



# 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 06, 2023

Dear Friends,

Today is the **Anniversary of the Dedication of the Church**. (Our Lady's Church was consecrated on 6th August 1947 by Bishop Leo Parker) A great day for the whole Parish of Our Lady of the Annunciation.

Collect for the Anniversary of the Dedication of the Church:

*O God, who year by year renew for us the day when this your holy temple was consecrated, hear the prayers of your people and grant that in this place for you there may always be pure worship and for us, fullness of redemption. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

As you will know, 6th August is also the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord so at Mass the readings will be for the Transfiguration.

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

<https://www.youtube.com/live/ROJC-HLt7Jg?feature=share>

**From the Office of Readings for the Anniversary of the Dedication of the Church.**

**A reading from the homilies of Origen on the book of Joshua**

*We are built up as living stones into the house and altar of God*

All of us who believe in Christ Jesus are said to be living stones, according to the words of Scripture: *But you are living stones, built as a spiritual house in a holy priesthood, that you may offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

When we look at an earthly building, we can see that the larger and stronger stones are the first to be set in place as the foundation, so that the weight of the whole structure may rest on them securely. In the same way, understand that some of the living stones become the foundation of the spiritual building. What are these living stones placed in the foundation? They are the apostles and prophets. That is what Paul says when he teaches: *We have been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with our Lord Jesus Christ himself as the cornerstone.*

You, my hearers, must learn that Christ himself is also the foundation of the building we are now describing, so that you may prepare yourselves more eagerly for the construction of this building and become stones that lie closer to the foundation. As the apostle Paul says: *No foundation can be laid other than the one that has been laid already: I mean Christ Jesus.* Blessed are those, therefore, who build a religious and holy structure upon such a noble foundation.

In this building of the Church, there must also be an altar. I think that if those of you, disposed and eager for prayer, offer petitions and prayers of supplication to God day and night, you will become the living stones for the altar which Jesus is building.

Consider what praise is ascribed to these stones which make up the altar. All of us who believe in Christ Jesus are said to be living stones, according to the words of Scripture: But you are living stones, built as a spiritual house in a holy priesthood, that you may offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Therefore, these who were able to pray with one mind, one voice and one spirit, are perhaps worthy to form together one altar, where Jesus may offer his sacrifice to the Father.

Let us strive to agree among ourselves and to have one mind and voice. May we never quarrel or act from vainglory. But may we remain united in belief and purpose. Then even we may hope to become stones fit for the altar.

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Wednesday (9th Aug) is the **Feast of St. Benedicta of the Cross, Virgin and Martyr. Patron of Europe. (Also known as Edith Stein)**

Edith Stein was born into a practising Jewish family. She had a distinguished career as a philosopher and received a doctorate at the University of Freiburg, but her academic career was impeded because she was a woman.

Reading the autobiography of Saint Teresa of Ávila brought about her conversion to Catholicism and she was baptised on 1 January 1922. She taught at a Dominican girls' school and studied Catholic philosophy. She became a lecturer at the Institute for Pedagogy at Münster but was thrown out of her post in 1933 as a result of the Nazi régime's anti-Semitic legislation.

She entered a Carmelite monastery in Cologne and **took the name Teresa Benedicta of the Cross**. Her order moved her to the Netherlands to keep her safe from the growing Nazi threat. While a Carmelite she wrote an important philosophical book, seeking to combine the phenomenology of her former teacher Edmund Husserl with the philosophy of Aquinas, and she also wrote on St John of the Cross.

On 20 July 1942 the Dutch Bishops' Conference had a statement read in all churches condemning Nazi racism. In retaliation the authorities ordered the arrest of all Jewish converts to Christianity. Teresa Benedicta was taken to Auschwitz and killed on 9 August 1942.

**From the homily of John Paul II for the canonisation of Edith Stein -Sunday, 11 October 1998**

*"Far be it from me to glory except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Gal 6:14).*

*St Paul's words to the Galatians, which we have just heard, are well suited to the human and spiritual experience of Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, who has been solemnly enrolled among the saints today. She too can repeat with the Apostle: Far be it from me to glory except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*The Cross of Christ! Ever blossoming, the tree the Cross*

*continues to bear new fruits of salvation. This is why believers look with confidence to the Cross, drawing from its mystery of love the courage and strength to walk faithfully in the footsteps of the crucified and risen Christ. Thus the message of the Cross has entered the hearts of so many men and women and changed their lives.*

