

## 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  
www.catholicparish-kingslynn.org.uk

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

Wednesday, 25th March 2020.

# Keeping in touch with the parish

Dear All

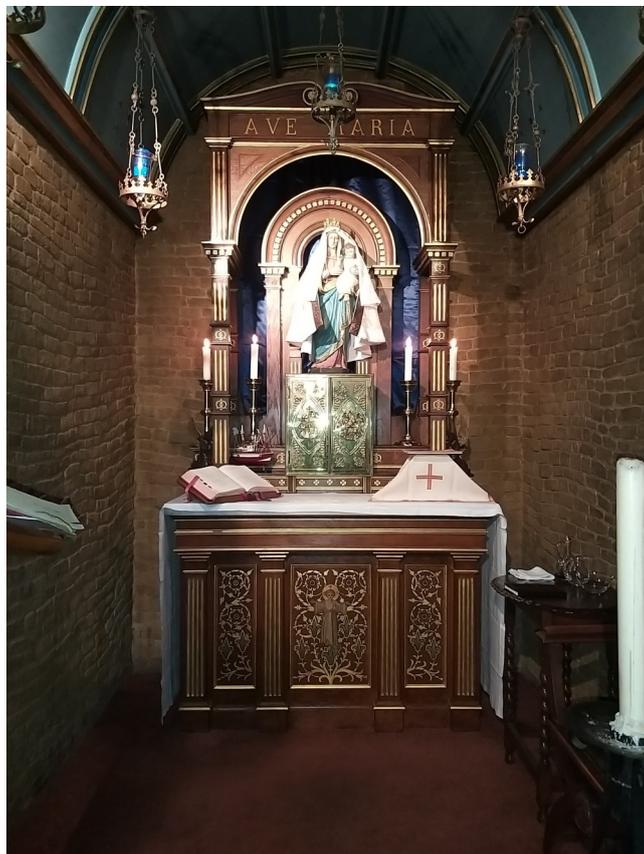
As you are already aware Deacon Shaun is underway with providing a daily e-mail to make sure you are kept well supplied with material to help you maintain as good a prayer life as you can during these strange days. I will also be endeavouring to keep in touch - probably not daily, but at least a couple of times a week.

First I need to get some data protection stuff dealt with. These e-mails will be circulated on a "blind-copied" basis so nobody but me can see the complete list of who they are going to. This means that nobody else can see your e-mail address and complies with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). If anybody does not want to be included in the circulation for these e-mails simply tell me and I will remove your address from the list.

So, on to some practical things:

The candle stand in the Holy House is looking very empty because you cannot get to it to light a candle either for yourself or for any other prayer intentions. I am sure that many of you will have times when you would like a candle to be burning before Our Lady in the Holy House. So, I am going to trust you to be good with your candle offerings when you are allowed to be back in the building and meantime when you have a special intention for which you would like a candle to be burning send me an e-mail (or call me) to tell me what that intention is, and I will light it for you. Remember to tell me whether you want an "ordinary" blue votive candle, or a 7 day light!

I had a telephone conversation with our Treasurer (Vince Murray) this morning because some new arrangements need to be put in place to allow us to maintain good financial administration as best we can until we are allowed to return to normal life. The lack of public Masses means that our parish income has plummeted. We are also aware that many parishioners may be suffering hardship depending on how you earn your living. That said, our Treasurer is hoping that at least some people will be willing to set up a standing order for their support of the Parish. If so, let me know, and I will provide you with our bank details. Those who do their giving via weekly envelopes can drop them through the Presbytery letterbox or even post them in (The Catholic Rectory, North Everard Street, King's Lynn PE30 5HQ). Thanks in advance to those who respond to this.



A few weeks ago I began a Thursday morning study group - our "Year of the Word" study group. In that group we use the "Wednesday Word" resources to look at the coming Sunday's readings for Mass. You can look it up on line for yourselves at [The Wednesday Word | The Sunday Gospel | Catholic Church](http://www.wednesdayword.org) but I will also attach a copy to an e-mail each week.

Some of you might be wondering what will happen for the children preparing for their first Holy Communion (26th April), and for the young people preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation (14th May). Fr Peter and I have written a good old fashioned letter sent in an envelope with a stamp to each child preparing for first Holy Communion, and I have done my best to be in touch with the Confirmation candidates to tell them that almost certainly both these events will have to be postponed. Do keep these children and young people in your prayers.

I am very aware that even before the "clamp down" by the government took effect, some of you were already self isolating for your own protection. Your clergy are here to serve God by serving you and if self isolation or the instruction to stay at home is making you struggle at the prospect of how to get through it all - my phone number is at the bottom of this e-mail. You are free and most welcome to make use of it any time you need to.

