



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, November 23, 2025

From the Office of Readings for Christ the King:

A reading from the book of prayer of Origen on Prayer

Thy Kingdom come

*The coming of the kingdom of God, says our Lord and Saviour, does not admit of observation, and there will be no-one to say "Look here! Look there!" For the kingdom of God is within us and in our hearts. And so it is beyond doubt that whoever prays for the coming of the kingdom of God within himself is praying rightly, praying for the kingdom to dawn in him, bear fruit and reach perfection. For God reigns in every saint, and every saint obeys God's spiritual laws — God, who dwells in him just as he dwells in any well-ordered city. The Father is present in him and in his soul Christ reigns alongside the Father, as it is said: *We will come to him and make our dwelling with him.**

Therefore, as we continue to move forward without ceasing, the kingdom of God within us will reach its perfection in us at that moment when the saying in the Apostle is fulfilled, that Christ, his enemies all made subject to him, shall deliver *the kingdom to God the Father that God may be all in all.*

For this reason let us pray without ceasing, our souls filled by a desire made divine by the Word himself. Let us pray to our Father in heaven: *hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come.*

There is something important that we need to understand about the kingdom of God: just as *righteousness has no partnership with lawlessness*, just as *light has nothing in*



Dear Friends,
Today we celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.

"Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord"

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

<https://youtube.com/live/8etrl0zkiJw?feature=share>



common with darkness and *Christ has no agreement with Belial*, so the kingdom of God and a kingdom of sin cannot co-exist.

So if we want God to reign within us, on no account may *sin rule in our mortal body* but let us mortify our earthly bodies and let us be made fruitful by the Spirit. Then we will be a spiritual garden of Eden for God to walk in. God will rule in us with Christ who will be seated in us on the right hand of God — God, the spiritual power that we pray to receive — until he makes his enemies (who are within us) into his footstool and pours out on us all authority, all power, all strength.

This can happen to any one of us and *death, the last enemy* may be destroyed, so that in us Christ says *Death, where is your sting? Death, where is your victory?* So let our corruptibility be clothed today with holiness and incorruption. With Death dead, let our mortality be cloaked in the Father's immortality. With God ruling in us, let us be immersed in the blessings of regeneration and resurrection.

Responsory

- R.** The dominion of the world has passed to the Lord of us all, and to Christ, his anointed;* he shall reign for ever and ever.
- V.** All races will worship the Lord to whom all sovereignty belongs;* he shall reign for ever and ever.
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Cardinal Vincent Nichols reflects on his time in office as he approaches retirement

Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster and president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, has held office since 2009, and now, just turned 80, he is waiting for a decision that at last he is able to retire.

Sources in Rome have indicated that an announcement is expected "very soon". In this interview with Roger Bolton, the Cardinal suggests the biggest challenge

facing society is the way it is fragmenting and atomising, losing a sense of belonging.

The conversation covered the challenges which have featured in his time in office - moral issues such as abortion and assisted dying, religious literacy in multi-faith Britain, the church and sex abuse, living through Covid and the evolving landscape of Christian unity, which he says is astonishing and brings real hope for the place of religion in society. The interview was recorded just before his 80th birthday.

The interview with Roger Bolton is on YouTube and the link is:

[Cardinal Vincent Nichols reflects on his time in office as he approaches retirement](#)

Message of the Holy Father Pope Leo XIV for the 40th World Youth Day 23 November 2025

"You also are my witnesses, because you have been with me" (Jn 15:27).

Dear young people,

As I begin my first message to you, I would like to say thank you! Thank you for the joy you brought when you came to Rome for your Jubilee, and thank you to all the young people who were united to us through their prayer from every part of the world. It was a precious moment for renewing our enthusiasm for the faith and sharing the hope that burns in our hearts! Rather than being an isolated event, I hope the Jubilee encounter marks for each of you a step forward in Christian life and a strong encouragement to persevere in witnessing to your faith.

That same dynamic is at the heart of the next World Youth Day, which we will celebrate on 23 November, Solemnity of Christ the King, with the theme: "You also are my witnesses, because you have been with me" (Jn 15:27). As pilgrims of hope, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we prepare ourselves to become courageous witnesses of Christ. Let us begin a journey that will lead us to the international World Youth Day

in Seoul in 2027. With this in mind, I would like to focus on two aspects of witness: our friendship with Jesus, which we receive from God as a gift, and our commitment to be builders of peace in society.

