

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

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Field Lane, Gaywood,
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Tuesday, 28th April 2020.

Dear Friends,

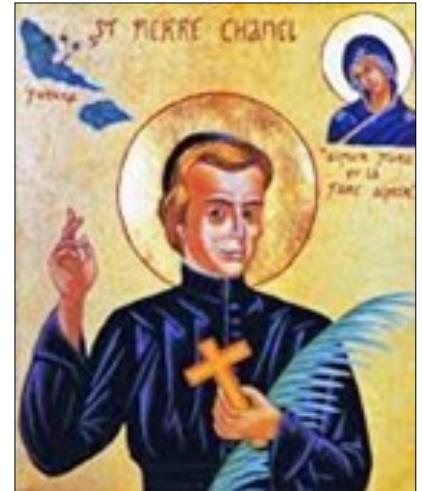
I hope you had a good Monday.

Sending you my prayers and thoughts as a new day begins.

Today in the church calendar is the saint day **St Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr.**

The Collect for St Peter Chanel is:

O God, who for the spreading of your Church crowned Saint Peter Chanel with martyrdom, grant that, in these days of paschal joy, we may celebrate the mysteries of Christ's Death and Resurrection as to bear worthy witness to newness of life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



St. Peter Chanel was born in 1803 at Clet in the diocese of Belley, France. His intelligence and simple piety brought him to the attention of the local priest, Father Trompier, who saw to his elementary education. Entering the diocesan Seminary, Peter won the affection and the esteem of both students and professors. After his ordination he found himself in a rundown country parish and completely revitalized it in the three year span that he remained there. However, his mind was set on missionary work; so, in 1831, he joined the newly formed Society of Mary (Marists) which concentrated on missionary work at home and abroad. To his dismay, he was appointed to teach at the seminary at Belley and remained there for the next five years, diligently performing his duties.

In 1836, the Society was given the New Hebrides in the Pacific as a field for evangelization, and the jubilant St. Peter was appointed Superior of a little band of missionaries sent to proclaim the Faith to its inhabitants. On reaching their destination after an arduous ten month journey, the band split up and St. Peter went to the Island of Futuna accompanied by a laybrother and an English layman, Thomas Boog. They were at first well received by the pagans and their king Niuliki who had only recently forbidden cannibalism. However, the king's jealousy and fear were aroused when the missionaries learned the language and gained the people's confidence; he realized the adoption of the Christian Faith would lead to the abolition of some of the prerogatives he enjoyed as both high priest and sovereign.

Also today is the saint day of **St Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort, Priest.**

Born to a poor family in 1673, at Montfort-La-Cane in Brittany, and was ordained Priest at the age of 27. He had a deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin, and wrote a book, The Secret of the Rosary, which is the first work to describe the method by which the Rosary is prayed today.

He founded the Company of Mary, a missionary band of men, and the Congregation of the Daughters of Divine Wisdom, a religious institute of women devoted to the poor.

As mentioned yesterday the first reading at Mass today for Tuesday, Third week of Easter is from the Acts of the Apostles 7:51-8:1. *As they were stoning him, Stephen said in invocation, 'Lord Jesus receive my spirit'*

We also hear these words from the first reading at Mass on 26th December on the feast day of St Stephen, First Martyr.

In the Walk with me booklet for today:

What qualities do we need to be witnesses for Christ? The first is a living knowledge of God's love for us. St Stephen showed a remarkable grasp of Israel's history (Acts 7:2-53). He obviously immersed himself in the Hebrew Scriptures, praying and meditating on God's plan of salvation. **Prayer was a vital part of his life. Even when rocks were being hurled at him he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit' and then, falling to his knees, cried out, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them'** (Acts 7: 59-60). **St Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit.** He was open, receptive, sensitive, and eager for the Holy Spirit to guide and lead him.

'Lord Jesus, may I always be prepared to give a reason for my hope and to proclaim with bold confidence that you are Lord'



We have been reading about St. Stephen in the Acts of the Apostles so I wanted to share with you some further information:

Stephen's name means, "crown", and he was the first disciple of Jesus to receive the martyr's crown. Stephen was a deacon in the early Christian Church. The Apostles had found that they needed helpers to look after the care of the widows and the poor. So they ordained seven deacons, and Stephen is the most famous of these. (Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7-the reading for Saturday-second week of Easter). I offer my prayers today for my brother deacon's John and Martin.

I also thought for today it would be useful to mention the Guild of St. Stephen, to provide you with some material and to give thanks and pray for our wonderful, dedicated Altar Servers - and to re-echo what Fr Peter said on Easter Sunday - we look forward to the day when our Altar Servers can be back on the sanctuary assisting at Mass.

From: <http://www.guildofststephen.org/>

History of the Guild

The Guild of St Stephen is an International Organisation of Altar Servers founded in England in 1904 by Father Hamilton McDonald when he formed a Society of Altar Servers at the Convent of the Sacred Heart in London. In 1905, Pope Pius X gave his approbation to the

Canonical establishment of the Guild at Westminster Cathedral and in 1906, the Sacred Congregation of Rites made the Guild an Archconfraternity prima primaria enabling all the parish branches to be linked with it. The Guild spread, and in 1934, Pope Pius XI enabled all Guilds of Altar Servers throughout the British Commonwealth to be affiliated with the Archconfraternity at Westminster.

The objectives of the Guild

To encourage, positively and practically, the highest standards of serving at the Church's liturgy and so contribute to the whole community's participation in a more fruitful worship of God.

To provide altar servers with a greater understanding of what they are doing so that they may serve with increasing reverence and prayerfulness and thereby be led to a deepening response to their vocation in life.

To unite servers of different parishes and dioceses for their mutual support and encouragement.

While sat at my desk working away yesterday I looked up at the window and saw a cloud that I just had to take a photo because it reminded me of a duck...

What do you think?



God bless,

Shaun

**Deacon Shaun Morrison
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