

# 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 4AY



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

Thursday May 06, 2021

Dear All

As ever, I hope this finds you well – and keeping dry! This week we seem to have begun the East of England monsoon season. I have to admit that on Monday I found myself actually being grateful that there was not a “normal” Diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham taking place because the weather would have made it an utterly miserable event. Yesterday (Wednesday) afternoon I could not believe it – as I packed my click and collect shopping in Morrison's carpark, I was snowed on. In May!



May is, of course, Our Lady's month. On Sunday images of Our Lady were crowned in both of our churches. This year Pope Francis has invited us to participate in a global “marathon of prayer” for an end to the pandemic, and for all affected by it, with the rosary being led from a different Shrine of Our Lady. You can find the list of Shrines, and the particular intention for each day, at <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2021-05/shrines-around-the-world-linked-for-recitation-of-the-rosary.html>. Here in our Parish we are associating ourselves with this initiative by reciting a decade of the rosary after Mass each weekday.

I reproduce here one of the prayers for use as part of the “marathon of prayer” which asks Our Lady's intercession for many aspects of the way in which the pandemic has impacted on normal life, and which you might like to add to your personal prayers during this month:

*We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God. In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection.*

*Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.*

*Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.*

*Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity, and continued health.*

*Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.*

*To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.*

Turning to Parish matters, it is time now for the weekly call to tell us about your intentions for attending Mass this coming Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> May (Sixth Sunday of Easter). As usual, please send an e-mail to [parishpriest763@gmail.com](mailto:parishpriest763@gmail.com) ,

copied to

[gordonadam1962@btinternet.com](mailto:gordonadam1962@btinternet.com)

stating whether you intend to assist at Mass on Saturday at 6.00pm, Sunday 9.30am, or Sunday 11.30am, and tell us how many people there will be in your household group / bubble. It is very helpful if you give us notice by Saturday lunchtime - Please note that you are advising us of your intentions, you are NOT BOOKING PLACES OR TICKETS. This allows us to anticipate if extra Mass provision might be required. At present it is borderline with only the 9.30am Mass at Holy Family being completely full. Even though you have told us about your plans, you need to arrive in good time to be certain of being accommodated.

Both I, and our Catechists, are looking forward to beginning the 2021 first Holy Communion classes on Saturday. We now have 29 children enrolled for the class and it will be good to be back to providing formation for our young people. Do please keep these young people in your prayers, particularly that this may be not a “one off” in their lives, but rather an important rite of passage in a lifetime of faithful discipleship.

We continue to make good use of our livestreaming facility on YouTube with our channel “Our Lady’s King’s Lynn TV”. Upcoming streams are:

Today at 7pm T3 (The Thursday Talks)

- The History of the Parish – the penal years:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VdOwk-DhxT0>

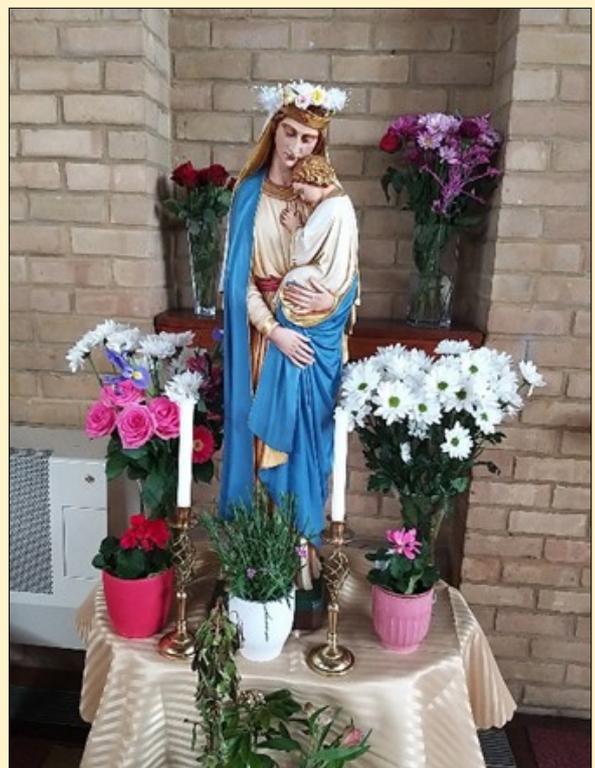
Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 11.30am

- Mass for the Sixth Sunday of Easter:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9O3weWeJVMk>



