

Parish of Our Lady of the Annunciation - King's Lynn

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Field Lane, Gaywood,
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Friday, 29th May 2020.

Good morning,

Sending my love, thoughts and prayers to you on this beautiful Friday morning.

Over the past few days I have been trying to finalise two essays on Canon Law which I have found interesting, and it has been fascinating reading the New Commentary on the Code of Canon Law and looking at various internet searches on the subject. The two essays titles are:

1- *'Discuss the canonical aspects of the treatment of the dead'*

2- *'With examples, outline some of the ways in which consent in marriage may be defective'*

I have to submit the essays today which I should do this morning because Allen Hall seminary is holding a Spiritual Conference at lunchtime via microsoft teams and then I have to change mode and Zoom into a team meeting.

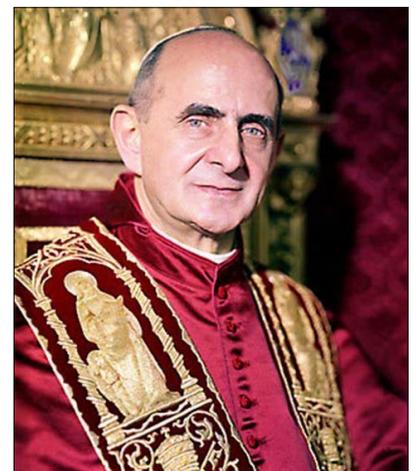
A busy day ahead, so I am now enjoying a nice cuppa!

Today is the optional memorial of **Pope St Paul VI** (1897-1978)

From: <https://universalis.com/europe.england.eastanglia/20200529/today.htm>

Giovanni Battista Montini was born on 26 September 1897 in the village of Concesio, in the province of Brescia, Lombardy. He was ordained priest on 29 May 1920 and worked in the Roman Curia, the Vatican civil service, until he was made Archbishop of Milan in 1954. He was elected Pope on 21 June 1963, successfully saw the Vatican Council through to its completion, promoted the renewal of the Church's life and especially of the liturgy. He also promoted ecumenical dialogue and the proclamation of the Gospel to the modern world. He died on 6 August 1978.

He was canonized by Pope Francis in 2018.



In a reflection from 5 August 1963, one and a half months after his election to the See of Peter, Paul VI wrote: "I must return to the beginning: relationship with Christ... that must be the source of the most sincere humility: 'leave me, for I am a sinful man...'; be it in availability: 'I will make you fishers...'; be it in the symbiosis of will and grace: 'for me to live is Christ...'" Love for Christ and love for his Church. With good reason he could write in *Pensiero alla morte*: «I pray that the Lord will give me the grace to make of my approaching death a gift of love to the Church. I can say that I have always loved her and I feel that I have lived my life for her and for nothing else".

When the Holy Spirit chose him as the Successor of Saint Peter, someone already taken by the

figure and apostolic activity of Saint Paul, he did not spare his energies in the service of the Gospel of Christ, of the Church and of humanity, seen in the light of the divine plan of salvation. As his teachings show he was a defender of human life, peace and true human progress. He wanted the Church, inspired by the Council and implementing its normative principles, to rediscover ever more her identity, overcoming the divisions of the past and by being ever more attentive to the new age. He wanted the Church of Christ to place the centrality of God and the preaching of the Gospel in the first place, even when she spends herself in the service of the brothers and sisters, in order to build that “civilisation of love” begun by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

In Notes for my Last Will and Testament, Paul VI wrote: «No monument for me». Even if a monument was erected in the Duomo of Milan in October 1989, the true monument to Saint Paul VI is the one built by his witness, his works, his apostolic journeys, his ecumenism, his work on the revised Vulgate, in the Liturgical renewal and his many teachings and examples by which he showed forth the face of Christ, the mission of the Church, the vocation of contemporary humanity and reconciling Christian thought with the requirements of the difficult moment in which he, with much suffering, had to guide the Church.

The Catholic Herald reported on 7th February 2019:

‘The Vatican announced Wednesday that Pope St Paul VI’s feast day will be celebrated annually on May 29 as an optional memorial. The date of the memorial, May 29, is significant as the ordination anniversary of Paul VI — then Giovanni Battista Montini — to the priesthood in 1920. Just four years later, Montini began his service to the Holy See, serving both Pope Pius XI and Pius XII. He was made Archbishop of Milan and then a cardinal before being elected pope in 1963’

The full article can be read at:

[St Paul VI’s feast to be celebrated on May 29 - Catholic Herald](#)

The readings for Friday 7th week of Easter are:

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 25:13-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 21:15-19

Reflection on today’s Gospel from:

<https://www.sacredspace.ie/scripture/john-2115-19-0>

Do you love me?’ Peter is asked this question; I am asked this question too. Do I see the goodness in me that Jesus sees?

As Peter stands before Jesus it is reasonable to presume that he is all too aware of his failure to stand by and with his beloved master during the Passion. And Jesus focuses on his capacity to love, not on his failure. He does not admonish him for his betrayals. Because he loves, Peter is reinstated, and given a great responsibility to care for the early Christian community.

Is this an issue for me, focusing on my failures and unwilling or unable to accept that the Lord loves me as I am?

It is day eight of the Pentecost Novena. And the novena from the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales can be listened to by clicking into the following link:

[Pentecost Novena - DAY EIGHT by Catholic Church](#)

A reminder that the parish office can be accessed safely via a glass screen. The office will be open on Monday and Friday from 10am – 12 noon giving the opportunity to hand in Mass Intentions or get Mass cards signed or to arrange for candles to be lit or any other matters. Social distancing will be practised and there are hand-washing facilities. Just come to the Rectory front door in North Everard Street. If you wish to speak with one of the priests at any other time please ring for an appointment (01553 772220)

God bless,

Shaun

Deacon Shaun Morrison

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