

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

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Keeping in touch with Fr. Gordon Adam

Sunday, 8th November 2020

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2020

Dear All

I hope this finds you well. But you have all gone very quiet!! I think you have all chartered a couple of planes and escaped to somewhere hot and beautiful where Covid 19 has never been heard of.

Anyway – a bit of a picture special for you this Remembrance Sunday evening.

It has been a bit strange at home the last few days. Queenie hates fireworks and so she was sent away to the Dogotel at Hillington where everything is very quiet. They post daily photographs of exercise time on Facebook (other social media is available), so I have been able to see her enjoying herself running off-lead in the secure dog paddock. One photo that was posted shows her in a lovely pose with her paws crossed and head held high, looking down her nose with a wonderful look of superiority, recovering from her “zoomies” round the paddock. It perfectly justifies her name “Queenie”.



It is just as well she has been away for Guy Fawkes weekend – a few doors along there are some new tenants in one of the properties in Windsor Road and last night, as well as the night before, he was setting off rockets from the grass opposite my house outside the Freebridge flats. Deacon Shaun was at his desk at the time which is under the top floor window at the front of the house, so he witnessed several of our doggie neighbours providing him with some choice words.

The big news of the weekend, of course, has been the American Presidential election. We now have President Elect Biden, who is Catholic (and only the second Catholic to hold the Office, the other being John F Kennedy), waiting to take office in January and become one of the leading players on the world stage. We should pray for him that he will have the strength to honourably fulfil the role he is taking on. We are not Americans, but the actions of America and of the President of the United States have much potential influence on the life of our nation and our security and wellbeing. There have been those who have sought (especially via social media) to discredit Biden because of his views on abortion. Some have even suggested that no Catholic could, in good conscience, vote for him and that he should be denied the

sacraments because he does directly oppose abortion. However, I think there are two very important things to take into account. The first is that allowing a single issue to be the deciding factor in an election for something as important as the Presidency of a world super-power is a big mistake. The other is that just being “anti-abortion” is far too simplistic an attitude for those of us who are pro-life to take. Just being anti-abortion and making strict laws to try to get rid of it risks sending the problem underground and into the back streets so that even more lives will be lost. Pro-life action needs to be aimed at helping people to manage their attitude towards pregnancy and unwanted children in such a way that they do not seek abortions.

By the way, it infuriates me when people try to claim that Trump is pro-life. Being pro-life and anti-abortion are not the same thing. Trump has sanctioned federal executions in recent months and therefore he is not pro-life. By sanctioning executions he actively embraces the culture of death. Pope Francis in his recent encyclical “Fratelli Tutti” has teaches that the death penalty is never admissible, and the Catechism of the Catholic Church is to be adjusted to include that teaching. To quote: “The firm rejection of the death penalty shows to what extent it is possible to recognise the inalienable dignity of every human being and to accept that he or she has a place in this universe.” Further, to quote our Lord as recorded in the 15th Chapter of Luke’s Gospel: “There will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents.....”. A vengeful killing in the name of the law that takes away the sinner’s opportunity to repent does not accord with these words of Our Lord, and can never be the action or the will of anyone who is truly and wholly pro-life.

Meantime we witness the current incumbent who sanctions federal executions, and who has separated migrant children from their families at the Mexican border, behave quite extraordinarily as he seems incapable of finding any dignity in accepting defeat. My own recollection is that there was much speculation at the time of his own (surprising) election about Russian interference and fake news to discredit his opponent Hilary Clinton. Curious that..... Form your own opinion, but please do not forget to pray



for the (Catholic) man who actually practices his faith and goes to Mass, nowpreparing to take on the most significant job in the free western world. He most often attends Mass at St Joseph’s Church in Wilmington, Delaware. You can visit his parish!

<https://stjosephfrenchst.org/>

Today has been Remembrance Sunday and, as every year, a Mass of Requiem for the War Dead was offered in Our Lady’s this morning. It was strange, and not especially enjoyable, to be back to being a small number of us behind the locked doors to provide you with Mass by live-stream. After the last lockdown I witnessed several of you on the day you were allowed back in to Our Lady’s Church for the first time. That was when I realised we should have provided strategically positioned boxes of tissues for you. We know and understand that not being able to assist at Mass, and not being able to receive Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament

is a real privation and we are desperately sorry that you have to endure it.



Laying the poppy wreath at the Parish War Memorial at the end of Mass

The civic arrangements for Remembrance Sunday have also been impacted with the Tower Gardens events very much scaled back and the Gaywood Clock memorial event completely cancelled. We trust that our Scouts safely delivered the wreath that would have been laid on your behalf at the Clock memorial. Deacon Shaun and I accompanied Fr Peter to Tower Gardens with Parish wreath immediately after the 11.30 Mass of Requiem.



Our wreath is the one furthers forwards

The card reads ***“With the prayers of the Catholic people of King’s Lynn”***



A close up of the wreath.

Carrying on with the theme of things being unusual and different, I wonder if you have seen any photographs of the Queen’s (Her Majesty that is, not my dog!) visit to the tomb of the unknown soldier last week? It will be the centenary of the burial this Wednesday.

Even Her Majesty does her bit with a face covering!



To finish with, a wider view of the Gardens of Remembrance beside the Tower Gardens war memorial :-



As we get deeper into this lockdown take extra care of yourselves and of those you live with.
May Our Lady pray for you, and may God bless you.

Fr Gordon

Fr Gordon Adam

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