

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

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# Deacon Shaun's Bulletin

Thursday, 5th November 2020

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Dear Friends, Good morning to you.

As we now begin another lockdown with all the uncertainties, concerns and worries that this may bring I want to assure you of my prayers. Do look after yourselves-keeping our well being healthy is important during challenging times.

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Last evening the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales issued a statement which can be read by accessing the following link:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/statement-on-the-four-week-national-lockdown-and-a-call-to-prayer/>

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Please do take a look at our parish website on a regular basis as our webmasters are doing a great job in updating it to keep us all informed.

<http://www.catholicparish-kingslynn.org.uk/>

You will find the latest issue of the Grapevine on the website which makes interesting reading.

The link to our YouTube channel- Our Lady's King's Lynn TV is:

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

This link can be used for all our live stream Masses and the channel can also be accessed via our website.

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Today is a Feria in the 31st week of the year. The second reading for the Office of Readings from the Divine Office is a reading from the instructions of St. Cyril of Jerusalem to catechumens on the Creed:

In learning and professing the faith, you must accept and retain only the Church's present tradition, confirmed as it is by the Scriptures. Although not everyone is able to read the Scriptures, some because they have never learned to read, others because their daily activities keep them from such study, still so that their souls will not be lost through ignorance, we have gathered together the whole of the faith in a few concise articles.

Now I order you to retain this creed for your nourishment throughout life and never to accept any alternative, not even if I myself were to change and say something contrary to what I am

now teaching, not even if some angel of contradiction, changed into an angel of light, tried to lead you astray. *For even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which you have now received, let him be accursed in your sight.*

So for the present be content to listen to the simple words of the creed and to memorise them; at some suitable time you can find the proof of each article in the Scriptures. This summary of the faith was not composed at man's whim, the most important sections were chosen from the whole Scripture to constitute and complete a comprehensive statement of the faith. Just as the mustard seed contains in a small grain many branches, so this brief statement of the faith keeps in its heart, as it were, all the religious truth to be found in the Old and New Testament alike. That is why, you must consider and preserve the traditions you are now receiving. Inscribe them across your heart.

Observe them scrupulously, so that no enemy may rob any of you in an idle and heedless moment; let no heretic deprive you of what has been given to you. Faith is rather like depositing in a bank the money entrusted to you, and God will surely demand an account of what you have deposited. In the words of the Apostle: *I charge you before the God who gives life to all things, and before Christ who bore witness under Pontius Pilate in a splendid declaration, to keep unblemished this faith you have received, until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

You have now been given life's great treasure; when he comes the Lord will ask for what he has entrusted to you. *At the appointed time he will reveal himself, for he is the blessed and sole Ruler, King of kings, Lord of lords. He alone is immortal, dwelling in unapproachable light. No man has seen or ever can see him. To him be glory, honour and power for ever and ever. Amen.*

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In the book, *Rediscover Catholicism* by Mathew Kelly there is a chapter on Spiritual reading which I thought may be of interest to you:

*"Spiritual reading is an ancient tradition. It existed in the Church long before we had books to read, when every manuscript had to be copied by hand because the printing press had not yet been invented. In those days, this spiritual tradition was mostly confined to the monasteries, where the monks had access to manuscripts of the Scriptures and other great spiritual writings. The goal of spiritual reading is to ignite the soul with a desire to grow in virtue and thus become the best version of oneself. Like all other spiritual exercises and activities, spiritual reading seeks to encourage us to live a life of holiness.*

*Reading of the Scriptures, especially the New Testament and in particular the four Gospels, obviously holds first place on our spiritual reading list. It has been my experience that all men and women of good will take delight in the Gospels as they become familiar with them. They are the best education of the life and teaching of Jesus Christ. Nothing ignites the soul to imitate the Divine Master more than an intimate familiarity with the story of his life, works and teachings. The Old Testament can also be very valuable as a source of spiritual reading, though in some cases some books are harder to draw nourishment from than others. In books such as Psalms and Proverbs, our hearts are easily stirred to live a better life and to strive for virtue through our relationships with God, neighbour and self.*

*Beyond the Scriptures, there are also a great many spiritual writers who can be of assistance to us in our adventure of salvation.”*

If you would like any help from me in relation to Spiritual reading please do contact me and I will try my best to guide you.

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May I suggest for today that you read and ponder on the following Gospel Passage that Pope Francis talks about in his latest encyclical letter “Fratelli Tutti” (On Fraternity and Social Friendship).

The Gospel Passage is from Luke 10: 25-37.

*“Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. ‘Teacher,’ he said, ‘what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ He said to him, ‘What is written in the law? What do you read there?’ He answered, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.’ And he said to him, ‘You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.’ But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbour?’ Jesus replied, ‘A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?’ He said, ‘The one who showed him mercy.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go and do likewise.’”*

My plan over the next few days is to quote some passages from Fratelli Tutti in relation to this Gospel Passage so we can engage with this scripture reading.

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St Chad’s Cathedral, Birmingham are live streaming a 40-minute organ recital today starting at 1.15pm, as part of a series called ‘Thursday live’.

<https://www.stchadscathedral.org.uk/cathedral/music/concerts-3/>

The YouTube link for today’s recital is <https://youtu.be/q3tPBR8ANQ0>

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With my love, thoughts and prayers,

Shaun

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