I thought you might like a photograph of the Holy House which I took this evening after I celebrated Mass for the Solemnity of the Annunciation, and before I tidied up.

2 final things:

The clocks go forward this coming Saturday night and British Summer Time begins. That means winter is officially over!

The Solemnity of the Annunciation being today means ..... it is only 9 months until Christmas!!

Remember, those reading this communication and who wish to be added to the emailing list, please get in touch with me... details below.

Take good care of yourselves, may Our Lady pray for you and may God bless you.

Fr Gordon

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Attachment Click Here >> [http://www.wednesdayword.org/downloads/parish\\_docs/626-A-05-Lent-2020.pdf](http://www.wednesdayword.org/downloads/parish_docs/626-A-05-Lent-2020.pdf)

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# Our Personal Gift to Mary

## Solemnity of the Annunciation

*Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP preaches on the occasion of  
the Rededication of England to Our Lady.*

*Readings: Isaiah 7:10-14,8:10 | Heb 10:4-10 | Luke 1:26-38*



*Photograph by Fr Lawrence Lew OP from the Slipper Chapel in Walsingham.*

The person of Mary we meet in the gospel today is a woman of faith and as such she became the first of the believers of the new covenant. Just as the divine voice put Abraham at the head of the of a new and countless people, God's people of the covenant, so that he is the father of believers in the Old Testament, so Mary is the beginning of the fulfilment of the promise made to Abraham and the beginning of actual salvation for all who follow. Throughout the biblical message, the gospel of the incarnation is at the same time fulfilment and new promise. The God of the Bible is always a God who speaks and acts, and Mary is now involved for good in God's saving action. Of course, Mary was well prepared for this to happen as he had been brought up very close to God. She would have known her Scriptures, psalms and prayers, but as importantly she came from the lowliest social group in Israel known as "the poor of the Lord". Like many poor people, who we have known through the ages, they were a close community who helped others with what little they had, they wanted nothing for themselves yet relied on God for everything. It is from this background that Mary was chosen to fulfil God's promise made to Abraham. The hymn known as the *Magnificat* says the Lord has 'lifted up the lowly. Mary's "lowliness" relativises human ability and produces a strong sense of dependence on human beings and being open to God's grace.

Mary's role in the salvation of mankind is characterised by these two things: dependence on others and openness to God's grace.

God himself became completely human specifically to give us a picture of humanity that is sound and whole. Christ is the representative of the whole of redeemed humanity; he is the new person. Secondly Mary is the first to be redeemed, the first believer and the radically redeemed person in whom everything is done through the fullness of grace. So praise to Mary is always praise to the re-creative power of God's love and God's spirit. Only through God's grace is Mary what she is, the radically and completely redeemed human person - but we too are in that process. Redemption is happening in us, in the same way, by God's grace. But can we put aside our own stories, become dependent on others and leave ourselves open to God? Yes, is the answer, but it will take us a lifetime, that's the difference between Mary and us.

God's work in bringing us to the fullness he desires for us goes on in the here and now. We don't have to wait to die for it all to happen. Life is not an examination which lets us into eternal glory if we pass. Being human in Christ is an on-going process where possibilities and questions which make us who we are fulfilled by the grace of redemption given as sheer and utter gift. The catch is that it is only in giving ourselves, to and for others that we can be sufficiently open and vulnerable to receive the gift of God. Can you see yourself in this tension? This exchange of giving and receiving which makes you who you are. So, we should ask ourselves: am I selfish and closed in? Am I the type of person who only looks after number one? Or am I the sort who will open up myself to other people and the grace of God. It is terribly risky of course, but then it was for Mary too. It is the only way of being fully human, so that you can take your place in Christ.

Today, or next Sunday, you can be part of the Rededication of England to Mary. The first time England was consecrated to Mary was in 1381 by King Richard II and England became "The Dowry of Mary". The re-dedication will be a personal gift of the people of England to the Mother of God. That gift will not be England as such but the faith of the people of this country, as we seek to follow the will of God in our lives.

However, the question that faces every one of us as we make this dedication either individually in our private prayer today or collectively in the cathedrals is whether we are ready to do so. A change in our ways is necessary; like Mary we must be ready to put our own plans aside and be open to God's grace. But we can be assured that we will not be alone on this journey: Mary's prayer, 'that we may worthy of the promises of Christ' will accompany each of us on the way to her Son.

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## The Most Rev. Malcolm McMahon OP

The Most Rev. Malcolm McMahon O.P. is the  
Archbishop of Liverpool.

From 1992 to 2000 he was

Prior Provincial of the English Dominicans,  
and from 2000 to 2014 he was  
the Bishop of Nottingham.