*The spiritual experience of Edith Stein is an eloquent example of this extraordinary interior renewal. A young woman in search of the truth has become a saint and martyr through the silent workings of divine grace: Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, who from heaven repeats to us today all the words that marked her life: "Far be it from me to glory except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ".*

*On 1 May 1987, during my Pastoral Visit to Germany, I had the joy of beautifying this generous witness to the faith in the city of Cologne. Today, 11 years later, here in Rome, in St Peter's Square, I am able solemnly to present this eminent daughter of Israel and faithful daughter of the Church as a saint to the whole world.*

*Today, as then, we bow to the memory of Edith Stein, proclaiming the indomitable witness she bore during her life and especially by her death. Now alongside Teresa of Avila and Thérèse of Lisieux, another Teresa takes her place among the host of saints who do honour to the Carmelite Order.*

*Dear brothers and sisters who have gathered for this solemn celebration, let us give glory to God for what he has accomplished in Edith Stein.*

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Thursday (10th Aug) is the **Feast of St. Lawrence**, Deacon & Martyr.

From Universalis: (noting the different way the name is spelt between Universalis and the Roman Missal)

Laurence was one of the seven deacons of the Church of Rome and was executed on 10th August 258, four days after Sixtus II and his companions. By now, few of the facts of his life are known for certain: he was probably a Spaniard from Toledo.

A basilica was built over Laurence's tomb fifty years after his death, by the Emperor Constantine, and the anniversary of his martyrdom was kept as a solemn feast – with considerably more solemnity than that of Pope Sixtus II (we do not know why). By the sixth century, it was one of the most important feasts throughout much of western Christendom. His name occurs (with Sixtus's) in the Roman Canon of the Mass.

<https://universalis.com/europe.england.eastanglia/20230810/today.htm>

From the Office of Readings:

**A sermon preached by St Augustine on the feast day of St Laurence**

The Roman Church commends this day to us as the blessed Laurence's day of triumph, on which he trod down the world as it roared and raged against him; spurned it as it coaxed and wheedled him; and in each case, conquered the devil as he persecuted him. For in that Church, you see, as you have regularly been told, he performed the office of deacon; it was there that he administered the sacred chalice of Christ's blood; there that he

shed his own blood for the name of Christ. The blessed apostle John clearly explained the mystery of the Lord's supper when he said *Just as Christ laid down his life for us, so we too ought to lay down our lives for the brethren*. St Laurence understood this, my brethren, and he did it; and he undoubtedly prepared things similar to what he received at that table. He loved Christ in his life, he imitated him in his death.

And we too, brethren, if we truly love him, let us imitate him. After all, we shall not be able to give a better proof of love than by imitating his example; *for Christ suffered for us, leaving us an example, so that we might follow in his footsteps*. In this sentence the apostle Peter appears to have seen that Christ suffered only for those who follow in his footsteps, and that Christ's passion profits none but those who follow in his footsteps. The holy martyrs followed him, to the shedding of their blood, to the similarity of their sufferings. The martyrs followed, but they were not the only ones. It is not the case, I mean to say, that after they crossed, the bridge was cut; or that after they had drunk, the fountain dried up.

The garden of the Lord, brethren, includes – yes, it truly includes – includes not only the roses of martyrs but also the lilies of virgins, and the ivy of married people, and the violets of widows. There is absolutely no kind of human beings, my dearly beloved, who need to despair of their vocation; Christ suffered for all. It was very truly written about him: *who wishes all men to be saved, and to come to the acknowledgement of the truth*.

So let us understand how Christians ought to follow Christ, short of the shedding of blood, short of the danger of suffering death. The Apostle says, speaking of the Lord Christ, *Who, though he was in the form of God, did not think it robbery to be equal to God*. What incomparable greatness! *But he emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, and being made in the likeness of men, and found in condition as a man*. What unequalled humility!

Christ humbled himself: you have something, Christian, to latch on to. *Christ became obedient*. Why do you behave proudly? After running the course of these humiliations and laying death low, Christ ascended into heaven: let us follow him there. Let us listen to the Apostle telling us, *If you have risen with Christ, savour the things that are above us, seated at God's right hand*.

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**Date for your diary —**

**Sunday 20th August — Red Mount Procession**

Our annual procession to the Red Mount Procession as part of our Assumption celebrations in honour of Our Lady of Walsingham will be on Sunday 20th August beginning at 3pm from Our Lady's Church. Please put this act of witness in your diaries. It is always such a lovely occasion.

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The link to our YouTube channel is:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8V03017usRZiKoTlrwBAKq>

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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