

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

Church of Our Lady of the Annunciation  
London Road,  
King's Lynn. PE30 5HQ

The Catholic Rectory,  
North Everard Street,  
King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 5HQ  
Tel : (01553) 772220 Email : parishpriest763@gmail.com

Holy Family Church  
Field Lane, Gaywood,  
King's Lynn. PE30 4AY

---

# Keeping in touch with Fr. Gordon Adam

## Sunday, 10th May 2020

Dear All

As ever, I hope and trust that this finds you well and sufficiently occupied. I hope your system has not been too shocked by the shift from high summer yesterday to the depths of winter today!! At the time of starting to compose this e-mail the temperature (according to the weather app on my mobile phone) is 15 degrees lower than the same time yesterday (24 degrees yesterday, 9 degrees today)

First, some more sad news has come in, which is that Pat Presling has died. No more information than that has yet been received.

Today begins the commencement of week 8 since public worship stopped. This morning Fr Peter was thinking about a new way to number Sundays. That would make today the 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lockdown! I have deliberately "sat" on this e-mail until after the Prime Minister's address to the nation. No mention specifically of churches. I suspect we are among "other public spaces" which was referenced as beginning of July at the earliest. Many of us might have been hoping for something a bit earlier – there might be more details in the House of Commons tomorrow – but I suspect we will all share the view that to open Churches too soon and for coming to Mass to be a route of infection for others is absolutely the last thing we would want to see. I am absolutely certain that what we long for is to be together again sharing in worship and in friendship – but we do not want to lose anyone along the way to that day becoming possible.

Three of you responded to my invitation to share your personal memories of VE day 75 years ago:

- Louise Smith wrote: "My family and I had just arrived from Carlisle, via Lancashire, to settle in Norwich where my father was to be the Head teacher of the Catholic Secondary Modern school. We lived in a house just beside St John's Church which was to become the present RC Cathedral. Of course I was very young but I remember a lot of noise that night in poor, battered, bombed, beautiful Norwich. Oh -and great excitement - we got about 2 bananas given. My older brother and sister were thrilled, having sampled them before. I was given a small piece and I hated it so they were delighted! I have never eaten any banana since then."
- Jim Smith was living in Malvern Wells and remembers a party in a quarry in the Hills that evening. It was the first time he had heard and seen a piano accordion.
- Pauline McSherry wrote: ". I was in boarding school in Ireland and believe me in those far off days nuns did very little in the way of celebrating."

I hope everybody has managed something in the past few days to mark the occasion and make the weekend enjoyable.

We were fortunate that the broadband held up this morning and we got through live streaming the Mass without a hitch. However I realise that the sound quality may not be terribly clear for some, particularly for what is read and said from the ambo, so I attach a copy of the homily. Those who followed Mass will have noticed that Our Lady of Walsingham has joined us on the Sanctuary, complete with flowers in her crown, and we are very pleased to have her company.



It has become clear that we need to be planning how to continue this in the long term. This is because not only are those of you who would normally be present in the building can join in, but the streaming has made Mass from the Parish Church available to those whose health means they can no longer attend. There are two challenges for us is in achieving this. The first is making the right decisions about how to do this – we are trying to get advice form others including the Cathedral, but not having much success just at the moment with getting any response to e-mails.

The second challenge is financing the process. We do not know what the costs will be but it will almost certainly be the case that for best value in the long term, we ought to invest in decent quality equipment to start with. But – at the moment the Parish is losing money every week. A good number of you have set up standing orders and more are dropping planned giving envelopes into the Rectory but overall being in lockdown is probably costing us somewhere between £500 to £700 every week. This morning our Cathedral in Norwich was streaming with new cameras (very impressively). Downloading their weekly newssheet from their website we learn that they have been funded by a “generous donation”. As they say.....” just saying”. 😊 We will also need to have more than one person trained up in how to operate such equipment so in due course (who knows when?) we will be looking for people who are comfortable with technology to help out.. I see a new rota being invented for live streaming operators !

