



# THE GRAPE VINE




## PARISH MAGAZINE



CHRISTMAS 2024



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# THE GRAPE VINE

## Parish Magazine

### Editor

Lotte Gaberle  
Church Cottage  
17 Church Road  
Magdalen  
Norfolk  
PE34 3DG

Telephone 01553 810021

Email Address [lotte.gab@gmail.com](mailto:lotte.gab@gmail.com)

Opinions expressed in articles or letters are those of the writers and not necessarily of the Clergy or Editorial Staff.



## CATHOLIC PARISH

### Clergy

**The Very Rev. Canon Peter Rollings** – Dean, Parish Priest  
**Father Gordon Adam** - Assistant Priest, Ordinariate of Our Lady of  
Walsingham

**Rev John Belfield** – Deacon

**Rev. Martin Le Strange** – Deacon

**Rev. Shaun Morrison** – Deacon of the Ordinariate of Our Lady of  
Walsingham

### ADDRESS

**The Catholic Rectory, North Everard Street, King's Lynn, PE30  
5HQ** **Telephone: 01553  
772220**

**Email:** [parishpriest763@btinternet.com](mailto:parishpriest763@btinternet.com)

**Web Site:** [www.catholicparish-kingslynn.org.uk](http://www.catholicparish-kingslynn.org.uk)



## **MASS TIMES**

**Saturday**

**Vigil Mass at 6:00pm**

Church of Our Lady of the Annunciation

**Sunday**

**Mass at 9:30am**

**Holy Family Church**

**Mass at 11:30am**

Church of Our Lady of the Annunciation

**Vespers and Benediction at 4:00pm**

Church of Our Lady of the Annunciation

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## **CONFESSIONS**

**Saturday**

**10:30am - Holy Family Church**

**5:00pm - Church of Our Lady of the Annunciation**

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**ALL OTHER SERVICES CAN BE FOUND ON THE PARISH WEBSITE**

**The link to our YouTube channel is:**

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

**Mass readings are daily uploaded on the Parish Website:**

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

**The parish newsletter for the week can also be found on the website.**

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## **EDITORIAL**

Dear All, I wish you a very happy and blessed Christmas and New Year. May Our Lord keep you safe and may you feel His protection and love always. When one reads the News, it is full of very upsetting, unsettling and fearful prospects. However, the world was created by God who has just blessed us by sending us His only begotten son, Jesus Christ, born in a stable in Bethlehem. The wonder that has happened and the beauty that has been endowed to us are perhaps most beautifully expressed and turned into music by Handel in 'The Messiah', which I was fortunate to listen to in the Cambridge King's College Chapel. I want to wish you a happy Christmas by sharing some of these beautiful, simple and uplifting words:

**Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.**

**The Lord whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple....  
But who may abide the day of His coming?**

**Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call his  
name Emmanuel, God with us.**

**For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness  
the people; but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall  
be seen upon thee. The people that walked in darkness have  
seen a great light.**

**For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the  
government shall be upon His shoulder; and His name shall be  
Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father,  
the Prince of Peace.**

**There were shepherds ...And lo, the Angel of the Lord came upon  
them.....And the angel said upon them 'Fear not, for behold, I  
bring you good tidings....**onto you is born Christ the Lord....**And  
suddenly there was with them a multitude of the heavenly host,  
praising God...Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth,  
good will towards men....Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion...  
Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened.....**He shall feed his  
flock like a shepherd; and He shall gather the lambs with His  
arm...Come onto Him all ye that labour.....and ye shall find rest.****

*Lotte*

## BAPTISMS - DEATHS - BIRTHDAYS

### BAPTISMS



Simon, Khyle Daniel  
Grigeleviciute, Melita  
Asiedu-Latsu, Churchill  
Edzordozinam  
Ezedum, Kaito Chike  
Alappat, Ralph Franc  
Gedzius, Matas  
Gabasie, Chidubem Jason  
Drisakwe, Chinedu Jayden

### DEATHS



Janette Mc Lachlan Nolan  
Bridget Doherty, 18 October  
Maureen Doherty, 15  
October  
Ann Hemming  
Evelyn Lucraft

### BIRTHDAYS



We wish everybody who has celebrated his/her birthday  
this summer, especially all octogenarians and  
nonagenarians – or even older!

