

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

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Keeping in touch with Fr. Gordon Adam Wednesday, 1st July 2020

Dear all

I hope this finds you well, and with plenty to occupy you.

This e-mail is of necessity a long one, but do please read it carefully. There is important information about the resumption of Masses from 4th July. I am sorry that all these arrangements present as a long list of rules saying you must do this and you must not do that, but this is necessary for compliance with both the Conference of Bishops', and the Government's, regulations for the resumption of public worship – and MOST IMPORTANTLY – for the safety of all of us.

Before I move on to the arrangements for the resumption of public Masses a couple of things about our live streaming:

- Today's live stream at 4pm of Low Mass, Adoration, Vespers and Benediction will be the last one. From next week, as Parish life begins to resume something like its more normal shape, the priests will resume taking a day off – Fr Peter on Monday and myself on Wednesday. By Sunday this coming weekend both Fr Peter and myself will have celebrated Mass behind the locked doors for 107 consecutive days without any break except for on Good Friday when no Mass is celebrated anywhere in the world and instead we observed the Liturgy of the Lord's Pass which we shared with you via live stream.
- There will be an additional live stream at 4pm on Saturday 4th July of Mass in the Ordinariate Use. This is in particular for Walsingham Ordinariate Group of which I am the Pastor, but all are welcome. You might even enjoy observing the "Anglican Patrimony" of the Liturgy which derives much from the Book of Common Prayer. It is simply not practicable for the Group to meet for Mass as we usually would on the first Sunday of the month, but this live stream will mark this auspicious weekend.

RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC MASSES

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended by the Bishops so you might like to think about attending a different Mass during the week. In particular, the Mass on Thursday mornings at 9.30am in Holy Family Church is likely to offer good opportunity to observe full social distancing. Our Lady's is a much smaller building and for Sunday Masses in particular there is every possibility we will need to close the door when we reach the "safe number" and turn any more arrivals away. In any case the doors will be closed before Mass begins to avoid the risk of late arrivals breaching the safety provisions. The 11.30am Mass at Our Lady's will be live streamed (The cameras are put to a special position whilst people receive Holy Communion to protect people's privacy)

How things will be when you come to Mass at either Church:

- We are working on metre plus distancing, and that means that to comply with government regulations you need to wear a face covering so please bring that with you. The clergy and servers on the Sanctuary are not required to wear face coverings if they are 2 metres or more from the congregation (There will be no “spare” servers on the sanctuary – the basic jobs will be allocated to the first servers to arrive and others need to join the congregation);
- Servers are required to wash their hands in the sacristy both before and after Mass. There is plenty antibacterial handwash and paper towels available in both sacristies for this;
- We are also required by government regulations to keep a record of who attends for “track and trace” purposes. This will be achieved most easily and speedily if you write your name and phone number on a piece of paper before you leave home ready to put in a basket by the door as you enter. If you forget, tell a steward your information and they will make a record;
- There will also be a basket by the door for financial donations;
- You must use the sanitiser supplied at the door as you enter (even if you are wearing gloves);
- You will be told which seat to occupy. Choosing your own seat is not an option. We need to regulate movement to minimise interaction and that means that Our Lady’s has to be filled beginning with the benches at the front, and Holy Family has to be filled beginning with seats at the back. Sitting in the organ gallery is not an option in either church. Please do NOT leave your seat to go for a chat with friends elsewhere in the building;
- If readers wish to wear surgical gloves to handle the lectionary they will be available from the stewards at the entrance to the church;
- There will be no congregational singing at any Mass;
- There will be no offertory procession – everything required will be carefully and hygienically prepared in the Sacristy;
- Communion will only be given in one kind and in the hand. Special protective communion screens have been made whereby the communicant can put their hands through to receive the host protected from close proximity to the Mass Celebrant by a Perspex screen (Any request to receive on the tongue will be refused, so please do not ask). Only the Mass Celebrant will administer Holy Communion and he will sanitise his hands immediately before and after the distribution of Communion;
- Only those intending to receive Communion should come forward – please do NOT come for a blessing. Do not move for Communion until indicated by the stewards;
- At the end of Mass please do not try to exit the building until the Stewards indicate for you to do so. When you are told it is time to move you may leave the building or you may

choose to go and light a candle first. The exit needs to be done in an orderly fashion. Please do not form groups outside the door which will slow down the progress of departure. The weekly newsletter will be distributed as you leave the building;

- Once you have left the building remember that Covid 19 remains a very real threat. Being sensible and observing social distancing is the best way of doing your bit to ensure that something more like normal might return sooner rather than later.

Specific to Our Lady's:

- We are not operating a one way entry / exit system, because use of the side door would almost certainly end up with too many people having to touch door handles. The entry and exit route is via the side gate (for the fully accessible path) and round to the double doors which will be fully open.

Specific to Holy Family:

- Entry is via the fire exit door to the left of the Sanctuary as the congregation views it, and exit is via the fire door to the right of the sanctuary. Access to the entrance door is via the path to the left of the building and is clearly signposted. Garden canes in the ground along that path indicate metre plus spacing whilst waiting to get in. Please do not attempt to "overtake" along that route.

Once again, I am sorry that this has to present as such a long list of do's and don'ts, but it is for the protection and wellbeing of us all.

We are very much looking forward to seeing you and to saying Mass with a congregation once again, albeit in strange circumstances.

God bless.

Fr Gordon

Fr Gordon Adam

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