

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

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Keeping in touch with Fr. Gordon Adam Thursday, 16th July 2020

Dear All

As ever, I hope you are well and keeping yourselves occupied.

It is good to see more and more of you returning to Mass, either on a Sunday or at a quieter weekday Mass. The Sunday obligation is currently dispensed and choosing an alternative day to come is absolutely fine. This might be a good opportunity to say that the confessionals in both Churches are unsuitable for socially distanced use, but we have alternatives in place and both Fr Peter and I are available before and after Masses on request.

The most important thing for this e-mail is to say that it is time to ask you to notify your intentions for Mass attendance this weekend. Please let us know, by Saturday lunchtime, by e-mail to parishpriest763@gmail.com, copied to gordonadam1962@btinternet.com, stating which Mass you plan to attend and how many will be in your family / household group. Please note that we are not replying your e-mails notifying your intentions. What your notifications help us with is identifying if a Mass is likely to go over the "safe number" we have calculated for each Church and to make contingency plans. Last Sunday the 11.30am at Our Lady's went over by 1 (which is not a problem) but that was a big increase on the previous Sunday. We now have a contingency plan for the Masses at Our Lady's.

We are very sorry about the ongoing difficulties with the live-stream of Sunday morning Mass from Our Lady's. The problem is not with the new camera system, but with the broadband signal. Trying to get the Rectory broadband upgraded is like going round and round in circles with an occasional pause to bang our heads on a brick wall, and the method we used all through lockdown of a wi-fi connection via Walsingham House no longer wants to play nicely on Sunday mornings. Once again we will hopefully live-stream the 6pm Vigil Mass of Sunday in case Sunday morning results in another failure. We are working hard to resolve this issue, but an midweek experiment with a first alternative methodology was not terribly successful.

For many of us daily life is starting to feel a bit more like "normal" – which is good. But we need to be mindful in both prayerful and practical ways that the pandemic continues and is now getting more and more of a grip in places in the world where many people are already refugees from war and conflict, places where health services are woefully inadequate at the best of times, and places where fraud and corruption mean that those heading governments have no meaningful concern for the welfare of the population at large. These are the people who cannot "stay home to save lives", because they have no home. These are the people who cannot wash their hands frequently as their best protection for staying healthy because they

have no access to clean water. These are the people who cannot socially distance because they live in refugee camps, cheek by jowl with other refugees. CAFOD (Catholic Agency For Overseas Development) has now announced that they have teamed up with “DEC” (Disasters Emergency Committee) to coordinate and maximise the effort to care for those living in such conditions as the Covid19 pandemic hits them. Cafod now has prayer resources which all can use on their website at

<https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources/Coronavirus-prayers> ,

and those who can afford it can help fund the practical works being undertaken by Cafod at

<https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-Emergencies/Coronavirus-appeal> .

Do look after 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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