### PARISH SICK LIST

Antonias /Pat Athey /Tony Burton /Betty Dockney,/ James  
Donaldson/ Caroline Glazebrook/ Mark Griffiths/ Mike Griffiths/  
Beryl Green/ Sadie Harris/ Ann Hemming/ Bob Hodkinson/ Ann  
Lindley/ Pauline McSherry/ Cathy McNeil/ Owen McDonagh/ Maria  
De Rosa/ Debbie Roper/ Helen Seaman/ Renee Thomas/ Sylvia  
Waddilove/ Susan Young

## **DIARY**

**THE POSADA** - During Advent a statue of the Holy Family on their way to Bethlehem makes its way round the parish. If you would like to host the Holy Family for a night please sign the list in church.

**NEW LECTIONARIES** - On Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December, a new translation of the readings of Mass comes into force throughout England and Wales. Very many thanks to the benefactors who have covered the cost of the books for Our Lady's, Holy Family and the Hospital chapel. If you have your own missal you will need to obtain a new edition from C.T.S or Hodder. (Details are available in church or on line)

**THE ADVENT CAROL SERVICE** will take place in Holy Family Church on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 7:00pm. As usual it will be followed by Mulled Wine, Mince Pies and other Nibbles, please, if you can bring something to nibble - Mince pie or sweetmeats please do so.

I was informed that the children of **St Martha's School** will be singing at the service.

**ELDERS' GROUP - CARELINE COMMUNITY SERVICE** have visited the Elders' at Holy Family Church on Tuesday November 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:30. **Careline** may be of interest to other parishioners too. There are other services of that nature that are available for the elderly through the Borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk. The Elders' Group is meeting every other Tuesday throughout the year, except for Easter and during the Christmas season. The **Careline** website is: <https://www.careline-cs.org.uk/>

## **Key Dates for Young People 2025** **15th March Flame**

The Diocese will be taking a group to join around 10, 000 people in Wembley Arena, experiencing the best in speakers and musicians from around the world.

### **3rd – 4th May Ignite Festival**

An amazing weekend of music, entertainment, food and faith. For everyone Year 8 upwards.

### **28th July – 4th August Pilgrimage to Rome**

To celebrate the Jubilee of Youth, we're taking a group on pilgrimage to Rome. If you will be 16+, come and join us.

Details of our events and pilgrimages are listed on the Youth Ministry home page.

**The Ignite Team also runs various events on behalf of individual parishes and schools including retreats, school missions and youth Masses. For more information on what the Ignite Team can offer to parishes and schools [click here](#). If you would like to book us to come to your parish or school, or for more info, contact [igniteteam@rcdea.org.uk](mailto:igniteteam@rcdea.org.uk).**

**Glow Days:** These are one-day events run by the Ignite Team in local areas around the Diocese. The day is composed of dynamic talks, interactive workshops, activities, music and opportunities for prayer and reflection. If you would like to find out more, or would like to help bring a *Glow* day to your local area, please contact us on [igniteteam@rcdea.org.uk](mailto:igniteteam@rcdea.org.uk).

### **The 2024 National Eucharistic Congress**

The National Eucharistic Congress took place at Oscott College on Saturday. (15th Sept). It took place to coincide with the 53rd International Eucharistic Congress in Quito, Ecuador from 8th – 15th September 2024. On September 15<sup>th</sup> we had a period of Adoration in Our Lady's Church to unite the faithful in focusing on the Eucharist in anticipation of the Jubilee Year with renewed and deepened devotion:

There is a Youtube message for the National Eucharistic Congress from Bishop Timothy Menezes which you can watch by clicking into the following link:

<https://youtu.be/cAxr68Nhgm4?si=HPbWMW4GbBai-opZ>



## A MEMORABLE EASTER

I was born in December 1962 on the south coast not far from Brighton and baptised the following year in the Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd at Shoreham-by-sea – known locally as the “Church on the Beach” as this picture clearly shows.



