

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

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## Keeping in touch with Fr. Gordon Adam

Thursday 15th October 2020

Dear All

As ever, I hope that this finds you well.

I think it is nigh impossible to avoid something of a feeling of “here we go again” as the news tells us of increasing Covid 19 infection rates, critical care beds filling up, and increasing deaths due to the virus once again. I think it is unfortunate (to say the least) that many news sources do their best to make the facts of what is happening a frightening as possible. Whilst it might be said that this could be a good thing if it encourages people to behave responsibly, it clearly does not have this affect on many young people and the damage to the mental health of many people of all ages is terrible. There is also the problem of fake news about the virus – and there is a lot of that about, especially on social media like Facebook. The thing that I find most incredible in the midst of all this is that some people say it is all a hoax!! Do they think that all those who have died ( something over a million worldwide) are just pretending? Do they think the people in critical care on ventilators are play acting? The point I want to make is that as this “second wave” gets a grip, it is time for all of us to make sure once more that we take good care of our physical, spiritual, and mental health. These are not three separate things – they are inextricably and closely interconnected. And if you need any support during this time, your clergy team are here for you. Feel free to be in touch with us is there is anything we can do to help and support you.

Also remember to ration the amount of news (and documentaries) that you watch / listen to about the pandemic. I learnt the importance of that for myself early on this year and I now listen to enough news to be adequately informed, but if I think it is getting too much, especially when I am at my desk in my study where Radio 4 is my (almost) constant companion, I either switch it off or switch to Classic FM.



Turning now to Parish matters, it is that time of the week when you are invited to notify us of your intentions for attendance at Mass this Sunday.

As usual, an e-mail to [parishpriest763@gmail.com](mailto:parishpriest763@gmail.com) copied to [gordonadam1962@btinternet.com](mailto:gordonadam1962@btinternet.com) stating which Mass and how many people in your household group by Saturday lunchtime. Last Sunday morning both the 9.30 Mass at Holy Family and the 11.30 Mass at Our Lady's were very close to the safe number for the respective buildings, so it is important that we are aware by Saturday afternoon if we are likely to have to make additional provision for Sunday Masses.

The following Sunday (24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> October) we will be keeping a “Harvest Festival” theme, and you are invited to bring along donations to support the work of the Winter Night Shelter. The list of things that will be welcome at present is published on their website, and is: instant

coffee, hot chocolate, sugar, long-life milk, squash, juice & fizzy drinks, crisps, individually wrapped treats, cereal & cereal bars, tinned items (tomatoes, veg, pulses, soup, tuna, fruit, custard), cooking oil & vinegar, ketchup & mayonnaise, herbs & spices, salt & pepper, flour, jam, honey, spreads, toilet roll, kitchen roll, boxes of tissues, men's and women's (new) underwear & socks.

Street homelessness is retuning, as we have been advised by our local Police Beat Manager, and is likely to be an increasing problem as the pandemic continues to impact economically and more and more people are unable to pay the rent. Tenants who have got behind with their rent have been protected under the Corona Virus Act 2020, but since late September landlords have been able to give 6 months notice of seeking possession (less if the rent arrears are 6 months or more) so there is something of a time bomb ticking away with the problem of homelessness.

On a different theme, those of you who have cause to visit the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for whatever reason will want to note that parking charges are being reinstated from 1<sup>st</sup> November. Don't get caught out!

Domestically, I am feeling quite pleased with myself. The last couple of years I have failed, for one reason or another, to get the allotment properly tidied up in readiness for winter. The weather become too wet or other priorities got in the way. But this year I have succeeded, and my little plot is tidied up and ready for its annual hibernation (apart from a couple of brussels sprouts plants which are looking as if they will deliver a mid-winter treat (for those, like me, who actually positively like brussels sprouts).



As always 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

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