



**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, January 20, 2021

Dear All

As always, I hope that this finds you well and with enough to happily occupy your time. January, with its short, cold, damp days is probably the worst month of the year to be in lockdown from the perspective of being able to find things to do to keep occupied – especially if your interests include gardening or an allotment!

I'll begin with the weekly invitation to once again advise us of your intentions for attending Mass this coming Sunday. As usual, please send e-mail to parishpriest763@gmail.com, copied to gordonadam1962@btinternet.com, telling us which Mass you plan to attend and how many people in your household / bubble group. Please try to let us know by lunchtime on Saturday. Although Mass attendances are very low at the moment it is important that you do let us know of your plans. Last Sunday we had notification of 4 names for the 11.30 Mass – and then there were over 30 in the congregation. The reason it is important to let us know is that people's confidence in attending Mass will recover in due course, especially once people have been vaccinated. It is highly possible that a stage will come on the road out of this pandemic when we are still restricted on the numbers that can be in Church, but demand for mass is increasing. We need to know so that if extra Mass provision becomes necessary we can spot that and do something about it. The disconnect between notifications and actual attendance last Sunday was so great I actually checked that I had not forgotten to ask for notice of your intentions last week!!

One of the effects of people staying away from Mass until they are vaccinated and feel safe to return is that we are rather short of readers. If anybody who is coming to Mass at present (especially the 6pm on Saturday) is willing to take up the ministry of reading please let either Fr Peter or Fr Gordon know. Please do not let nervousness about how the books work or how your voice might sound over the amplification system – if you want to give it a go we can show you how the books work and let you hear yourself over the loudspeakers in private. If you are on the rota for reading and are present at a Mass where no-one comes forward to read please do not be shy about just getting up and filling in.

Those of you with smaller children (or grandchildren) in your lives probably enjoyed last Saturday morning. Queenie the greyhound certainly did – we opened the front door onto a road of fresh snow hardly yet disturbed by either footprint or tyre track, and she was fascinated with it. She skipped and frolicked on the end of her lead as only a crazy hound can. In my opinion it was a case of snow behaving very well – it arrived, it stayed for a couple of hours so that those so inclined could make snowballs or snowmen (snow creatures are not politically correct) – then it turned to rain and washed itself away.

Something that began to fascinate me about this town a few years ago is the wonderful variety of roofscapes that we have, certainly in the older / more central parts of town. I first noticed this when I worked for the Borough Council in King's Court where from the upper floors you can walk round and take in a 360 degree view above the roof level of most of the buildings. So many houses and other buildings were individually built without any attempt to

match the height or the pitch of the roofs, and it makes for interesting views. Here is an example of what I mean - the view (last Saturday, as the snow was on its way out) from my landing window: 

At this point in composing this e-mail, I broke off as it was time to take Queenie for her six monthly "pet health club" check-up at Millhouse. When we got there, the grounds had begun snowdrop season. A sign that spring is approaching. 



If you are not yet aware, you might want to know that the process is now under way for the selection of a new Bishop for our Diocese. Bishop Alan has reached the age of 75 and accordingly submitted his resignation to the Holy Father. All the parishes of the Diocese are now being encouraged to pray for the appointment of a new Bishop, and prayer cards have been issued.

The prayer is the Collect taken from the Propers for a Mass "For the election of a Pope or a Bishop" (Current version of The Roman Missal, page 1308)

The wording of the prayer is:

*O God, eternal shepherd,
who govern your flock with unfailing care,
grant in your boundless fatherly love a pastor for your Church
who will please you by his holiness and to us show watchful care.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. Amen.*

Our Lady of Walsingham. Pray for us.

Saint Felix. Pray for us.

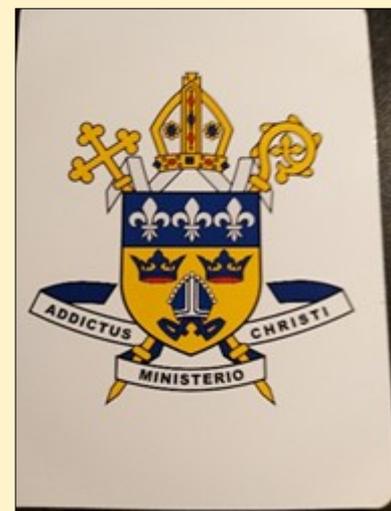
All Holy Martyrs and Saints of East Anglia. Pray for us.

I encourage you to use this prayer frequently as the process progresses.

Meantime, 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.



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