There were, of course, no mobile phones back then, but somebody had a camera, as the family album contains just one photograph from that day of me being held

here by my paternal grandfather George Collins. Growing up I attended the local Methodist Church where my mother, along with several neighbours, helped to run the Sunday school. My first proper school, an Anglican church school, was very traditional with daily assemblies accompanied by prayers and hymns – and I can still recall the words of many of those hymns more than 50 years later.



Some we still sing in church today although two of my favourites “At the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow” and “God is love, His the care” sadly rarely make an appearance.

A move inland to the village of Warnham, still in Sussex, gave me the opportunity of a free place at the grammar school in Horsham (despite both my parents working they wouldn’t have been able to afford school fees) which again had a strong Christian ethos.

The one O-Level that, along with Maths and English, everybody had to take was Religious Education, taught by Reverend Hughes who'd travelled widely and had even done missionary work in the Himalayas. Once again, assemblies were the order of the day and on Tuesday's and Thursday's our Housemaster always included that wonderful quote from the book of Ecclesiastes: "Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say I take no pleasure in them" – a timely reminder that our childhood and schooldays should be some of the happiest of our lives before the pressures of work, mortgages etc loom large.

In 1980, the family upped sticks and moved to East Anglia and a bungalow in Wisbech – which nearly 45 years later my mother still lives in! I came up by train, a long slow journey back then, and after the rolling hills of Sussex the landscape north of Cambridge seemed very flat and bleak. Then through the carriage window I spotted what looked like a fairytale castle atop higher ground. This, I learned, was Ely Cathedral – a place I visited as soon as I was able and a place I grew very attached to. It still holds a special place for me today and despite the journey from Wisbech I would often attend services there. In 1993, it was time for me to get on the property ladder myself and I moved across the border into Norfolk where several years later I would meet Sandra. It was then that I started to go to Our Lady's and Holy

Family churches on a regular basis and we were married in Our Lady's in July 2009 at a lovely service with Deacon John officiating. After many years of attending Mass here in King's Lynn, and with Sandra as my sponsor, I was finally admitted as a full member of the Catholic church at Easter time this year – something that had been on my 'to do' list for far too long! Work and other commitments meant that going along to the Adult Initiation Classes when these were held on weekday evenings was always going to be difficult. I came close to signing up when Father Henry was helping in the parish but then realised that there would be 3 occasions when I would have to miss a class, and I was determined that when I did sign up, I'd want to be able to attend the whole course.

Last year everything fell into place and so, along with Sam, Andy and Richard, who all lived locally, and Sue from Holt and Dave from Holbeach I started to attend classes in the Wrigglesworth Room on Sunday afternoons - led by Father Gordon and ably supported by Deacon Shaun, Deacon Martin and Seminarian Anthony. We were also joined for the first couple of sessions by Tracy McGovern who leads first Holy Communion classes for the children and I really enjoyed these relaxed, informal gatherings where much was learned and discussed.



As the course drew to a close there was plenty to do: first confessions; paperwork to complete; and the opportunity to attend the Rite of Election at the Cathedral in Norwich. Here, along with our sponsors we

met Bishop Peter who was amused that he and I shared the same surname!

Afterwards there was the opportunity to meet others from the Diocese who were embarking on the same journey and to enjoy some tea and cake.

Good Friday soon arrived and with it a fine, dry evening for the Easter Vigil which as usual began outside beneath the stars. During the service we were all able to participate fully in the Eucharist for the first time, a truly wonderful experience. Afterwards, I was touched - but not altogether surprised - at the number of parishioners, many of whom I didn't know even by sight, who came up offering their congratulations. The reason I wasn't surprised was because I have always received a very warm welcome at church from my first days of

attending.

