

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, 19 May 2022

Dear All

As ever, I hope this finds you well and contentedly occupied.

Our Springtime continues in a typically British fashion – the warmest day of the year so far on Tuesday followed by thunder and lightning last night. At least, I am told there was a storm – I managed to sleep through it! I don't mind when it rains (as long as I am not dog walking at that moment) as it is good for the garden and the allotment. One thing that is having an especially vigorous Spring is my live Christmas tree in its pot. This year the new growth is much more than it did last year and it is drinking gallons of water as it develops. It does seem to me that this year everything in the garden and on the allotment is much more ahead than normal for mid-May.

Another feature of this time of the year is the long and still lengthening evenings. Although it still seems early in the year it is just over a month until the Summer Solstice, which this year is on Tuesday 21st June (at 10.13am in Greenwich, to be precise). The Summer Solstice is the moment at which the daylight hours are at their longest and the dark hours at their shortest. As ever, "tempus fugit" only 219 sleeps until Christmas.



*A great big growth spurt
– only 219 sleeps until Christmas!*



*The first Holy Communion children
enjoy their celebratory party*

Last weekend saw the completion of our 2022 first Holy Communion programme. One boy who had not been able to make it to St Nicholas Chapel on 8th May made his first Holy Communion at the 9.30am Mass in Holy Family Church last Sunday, then in the afternoon most of the children returned to Holy family Church for a service of thanksgiving with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament followed presentation of commemorative certificates than a party. A good time was had by all!

As all parents will know, children's parties are pretty well guaranteed to lead to a need for some clearing up afterwards. I appear to have been caught on the camera doing my bit to restore order to the narthex in Holy Family, proving that ordained life can make many different demands!

Ordained life draws on many diverse and varied skills!



Also now concluded is our Flower Festival in Our Lady's Church, part of our celebrations for the 125th anniversary of the current building and of the reinstatement of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. Once again many thanks to all who have assisted with this in any way. If you were not able to make a visit, or if you did visit and would like a reminder of the splendid exhibits, we livestreamed a short tour of the Festival accompanied by organ music from Robert Holmes, our principal organist. You will find it at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-sNc-2vGedM&t=182s>

Looking forwards now, tomorrow (Friday) will bring the funeral for Betty Bond in Our Lady's Church at 2.45pm. I expect many of you will be attending in person, but for those unable to do so, Betty's family have given permission to share among parishioners the YouTube link for the livestream of the Funeral Requiem. The link is

<https://youtu.be/rg7U-AmTOAE>

Those of you wishing to join us on Sunday (Sunday 22nd May, 6th Sunday of Easter) for Mass at 11.30am from Our Lady's Church will want to know that the YouTube link is

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFg1rEfWKSA>.

Live streaming has been a great benefit not only in our own parish, but in many others as well during the past 2+ years of the pandemic helping people to witness the celebration of Mass (and of other services such as funerals and weddings) when not able to be present or when prohibited from personal participation because of lockdown or other restrictions. During these pandemic times the obligation to assist at Sunday Mass unless prevented by a good reason has been suspended, and it has not been a sin to miss Sunday mass during that time. Fortunately things are significantly more "back to normal" in lots of ways, and our Bishops have decided to restore the Sunday obligation from Pentecost Sunday (Sunday 5th June). You will hear more about this on Sunday in a pastoral letter from the Bishops of England and Wales. We will continue to live stream Sunday Mass, but from Pentecost it is only an acceptable substitute for assisting in person if you are genuinely prevented for a good reason such as genuine illness. CTS (Catholic Truth Society) have a leaflet which helps Catholics understand the Sunday obligation and acceptable reasons for missing Mass on Sunday which can be found here:

<https://www.ctsbooks.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/NEWEST-What-if-I-cant-get-to-mass.pdf>

Continuing on the matter of obligation, the Ascension of the Lord was restored a few years ago to its "proper" place on the 40th day of Easter (rather than moving it to the 7th Sunday of Easter) This year Thursday 26th May is "Ascension Day" and the important thing about it is that it is a HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION which means that all Catholics are obliged to assist at Mass on that day unless prevented by good reason. In our Parish, masses will be at 9.30am in Holy Family Church at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Church. The evening Mass will be livestreamed for those genuinely prevented from attending.

Something else coming up soon is our Diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham. Ordinarily that would have taken place on the early May Bank Holiday, but this year the changes to Bank Holidays for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee meant that the Anglican Shrine moved their National Pilgrimage to that day - heedless that it should have been our pilgrimage! This year our pilgrimage will take place on Tuesday 31st May beginning with Mass at Noon at the Basilica, and the pilgrimage is combined with the annual children's pilgrimage, so families are especially encouraged to attend (it is half-term week). More information is at

<https://www.rcdea.org.uk/diocesan-pilgrimage-set-for-return-to-walsingham/>

And finally for this week:

First, some more reflections on life today



And if you have been to see the new Downton Abbey film (I have – highly recommended!).....

As always, carry on taking good care of yourselves and those you live with.

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

Fr. Gordon

Fr. Gordon Adam

*Assistant Priest, King's Lynn Catholic Parish,
and Pastor, Walsingham Ordinariate Group.*