As ever, keep safe and take care of yourselves and those you live with.

May Our Lady pray for you and may God bless you

Fr Gordon

## **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Year A)**

10<sup>th</sup> May 2020

*In the time of the Corona virus pandemic*

*Fr Gordon Adam*

*Assistant Priest, King's Lynn Catholic Parish, and Pastor, Walsingham Ordinariate Group.*

I am certain that many people will want to answer Jesus back this morning, as we hear him say “Do

*38 Windsor Road, King's Lynn, Norfolk. PE30 5PL. Tel: 01553 777428 Mob: 07721 020534*

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Year A)

10<sup>th</sup> May 2020

*In the time of the Corona virus pandemic*

I am certain that many people will want to answer Jesus back this morning, as we hear him say “Do not let your hearts be troubled” at the beginning of today’s Gospel.

This morning the world is full of troubled hearts. The hearts troubled by loss of a loved one to Covid 19. The hearts troubled by loss of a job. The hearts troubled by fears about ability to pay the mortgage or the rent. The hearts troubled by inability to put sufficient food on the table for the family. Hearts thus troubled are to be found in places all round the world. And these are just the additional hearts troubled by the current pandemic.

Even before the pandemic hearts found themselves troubled by many things. All sorts of other health and financial worries. Breakdowns in relationships. The way another member of our family is choosing to live their life. The amount of injustice, hunger, discrimination, abuse and poverty in the world. To be perfectly honest I would be surprised if any one of us this morning doesn’t have something going on in their life that in some way troubles their heart.

Of course some of us are more disposed to worrying and having troubled hearts than others, whilst others seem to have an incredible ability to carry on cheerfully through the most calamitous of situations. While some will fret about the glass being half empty others will enjoy looking forward to what remains in the half full glass.

There is a sense in which having a troubled heart is actually important. If our hearts were not troubled by our own bereavements, how could we be motivated to be sympathetic and loving to others in their bereavements? If our hearts were not troubled by news of famines, how could we be motivated to be generous in charitable giving?

We know that Our Lord has a deep understanding of troubled hearts – his heart was troubled when he wept over Jerusalem. His heart was troubled when, before his passion, he prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane that “this cup might be taken from him.” His Mother’s heart was troubled surely as much as any human heart can be troubled when she stood at the foot of the Cross witnessing her Son’s execution, then received the lifeless body to which she had given birth, to take it for burial.

But the Lord himself says to his disciples “Do not let your hearts be troubled.” He goes on to say “Believe in me still.” He speaks these words to his disciples soon before he is going to leave them when he ascends to Heaven, and he assures them that even though he will be gone from them he has not deserted them – he has gone to prepare a place for them. This is an important message for us as well. Even though he has gone from earthly presence he goes to prepare a place for, and to wait to receive, those whom he has redeemed from sin when their time comes to depart from this life in which hearts are so often troubled.

One person who knew about troubled hearts in time of difficulty was Julian of Norwich. She was aged about 6 when the Black Death arrived in Norwich in 1348. After the main part of that plague in had a nasty habit of flaring up from time to time for another 30 years.

Julian herself knew life threatening illness and it was when she was ill that she had her visions. In all she had 16 visions, and in the 13<sup>th</sup> vision she talked with Our Lord and asked him about sin and why God did not prevent sin. The reply she received was that it was necessary for sin to be in the world, but “all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.”

This is the Easter message. This world is fallen and broken, and it is a place in which there is sin, and pain, and suffering – indeed a place for troubled hearts. But at the same time life is now underpinned by a deep joy and by eternal hope if we believe in him still. The redemption from sin brought about by his suffering and death, and the breaking of the chains of the grave brought about by his resurrection, are an eternal truth. So - if we believe in him still we can share in the joy and hope that goes with the knowledge that he has gone to prepare a place for us – a place in which not only are hearts not troubled – a place where there is nothing but boundless joy.