

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

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Field Lane, Gaywood,
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Sunday, 29th March 2020.

5th Sunday of Lent-Sunday 29th March 2020

Good morning all,

Hope you have remembered to put your clocks forward. Welcome to British Summer Time!

A bit of a chill in the air this morning and windy but the birds are still singing away!

Today is a special day for us. England will once more be dedicated as Our Lady's dowry.

May Our Lady pray for us especially at this difficult time, affecting the whole of humanity.

As we wake to the Fifth Sunday of Lent, we now enter Passiontide.

Passiontide is a name for the last two weeks of Lent, beginning on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, and ending on Holy Saturday.

As Fr Gordon mentioned in his e mail last night traditionally statues and crucifixes in Church are veiled from this Sunday.

Mass readings for today are:

First Reading-The Prophet Ezekiel 37: 12-14 (*I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live*)

Responsorial Psalm-*With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.*

Psalm 129.

Second Reading-St Paul to the Romans-8: 8-11 (*The Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you*)

The Gospel according to John 11: 1-45

From the Gospel for today:

"I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Yes Lord, she said. I believe you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world"

In the Sunday Missal Pope Benedict XVI writes:

There are only two weeks to go until Easter and the Bible readings of this Sunday all speak

about resurrection. It is not yet that of Jesus, which bursts is as an absolute innovation, but our own resurrection, to which we aspire and which Christ himself gave to us, in rising from the dead. Indeed, death represents a wall as it were, which prevents us from seeing beyond it; yet our hearts reach out beyond this wall and even though we cannot understand what it conceals, we nevertheless think about it and imagine it, expressing with symbols our desire for eternity. Christ pulls down the wall of death and in him dwells all the fullness of God, who is life, eternal life.

From the Walk with me - A Lenten Journey of prayer for 2020 produced by alive publishing:

*The raising of Lazarus from the dead came about in response to the prayers of his sisters. Mary and Martha. Such is the strength of family love. God is our Father, Mary our Mother. In the family of the Church we have Mary as our mother, given to us at Calvary. **Today we rededicate ourselves to her, personally, as families, as a Church.** In 1381 King Richard II dedicated England to Mary's protection recognising her as Jesus' first disciple, the model for us all. This dedication is for all believers but our English readers take this up in a special way, for we are the Dowry of Mary. This dedication will bring us to share in the joys of Mary, the joys at the heart of the Gospel we are to proclaim.*

Lord, just as Mary was at the foot of your cross so too was, she a witness of your resurrection. May our dedication to her today bring us new life.

You may find it useful to pray the attached intercessions at some stage during today.

Please do spend time today uniting yourself with stream living to a Mass:

In particular at the Shrine of our Lady of Walsingham:

At the Shrine, the Rector will briefly **introduce the Re-dedication at 11.45am and invite people to a short time of prayer. The Re-dedication itself will take place at noon, at the beginning of the Pilgrim Mass which will be live-streamed:**

<https://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream/>

Other Mass options are:

The Cathedral of St. John the Baptist:

Daily Mass from the Cathedral will be broadcast online every single day at 10am. You can view it online on the website:

<http://www.sjbcathedral.org.uk/>

Our Lady and the English Martyrs Church-Mass at 9am

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dTicDAjBKQ4>

Birmingham Oratory:

<https://www.birminghamoratory.org.uk/live-stream/>

9am – Low Mass (Latin, EF)

11am – Low Mass (English)

Please also remember to check in on the parish website:

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

Where you will find much to read and look at, including the following letter from our Parish Priest - Fr Peter.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We often hear it said that these are unprecedented times. Yet in one respect this is not so for the Catholic Church in England. We have been here before. In the thirteenth century bad King John (who gave our town its Charter and whose statue stands in New Conduit Street) had an argument with Pope Innocent. King John would not accept the Pope's appointment of Stephen Langton as Archbishop of Canterbury. (It was Stephen who gave the Church that beautiful Sequence for Pentecost – Veni Sancte Spiritus, Holy Spirit, Lord of Light) This resulted in the kingdom being placed under Interdict which meant that all the churches had to be closed, there was no public celebration of Mass and the faithful were deprived of the sacraments and Christian burial. This lasted from 23rd March 1208 until 2nd July 1214 – SIX YEARS! Even the most pessimistic of forecasts at the moment do not envisage anything like that. And yet, as we know, the Church survived and flourished in after years. The fourteenth and fifteenth centuries were the Age of Faith in our land. There were many holy men and women, our most beautiful churches date from this period. The present village of Walsingham was built at that time to provide for the huge number of pilgrims making their way to Our Lady's Shrine. So let us hope and pray that this present trial bears fruit in a renewal of faith, a new thirst for the things of God and a greater appreciation of the sacraments. Meanwhile, the rhythm of prayer in the parish church continues. The Divine Office is prayed throughout the day and Holy Mass is offered daily in the Holy House. The ceremonies of Holy Week and Easter will take place albeit in reduced circumstances and behind closed doors. Please pray for all those suffering from the virus and all those working so hard to combat it.

Let me conclude with some words of Stephen Langton invoking the Holy Spirit:

*Thou, of all consolers best, Thou the soul's delightful guest, Dost refreshing peace bestow;
Thou in toil art comfort sweet; Pleasant coolness in the heat; Solace in the midst of woe.*

God bless.

Fr. Peter.

I wish you a lovely Sunday. Fr Peter, Fr. Gordon, Deacon John and Deacon Martin send their best wishes and prayers.

My thoughts and prayers,

God bless

Shaun

Deacon Shaun Morrison

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