*The image of Our Lady of Walsingham wearing her May crown in Our Lady’s Church*

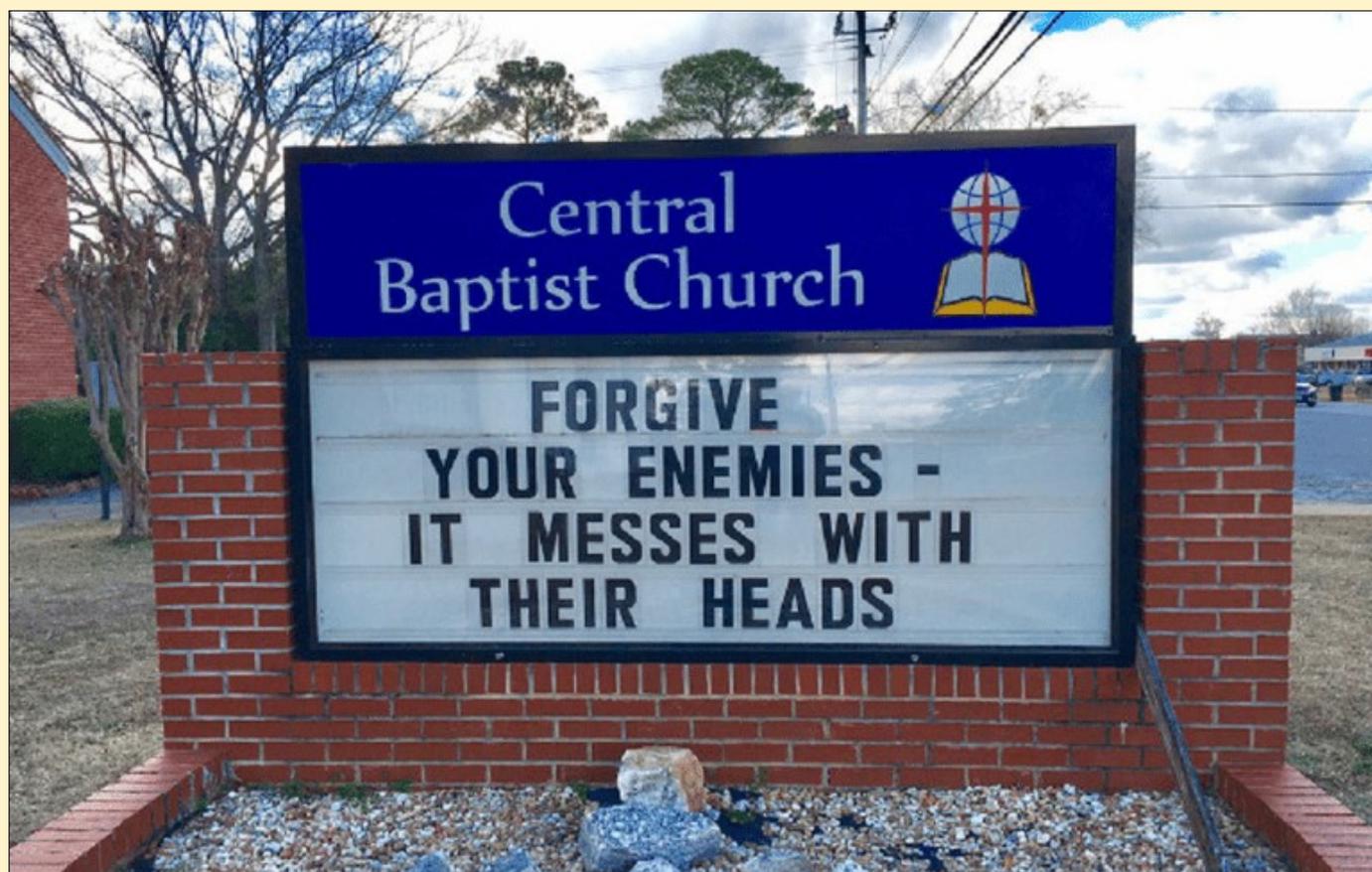


*The image of Our Lady wearing her May crown in Holy Family Church*

Turning back to worldly and secular matters, today is election day. In King’s Lynn that includes a new Police and Crime Commissioner, and a County Councillor. I do hope you will make use of your vote. We have to good fortune to live in a democratic country where we have the freedom to choose those who govern our lives. That is not the case for many people around the world – it is only just over half on the nations of the world that claim to be democracies, and even some of them are not actually very democratic. Sometimes people say things like “My vote won’t make any difference”. My reply to that is that it is still (just) in living memory when our forebears fought to protect democracy against Hitler and the Nazis who murdered thousands of Jewish people, and others who did not comply with the Nazi image of what people should be in the holocaust. It is also a fact that right now in 2021 in Myanmar people are losing their lives in protests against the military coup which overthrew their elected government in February. Our democracy is hard won, so we should not be lazy

about using our votes. Anybody who thinks their vote won't make any difference surely need to realise that it won't make any difference if they don't use it!!

And finally – some advice for Christian living.....



As always, carry 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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