Friends, therefore witnesses

Christian witness arises from friendship with the Lord, who was crucified and rose for the salvation of all. This witness is not to be confused with ideological propaganda, for it is an authentic principle of interior transformation and social awareness. Jesus chose to call his disciples “friends.” He made known to them the Kingdom of God, asked them to remain with him, to become his community, and sent them to proclaim the Gospel (cf. Jn 15:15, 27). So when Jesus tells us, “Be witnesses,” he is assuring us that he considers us as his friends. He alone fully knows who we are and why we are here; young people, he knows your heart, your indignation in the face of discrimination and injustice, your desire for truth and beauty, for joy and peace. Through his friendship, he listens to you, motivates you, and guides you, calling each of you to a new life.

The gaze of Jesus, who always wants nothing but our good, precedes us (cf. Mk 10:21). He does not want us to be servants, nor “activists” of a political party; he calls us to be with him as friends, so that our lives may be renewed. And witness arises spontaneously from the joyful newness of this friendship. It is a unique friendship that grants us communion with God, a faithful friendship that helps us discover our dignity and that of others, an eternal friendship that not even death can destroy, because the risen and crucified Lord is its source.

Let us consider the message the Apostle John gives us at the end of the fourth Gospel: “This is the disciple who is bearing witness to these things, and who has written these things; and we know that his testimony is true” (Jn 21:24). The entire preceding account is summarized as a “testimony,” full of gratitude and wonder, from a disciple who never reveals his name, but calls himself “the disciple whom Jesus loved.”

This title reflects a relationship: it is not the name of an individual, but the testimony of a personal bond with Christ. That is what really matters to John: being a disciple of the Lord and feeling loved by him. We understand, then, that Christian witness is the fruit of a relationship of faith and love with Jesus, in whom we find the salvation of our lives. What the Apostle John writes also refers to you, dear young people. You are invited by Christ to follow him and sit beside him, to listen to his heart and share closely in his life! Each one of you is a “beloved disciple” for him, and from this love comes the joy of witness.

Another courageous witness to the Gospel is the Precursor of Jesus, John the Baptist, who came “to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him” (Jn 1:7). Although he enjoyed great fame among the people, he knew well that he was only a “voice” pointing to the Savior when he exclaimed, “Behold, the Lamb of God” (Jn 1:36). His example reminds us that true witnesses do not seek to occupy the centre stage, nor to bind their followers to themselves. True witnesses are humble and inwardly free, above all from themselves, that is, from the pretense of being the center of attention. Therefore, they are free to listen, to understand, and also to speak the truth to everyone, even in the presence of those who are powerful. From John the Baptist, we learn that Christian witness is neither a proclamation of ourselves nor a celebration of our spiritual, intellectual or moral abilities. True witness is recognizing and pointing to Jesus when he appears, as he is the only one who saves us. John recognized him among sinners, immersed in common humanity. To that end, Pope Francis insisted so often that if we do not go beyond ourselves and our comfort zones, if we do not go to the poor and those who feel excluded from the Kingdom of God, we cannot encounter Christ and bear witness to him. We lose the sweet joy of being evangelized and of evangelizing.

Dear friends, I invite each of you to continue to individuate Jesus’ friends and witnesses

in the Bible. As you read the Gospel, you will find that they all discovered the true meaning of life through their living relationship with Christ. Indeed, our deepest questions are not heard or answered by endlessly scrolling on our cell phones, which captures our attention but leaves us with tired minds and empty hearts. This search will not take us far if we keep it closed within ourselves or in narrow confinements. The fulfilment of our authentic desires always comes through going beyond ourselves.

Witnesses, therefore missionaries

In this way, dear young people, with the help of the Holy Spirit, you can become missionaries of Christ in the world. Many of your peers are exposed to violence, forced to use weapons, separated from their loved ones, and compelled to migrate or flee. Many lack education and other essential goods. All share with you the search for meaning and the insecurity that accompanies it, the discomfort of growing social and work pressures, the difficulty of dealing with family crises, the painful feeling of a lack of opportunities, as well as the remorse for mistakes they have made. You can stand alongside other young people, walk with them and show that God, in Jesus, has drawn close to each person. As Pope Francis often said, “Christ shows that God is closeness, compassion and tender love” (Encyclical Letter *Dilexit nos*, 35).