I must give a special mention here to Pauline McSherry who usually sat in front of us when we attended Saturday Mass and who was



*Left to right: Sam, Andy, Richard and Mark.*

always very encouraging and welcoming. We all miss seeing her church and as she was a regular contributor of articles for The Grapevine. I do hope she enjoys reading this.

I am glad to have been able to assist at Mass every weekend since Easter, including on a recent holiday in Malta – once at St Paul's Bay (where the apostle was shipwrecked in AD 60) and once in Valletta at the magnificent St.

John's Cathedral. At weekends I'm often in Wisbech on caring duties at my mother's so I sometimes go to Mass there. I also have to visit Downham Market most weekends too so from time to time I attend Mass at St Dominic's in the town. A few weeks ago, I had a Saturday Afternoon meeting in Ely and afterwards went to Mass there, where I was pleased that Fr David Finnegan remembered my name after all these years. He hasn't aged a bit although he did say that when he left our parish, he remembered me having a bit more hair!

So, if you see Sandra and Georgina in church and wonder where I am,



God willing I shall be at Mass somewhere else in the Diocese. And if you don't see any of us then we're probably in Norwich visiting family and celebrating Mass at the Cathedral!

## HEALTHCARE WORKERS RECEIVE ST LUKE'S BLESSING.



To mark the Feast of St Luke, the Holy Family Church in King's Lynn honoured healthcare workers by giving the Blessing of St Luke to over 100 parishioners working in hospitals, pharmacies and other medical roles.

The healthcare workers in attendance reflected a diverse range of nationalities, including English, Filipino, Keralan, Nigerian and Polish. These individuals are not only regular attendees at Mass but are also actively involved in parish life, serving as readers, eucharistic ministers, or helping with tasks like preparing teas, arranging flowers, and working with the Knights of St Columba (KSC).

Fr Peter Rollings said: "It's common to see them praying in the hospital chapel before starting their shifts or taking moments for reflection during breaks."

## SVP Society - A member celebrates

St Mary's Conference, King's Lynn



The work of the society of St Vincent de Paul began in our parish in the fifties. I have been told that the floods of 1953 brought members to the fore and the society's work has never ceased in our parish or community.

In very recent years age has caught up and membership decreased. An appropriate time to say thank you to all members past and present.

At our SVP Mass for the Sick, tribute was paid to Pat Carney for

her dedicated service to the society over fifty years. A framed certificate and medal were presented by Pauline who very soon had the attention of all in Holy Family. Well! Once a teacher ...!

Our active, perhaps not too active members these days, need younger folk if the work of St Mary's SVP Conference here in Lynn is to continue.

Thank you, Pat, for your devoted service to SVP in our parish and beyond.

A word of thanks too to John, your husband. God bless you both and your family. May your inspiring example encourage younger parishioners to continue the work of SVP.

Our thanks and love from your brothers and sisters in St Mary's Conference in King's Lynn. St Vincent de Paul, pray for us.

**Pauline McSherry**



**The Holy Father has decided that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, something which happens every 25 years.**

The theme is "Pilgrims of Hope", and is a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis.

Preparations for the 2025 Year of Jubilee began in Advent 2023, which marked the start of a year of prayer. The Bishops' Conference have produced resources for the preparatory year of prayer, focusing on the Our Father, as well as resources about Jubilee in the Catholic Church.



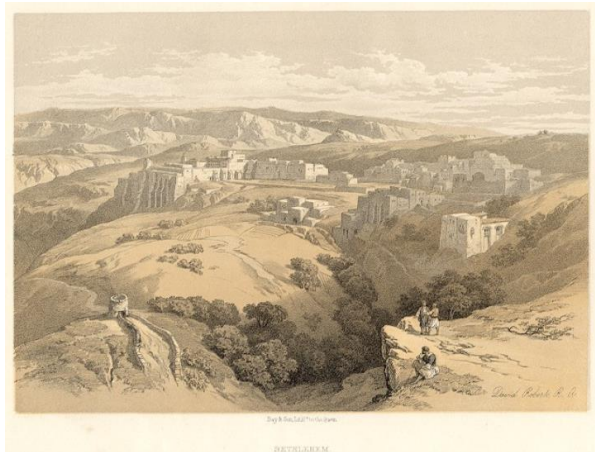
## **“WELCOME, MY GOD, MY LORD, AND MY SON”**

