

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

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Deacon Shaun's Daily Bulletin

Friday, 27th November 2020

Dear Friends, Wishing you a Good morning.

Some Government news for you on a consultation:

Colin Bloom has been appointed as the Faith Engagement Adviser at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to lead a review into how best the government should engage with faith groups in England.

There has been a strong ask from the officials of the MHCLG for individual Catholics to respond to this open consultation on the way the Government engages with faith communities.

Bishop Alan has also said It is of great importance that clergy, religious and people take part in it and encourages everyone to do so.

The link to the online submission is:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/independent-faith-engagement-review-call-for-evidence>

The consultation closes at 11:45pm on 11th December 2020.

Staying on the theme of the Government- Cardinal Vincent Nichols has written to some Members of Parliament to express his concern about the reduction in overseas aid from 0.7% of national income to 0.5%, a reduction of around £4 billion.

<https://rcdow.org.uk/cardinal/news/cardinal-expresses-concern-about-overseas-aid-reduction/>

The full text of the letter for you:

'I am writing to express my concern at plans to reduce UK spending on overseas aid from 0.7% of gross national income to 0.5%. In today's figures that amounts to a cut of around £4 billion in spending on help to the world's poorest people.

'A clear measure of a nation's greatness is the manner in which it responds to the needs of its poorest. The same is true for the response to poverty between nations. If we truly wish to be a great nation, then cutting the overseas aid budget is a retrograde step. The great tragedies of forced mass migration and human trafficking must be tackled at their source. Carefully targeted and well managed overseas aid programmes are an essential part of this effort. In the face of these catastrophes, this is no time to reduce the UK's contribution or effort.

'As Pope Francis said recently, 'Poverty, decadence and suffering in one part of the earth are a silent breeding ground for problems that will end up affecting the entire planet. If we are troubled by the extinction of certain species, we should be all the more troubled that in some

parts of our world individuals or peoples are prevented from developing their potential and beauty by poverty or other structural limitations. In the end, this will impoverish us all'. (Fratelli Tutti 137)

'Promises were made by all parties on aid spending at the last election. In these extraordinarily difficult times, we should not now step back from our responsibilities to the world's most vulnerable people, especially as combatting the spread of COVID-19 will necessarily mean richer countries supporting poorer ones in purchasing vaccines for their people and helping to roll out mass vaccination programmes. Combatting COVID-19 is an international endeavour and we cannot neglect those countries that benefit from our aid. I hope that compassionate and wise counsel will prevail.

'I realise the pressures which those holding elected office face in these times. Thank you for what you do and you remain in my prayers.'

The Gospel reading for today is according to Luke 21:29-33

Jesus told his disciples a parable: 'Think of the fig tree and indeed every tree. As soon as you see them bud, you know that summer is now near. So with you when you see these things happening: know that the kingdom of God is near. I tell you solemnly, before this generation has passed away all will have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.'

Some thoughts from Sacred Space:

<https://www.sacredspace.ie/scripture/luke-2129-33>

We are told that the world in which we live will one day disappear, but the words of Jesus, words of truth and life will be forever valid. These words represent a vision of life and those timeless values which we understand as emanating from God.

As we come to the end of the Church year it is a time for us to consider whether we want to belong to the kingdom that Jesus is inaugurating and not only to belong but also to make it our life's work. Then, no matter when he comes to call us, we are ready.

Details of parish website:

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

And the link to our YouTube channel- Our Lady's King's Lynn TV which is:

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

With my love, thoughts and prayers,

Shaun

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