse for the end of the year is that for the whole of my life I have been privileged to enjoy holidays every year, and frequently more than once a year. As 2020 comes to an end, it will be the only year of



my life in which I have spent every single night of the year at home in my own bed! I suspect that will also be true for a good number of you.

Let us look forward with confident hope in God's purposes for us, and let us ask God for the gift of patience as we hope for the coming of better days.

Finally (just because she is the most gorgeous hound in the world) here is an archive photo of Queenie sharing her doggy opinion of Christmas.



Keep calm and keep on taking good care of yourselves and those you live with.

May Our Lady pray for you, and may God bless you.

Fr Gordon

Fr Gordon Adam

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