



## 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 — December 22, 2024

Dear Friends,

**Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent.**



The entrance Antiphon for today:

*"Drop down dew from above, you heavens,  
and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let  
the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour"* cf. Isaiah 45:8

The link for the live stream of the **11.30am Mass from Our Lady's** is:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/PLhSH2zFZo?si=x8bjOpAWZT8lPJ6>

**From the Office of Readings for the 22nd December:**

**A reading from the Commentary of St. Bede on St. Luke's Gospel.**

*The Magnificat*

*And Mary said: My soul proclaims the*

*greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in  
God my Saviour.*



The Lord has exalted me by a gift so great, so unheard of, that language is useless to describe it; and the depths of love in my heart can scarcely grasp it. I offer then all the powers of my soul in praise and thanksgiving. As I contemplate his greatness, which knows no limits, I joyfully surrender my whole life, my senses, my judgement, for my spirit rejoices in the eternal Godhead of that Jesus, that Saviour, whom I have conceived in this world of time.

*The Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.*

Mary looks back to the beginning of her

song, where she said: *My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.* Only that soul for whom the Lord in his love does great things can proclaim his greatness with fitting praise and encourage those who share her desire and purpose, saying: *Join with me in proclaiming the greatness of the Lord; let us extol his name together.*

Those who know the Lord, yet refuse to proclaim his greatness and sanctify his name to the limit of their power, *will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven.* His name is called holy because in the sublimity of his unique power he surpasses every creature and is far removed from all that he has made.

*He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy.*

In a beautiful phrase Mary calls Israel the servant of the Lord. The Lord came to his aid to save him. Israel is an obedient and humble servant, in the words of Hosea: *Israel was a servant, and I loved him.*

Those who refuse to be humble cannot be saved. They cannot say with the prophet: *See, God comes to my aid; the Lord is the helper of my soul.* But *anyone who makes himself humble like a little child is greater in the kingdom of heaven.*

*The promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever.*

This does not refer to the physical descendants of Abraham, but to his spiritual children. These are his descendants, sprung not from the flesh only, but who, whether circumcised or not, have followed him in faith. Circumcised as he was, Abraham believed, and this was credited to him as an act of righteousness.

The coming of the Saviour was promised to Abraham and to his descendants for ever. These are the children of promise, to whom it is said: *If you belong to Christ, then you are descendants of Abraham, heirs in accordance with the promise.*

But it is right that before the birth of the

Lord or of John, their mothers should utter prophecies; for just as sin began with a woman, so too does redemption. Through the deceit of one woman, grace perished; the prophecies of two women announce its return to life.

### **Responsory**

- ℟. All generations will call me blessed, for the Almighty has done great things for me.\* Holy is his name.
- ℣. His mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him.\* Holy is his name.

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**In his Christmas message, Bishop Peter Collins says that enduring hope is only discovered through an encounter with God.**

Source: <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/bishop-peter-says-encounter-god-for-an-enduring-hope/>

Bishop Peter's message can be watched on YouTube. The link is:

<https://youtu.be/DcydZtUSljk?si=7w5jiuhsUeMZTIus>

The full text of the message is:

At a time when the spiritual and moral principles which anchor the foundations and integrity of our common humanity are threatened or even discarded, we should not be surprised that chaos flourishes in human society and in human hearts. True hope is not conjured up by false optimism. Enduring hope is only discovered through an encounter with God.

As Christmas approaches, I proclaim the words of the prophet Isaiah: "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light."

As Christmas approaches, I rejoice to announce that God has come in search of those who are lost.

Over two thousand years ago, when Quirinius was the Roman Governor of Syria, Mary and Joseph made their way from

Galilee to Judah. In Bethlehem, Mary gave birth to a son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger.

At first sight, the scene is far from comforting. What hope could be found in this most humble scenario?

An angel brought enlightenment to a band of shepherds who were then guided towards the glorious presence of a long awaited Saviour.

Soon after the dawn of creation, human beings had fallen from grace, but finally a New Day dawned when earth would discover the pathway that had long been lost, the pathway of redemptive grace. At the dawn of this New Day, the innocence of the Christ Child confronts, confounds and conquers the darkness of our sin.

The coming of the Christ Child brings the promise that men and women could begin to learn the song of salvation, could once more sing in harmony with the angels: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased.

As Christmas approaches, I proclaim that we are not forsaken but rather we are redeemed, for the Divine Word of God, Jesus Christ, became flesh and dwelt among us and we can behold his glory. How beautiful it is to behold him who brings Good News.

As Christmas approaches, I invite you to search for the light of faith, the light that brings hope, the true and eternal hope that is not deceptive, the hope that powerfully confronts all deception and every distortion.

As Christmas approaches, I offer to you the blessing of peace, the peace that can only be granted by the Saviour: it is from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

As Christmas approaches, I call on you to open your eyes and ears, to open your heart and mind, to open your soul and spirit to God's glorious grace and abundant mercy, made visible in Jesus Christ our Lord and Redeemer, born of Mary on that first

Christmas Day.

I wish you all a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year.

**Rt Rev Peter Collins,  
Bishop of East Anglia**

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**Cardinal Vincent Nichols, President of the Bishops' Conference, has sent a short message as we approach Christmas to encourage all our digital followers.**

The Cardinal reads a few verses of an Advent hymn that can be dated to 1854 and is sometimes called 'Our Lady's Expectation', before inviting us to seek the face of Christ this Christmas.

The YouTube link to listen to Cardinal Nichols is:

<https://youtu.be/BxDq3sSwGbs?si=Fz5N2Vy6D5wrGbU4>

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From the Parish Newsletter:

**CHRISTMAS 25TH DECEMBER**

**Tuesday 9pm** -Holy Family Church- Mass During the Night

•**Wednesday 9.30am** Holy Family Church- Mass of the Dawn

•**11.30am** Our Lady's Church- Mass of the Day

**1pm** Our Lady's Church-Lithuanian Mass

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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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