Granted, it is not always easy to bear witness. In the Gospels, we often find tension between acceptance and rejection of Jesus: “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (Jn 1:5). Similarly, the disciple-witness experiences rejection firsthand and sometimes even violent opposition. The Lord does not hide this painful reality: “If they persecuted me, they will persecute you” (Jn 15:20). However, it becomes an opportunity to put into practice the greatest commandment: “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (Mt 5:44). That is what the martyrs have done since the beginning of the Church.

Dear young people, this is not a story that belongs only to the past. To this day, in many places around the world, Christians and people of good will suffer persecution, deceit and violence. Perhaps this painful experience has marked you as well, and you may have been tempted to react instinctively by putting yourselves on the same level as those who have rejected you, adopting aggressive attitudes. But let us recall the wise advice of Saint Paul: “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Rom 12:21).

So do not be discouraged: like the saints, you too are called to persevere with hope, especially in the face of difficulties and obstacles.

Fraternity as a bond of peace

From friendship with Christ, which is a gift of the Holy Spirit within us, there arises a way of life that bears the character of fraternity. Young people who have encountered Christ bring the “warmth” and “flavour” of fraternity wherever they go, and anyone who comes into contact with them is drawn into a new and profound dimension, made up of selfless closeness, sincere compassion and genuine tenderness. The Holy Spirit enables us to see our neighbour with new eyes: in the other person there is a brother, a sister!

The witness of fraternity and peace that friendship with Christ awakens in us casts off indifference and spiritual laziness, helping us to overcome closed-mindedness and suspicion. It also builds bonds between us, urging us to work together, from volunteerism to “political charity,” to build new living conditions for all. Do not follow those who use the words of faith to divide; instead, make plans to remove inequalities and reconcile divided and oppressed communities. To that end, dear friends, let us listen to the voice of God within us and overcome our selfishness, becoming active artisans of peace. That peace, which is a gift of the risen Lord (cf. Jn 20:19), will become visible in the world through the common witness of those who carry his Spirit in their

hearts.

Dear young people, in the face of the world’s sufferings and hopes, let us fix our gaze on Jesus. As he was dying on the cross, he entrusted the Virgin Mary to John as his mother, and John to her as her son. That ultimate gift of love is for every disciple, for each of us. I invite you to welcome this holy bond with Mary, a mother full of affection and understanding, and to cultivate it in particular by praying the Rosary. That way, in every situation of our life, we will experience that we are never alone, for as children we are always loved, forgiven and encouraged by God. Bear witness to this joyfully!

From the Vatican, 7 October 2025, Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Holy Rosary

LEO PP. XIV

Source: <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/youth/documents/20251007-messaggio-xl-gmg.html>

Monday 24th November is the Memorial of Saints Andrew Dũng-Lạc and his Companions, Martyrs.

From Universalis:

Saints Andrew Dũng-Lạc and his Companions
The evangelization of Vietnam began in the 16th century and was formally established with the setting up of two Vicariates Apostolic in 1659. There are now about 6 million Catholics in Vietnam, some 10% of the population.

This growth comes partly from the fact that since the earliest times the seed of the Faith has been watered by the blood of the martyrs of Vietnam – the missionary clergy, the local clergy and the ordinary Christian people. They have all shared the labour of apostolic work and have together faced death to bear witness to the truth of the Gospel. In the course of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries no less than 53 decrees, signed by the lords and emperors of the

country from 1625 to 1886, launched one persecution of Christians after another, each one more savage than the last. Over the whole territory of Vietnam about 130,000 Christians were killed in these persecutions. Over the centuries the names of most of them have been lost, but their memory is still alive in the Catholic community.

Since the beginning of the 20th century 117 of these heroes (those whose sufferings were cruellest and best documented) were beatified, in four groups. They were all canonized together by Pope John Paul II on 19 June 1988.

Each one of them was a soul individually created and loved by God, with a life and gifts uniquely his or her own; but with such a huge crowd one can only classify. By nationality, there were 96 Vietnamese, 11 Spanish and 10 French. By status, there were 8 bishops, 50 priests, and 59 laymen and women. By mode of death, 75 were beheaded, 22 strangled, 6 burned alive, 5 torn to pieces while still alive, and 9 died of torture in prison.

Source: <https://universalis.com/europe.england.eastanglia/20251124/today.htm>

The link to our YouTube channel is: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8V030I7usRZiKoTlrwBAKg>

And the link to our Parish Website: <https://cpkl.org>

God bless,

Shaun

Deacon Shaun Morrison

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