

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

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Field Lane, Gaywood,
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Wednesday, 22nd April 2020.

Dear friends,

In my catch up with my manager yesterday via video conferencing we spent some time talking about the morale of the team and how everyone was generally feeling. We both felt that there is a mixture of feelings among the team and each day is different and presents daily challenges. My impression from the team meeting was that people were missing human contact and they appreciated the time to talk. The need to feel cared for, was incredibly important and that friendships really mattered.

This brings me to today and the word love. We all need love and the power of knowing that God really does love us -can transform our lives.

The readings at Mass today are:

First reading: Acts of the Apostles 5: 17-26

Responsorial Psalm: This poor man called and the Lord heard him.

Gospel: According to John 3:16-21

“God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life”

God **loves** us so much that he gave us his only Son so we may not be lost and have a **wonderful friendship** with him.

In the morning retreat address on Monday from Walsingham a couple of things that Monsignor John Armitage said, has stayed with me to which I am praying about.

They are:

“If I lost everything and had nothing -would Jesus be enough?”

And

“Love leads us to do anything in service for the one we love”

This led me to then look back at a book called Evangelising Catholics-a mission Manual for the New Evangelisation by Scott Hahn, and I would like to share the following with you about **Love** and the Cross:

“Love without suffering is just empty words or transient emotions. Love is proven by suffering; love is perfected by suffering; and love is purified by suffering. At the same time, though, suffering without love is unendurable. It’s love that empowers us to bear what we could never otherwise bear. And it’s love that transforms suffering into a sacrifice, a gift freely given. If Christ’s love is what transforms his suffering into a sacrifice, then Holy Thursday is when he

institutes the sacrament of love, Good Friday is when he endures the suffering of love, and Easter Sunday is when he provides us with the sacrament that enables us to love in a way that is truly Godlike and to share in a life that is truly divine”

From the Walk with Me booklet-An Eastertide Journey of Prayer:

Nothing is more important or more urgent than proclaiming the basic gospel message. When we do, we are simply inviting people to know the **love of God** and **fall in love** with Jesus, whose only desire is to **love, forgive and save us**. Witnessing to the joy that comes from **friendship with Jesus** is the best way to lead people to him. In Pope Francis’ words, Christians have the duty to proclaim the gospel without excluding anyone. Instead of seeming to impose new obligations, they should appear as people who wish to share their joy, who point to a horizon of beauty, and who invite others to a delicious banquet. It is not proselytizing that the Church grows, but by attraction.

Lord, set my heart ablaze with the gospel message. Help me to be an authentic witness of the sweet message of the gospel.

I mentioned the Walsingham Retreat above-perhaps when you have time you can watch live stream of the retreat or listen to the talks at a later time.

Details can be found on the website:

<https://www.walsingham.org.uk/2020/04/15/retreat-by-mgr-john-armitage-19th-to-26th-april/>

Talks that have happened can be found by clicking this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0VIBzUq4jC43ka38hWiQIxp3tJWK9sAm>

Live streaming of Mass:

from the Holy House at 4.00pm:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8V030I7usRZiKoTlrwBAKg>

Yesterday I offered you a challenge of asking you how many dioceses are there in the Catholic Church in England and Wales. And can you name them? Thank you to all those who responded to me that you enjoyed the challenge.

I promised that I would reveal the answer this morning so here goes:

There are 5 geographical Provinces:

Province of Westminster:

Westminster plus Northampton, East Anglia, Brentwood and Nottingham.

Province of Southwark:

Southwark plus Plymouth, Portsmouth, and Arundel & Brighton.

Province of Birmingham:

Birmingham plus Shrewsbury and Clifton.

Province of Liverpool:

Liverpool plus Leeds, Middlesbrough, Hexham & Newcastle, Hallam, Salford, and Lancaster.

Province of Cardiff:

Cardiff plus Menevia and Wrexham.

That adds up to 22 geographical Dioceses plus 2 non-geographical jurisdictions:

The Bishopric of the Forces

The Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham

Attached is a document with further details about each of the dioceses.

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/dioceses/#>

My love and prayers,

Shaun

Deacon Shaun Morrison

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