“WELCOME, MY GOD, MY LORD, AND MY SON” There is a good chance that over the next few weeks you will send or receive a Christmas card reproducing this painting. In the dawn of the first Christmas, Our Lady kneels beside the newborn Jesus, who lies on a bed of hay placed on the folds of her mantle. As she gazes tenderly upon her Child, He



reaches up to her with tiny hands and she is illuminated by His divine radiance. It is an exquisitely beautiful painting, which poignantly captures both Our Lady's love for her Child and her reverence for His divinity. The painting is earlier than you might imagine. It was painted around 1520 by an Italian artist called Antonio Correggio, who takes his name from his birthplace, near Parma. Correggio was a near contemporary of Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo and Raphael, and he was once almost as famous. His star, alas, has dimmed somewhat. But this Christmas card reminds us of his almost miraculous ability to render, in mere paint, the effects of light and shadow and the softness of flesh and fabrics. The composition is not entirely the work of Correggio's imagination. It was inspired by a description by St Bridget of Sweden of a vision she had experienced on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. In her Revelations (1372), the saint recalls that: '... the Virgin knelt on the ground with great reverence as if in prayer, with her hands stretched out in front of her ... The newborn suddenly appeared on the ground radiating an ineffable light ... She said to the Child: 'Welcome, my God, my Lord, and my Son'.

*Many thanks to the parishioner who sent in this beautiful reflection.*



**View of Bethlehem, 1857 by David Roberts, R.A.**

## MEDITATION



This picture by Rosie is like a prayer. The prayer comes from within the person in a long blue wrapping, whom we only see from the back, and her prayer is corresponding with the heavenly light. The heavenly light is responding. There is a lifegiving exchange. The world is pale and sleepy.

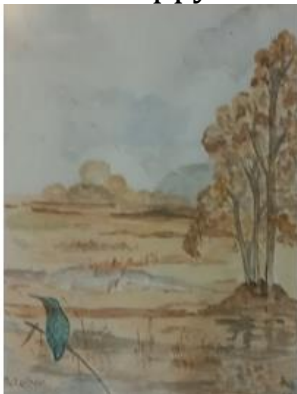
## PAGE FOR THE ELDERLY



The Elders' Group have celebrated their 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary this January.

They are meeting every other Tuesday at the Holy Family Church.

The Elders' Group would be happy to welcome newcomers.



**Paintings by Pauline McSherry who is now residing at Goodwins Hall Care Home on Goodwins Road King's Lynn**

# MINECRAFT ~~GAME~~ GAME





Make the world a  
better place



A happy Christmas to  
all our readers



The 3 pictures to the left are from Taras.

## CHARITY PAGE

# King's Lynn Foodbank

We provide emergency food and practical support to people in their hardest moments. We also work with partners and local communities to ensure everyone gets the right help long before they need a food bank.



*Come and sing with  
Churches Together in King's Lynn*

**Carols on the  
Streets**

*in aid of*

**King's Lynn Night Shelter**

High Street, Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 11am-2pm

Meet at the Night Shelter 10:45am or find us on the High Street  
Warm/waterproof clothes essential, Christmas outfits optional!

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**PARISH MAGAZINE**

December 2024

**The Knights of St Columba**

Our Lady of Walsingham Council no.319

King's Lynn

Support this publication.



The Grape Vine Magazine is printed quarterly.

Please send in your contributions to Lotte Gaberle

for the

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2025

issues, latest 2 weeks ahead of the above deadline.

Many thanks to Peter Martin and to Joe Rodriguez for their  
support and printing skills

