



# Catholic Parish of King's Lynn

**Church of Our Lady of the Annunciation**  
*London Road, King's Lynn, Norfolk. PE30 5HQ*

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

## DEACON SHAUN MORRISON'S WEEKLY BULLETIN

Sunday, August 20, 2023

Dear Friends,



Today is the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

"Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the people praise you."

The YouTube link for the livestream for the 11.30am Mass from Our Lady's is:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/M00vcRta4L0?feature=share>



This afternoon is our annual Procession of Our Lady of Walsingham to the Red Mount Chapel beginning at 3pm from Our Lady's Church followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and Tea in the garden. This tradition which began in 1897 is an opportunity to publicly declare our Faith and to honour Our Blessed Lady. Please come in good numbers and for those unable to walk there is the opportunity to remain in church and say the Rosary.



From the Office of Readings for 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

A reading from the homilies of St John Chrysostom on St. Matthew's Gospel

*Salt of the earth and light of the world.*

*You are the salt of the earth.* It is not for your own sake, he says, but for the world's sake that the word is entrusted to you. I am not sending you only into two cities or only into ten or twenty, not to a single nation, as I sent the prophets of old, but across land and sea, to the whole world. And that world is in a

miserable state. For when he says: *You are the salt of the earth*, he is indicating that all mankind had lost its savour and had been corrupted by sin. Therefore, he requires of these men those virtues which are especially useful and even necessary if they are to bear the burdens of many. For the man who is kindly, modest, merciful and just will not keep his good works to himself but will see to it that these admirable fountains send out their streams for the good of others. Again, the man who is clean of heart, a peacemaker and ardent for truth will order his life so as to contribute to the common good.

Do not think, he says, that you are destined for easy struggles or unimportant tasks. *You are the salt of the earth*. What do these words imply? Did the disciples restore what had already turned rotten? Not at all. Salt cannot help what is already corrupted. That is not what they did. But what had first been renewed and freed from corruption and then turned over to them, they salted and preserved in the newness the Lord had bestowed. It took the power of Christ to free men from the corruption caused by sin; it was the task of the apostles through strenuous labour to keep that corruption from returning.

Have you noticed how, bit by bit, Christ shows them to be superior to the prophets? He says they are to be teachers not simply for Palestine but for the whole world. Do not be surprised, then, he says, that I address you apart from the others and involve you in such a dangerous enterprise. Consider the numerous and extensive cities, peoples and nations I will be sending you to govern. For this reason I would have you make others prudent, as well as being prudent yourselves. For unless you can do that, you will not be able to sustain even yourselves.

If others lose their savour, then your ministry will help them regain it. But if you yourselves suffer that loss, you will drag others down with you. Therefore, the greater the undertakings put into your hands, the more zealous you must be. For this reason he says: *But if the salt becomes tasteless, how can its flavour be restored? It is good for nothing now, but to be thrown out and trampled by men's feet.*

When they hear the words: *When they curse you and persecute you and accuse you of every evil*, they may be afraid to come forward. Therefore he says: "Unless you are prepared for that sort of thing,

it is in vain that I have chosen you. Curses shall necessarily be your lot but they shall not harm you and will simply be a testimony to your constancy. If through fear, however, you fail to show the forcefulness your mission demands, your lot will be much worse, for all will speak evil of you and despise you. That is what being trampled by men's feet means."

Then he passes on to a more exalted comparison: *You are the light of the world*. Once again, "of the world": not of one nation or twenty cities, but of the whole world. The light he means is an intelligible light, far superior to the rays of the sun we see, just as the salt is a spiritual salt. First salt, then light, so that you may learn how profitable sharp words may be and how useful serious doctrine. Such teaching holds in check and prevents dissipation; it leads to virtue and sharpens the mind's eye. *A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor do men light a lamp and put it under a basket*. Here again he is urging them to a careful manner of life and teaching them to be watchful, for they live under the eyes of all and have the whole world for the arena of their struggles.

### Responsory

- ℟. You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you,\* and then you must be my witnesses to the ends of the earth.
- ℣. Your light must shine so brightly before men that they can see your good works and glorify your Father,\* and then you must be my witnesses to the ends of the earth.

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Thursday **24th June** is the Feast day of **St. Bartholomew, Apostle**.

He was born at Cana and brought by the Apostle Philip to meet Jesus. Nothing further is known for certain. Eusebius speaks of him in India, but the Roman Martyrology has him martyred in Armenia, skinned alive according to the Persian custom. Because his relics were enshrined on the island in the Tiber that is principally used as a hospital, he has become a patron saint of the sick.

(Source: <https://universalis.com/europe.england.eastanglia/20230824/today.htm>)

**From the Catholic News Agency:**

**Saint Bartholomew** is one of the Twelve Apostles,

mentioned sixth in the three Gospel lists (Matthew 10:3; Mark 3:18; Luke 6:14), and seventh in the list of Acts (1:13). The name (Bartholomaios) means "son of Talmai" which was an ancient Hebrew name.

Besides being listed as an Apostle, he is not otherwise mentioned in the New Testament, at least not under the name Bartholomew: many ancient writers, and Catholic tradition have identified Bartholomew as Nathaniel in the Gospel of John (John 1:45-51, and 21:2).

The Gospel passage read at Mass on the feast of Saint Bartholomew is precisely this passage from John (1:45-51) where Nathaniel is introduced to Jesus by his friend Phillip, and Jesus says of him "Here is a true child of Israel. There is no duplicity in him (1:47)."

We are presented with the Apostle's character in this brief and beautiful dialogue with the Lord Jesus. He is a good Jew, honest and innocent, a just man, who devotes much time to quiet reflection and prayer - "under the fig tree (1:48)" - and has been awaiting the Messiah, the Holy One of God.

At Jesus' mention that "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you (1:48)," Nathaniel responded "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel (1:49)!"

Being "a true child of Israel," Nathaniel was a man well-read in the Scriptures and knew what they said of the Messiah and where he would come from. This is why he is sceptical of Phillip's claim that Jesus is the Messiah, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth (1:46)?"

But Nathaniel was lacking "duplicity" - that is, his heart was undivided, his intentions pure - his openness to reality was always ready to recognize and surrender to the truth when he encountered it. He remained open to his friend Phillip's invitation to "Come and see (1:46)."

In encountering Jesus and hearing His words, he found himself face to face with the Truth Himself, and, like John the Baptist's leap in his mother's womb at the Lord's presence, Nathaniel's words leapt out of his own heart in a clear and simple confession of faith, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

Jesus, in Matthew 5:8, says, "Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God." In Nathaniel we

have an example of the pure man who sees - recognizes - God when confronted with Him, and on seeing Him believes in Him, and upon believing in Him, follows Him.

Nothing is known for sure about the life of Nathaniel/ Bartholomew after the Ascension of Jesus, but tradition holds that he preached in the East and died a martyr's death in Armenia, being flayed alive for having won converts to the Lord Jesus.

Source: <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/saint/st-bartholomew-apostle-569>

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## Looking forward to September:

### First Holy Communion 2024

There will be a meeting for the parents to outline the upcoming classes etc. on **Saturday 9th September at 11am** in Holy Family Church, Field Lane, Gaywood.

### Adult Formation in the Faith

It is proposed to begin a course of instruction in the Faith for those who are thinking about becoming Catholics. This will be in the Autumn and if you are interested, please speak to one of the priests or deacons. Application forms are now available and the course will begin on **Sunday 17th September** at 4.45pm in the Wigglesworth Room at Our Lady's Church on London Road.

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The link to our YouTube channel is:

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

And the link to our Parish Website:

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

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God bless

**Shaun**

**Deacon Shaun Morrison**

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