



# 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 24, 2023

Dear Friends,

This year as the Fourth Sunday of Advent falls on Christmas Eve I thought I would send this email earlier than normal because tomorrow afternoon I will be sending my Christmas email.

With all the busyness we will be undertaking in our preparations for The Nativity of the Lord, it will be important to pause and reflect on the Fourth Sunday of Advent and on Mary's obedience and trust in God.

*"I am the handmaid of the Lord, 'said Mary, 'let what you have said be done to me.*



Mass times for the Fourth Sunday of Advent:

6.00pm at Our Lady's.

9.30am at Holy Family.

11.30am at Our Lady's

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

<https://www.youtube.com/live/hqohSQLtGy0?si=9U-HgGQ6YZ2kfEdi>

### From the Sunday Missal:

The Gospel of this Fourth Sunday of Advent proposes to us the account of the Annunciation (Lk 1: 26-38), the mystery to which we return every day in reciting the Angelus. This prayer makes us relive the decisive moment at which God knocked at Mary's heart and, having received her "yes", began to take flesh, in her and from her. The collect of

today's Mass is the same as the one we recite at the end of the Angelus. With only a few days until the Feast of Christmas, we are invited to fix our gaze on the ineffable mystery that Mary treasured for nine months in her virginal womb: the mystery of God who is made man.  
(Pope Benedict XVI)

### From the Office of Readings for 24th December:

#### A reading from a sermon by St. Augustine.

*Truth sprang from the earth and justice looked down from heaven*

Awake, mankind! For your sake God has become man. Awake, you who sleep, rise up from the dead, and Christ will enlighten you. I tell you again: for your sake, God became man.

You would have suffered eternal death, had he not been born in time. Never would you have been freed from sinful flesh, had he not taken on himself the likeness of sinful flesh. You would have suffered everlasting unhappiness, had it not been for this mercy. You would never have returned to life, had he not shared your death. You would have been lost if he had not hastened to your aid. You would have perished, had he not come.

Let us then joyfully celebrate the coming of our salvation and redemption. Let us celebrate the festive day on which he who is the great and eternal day came from the great and endless day of eternity into our own short day of time.

*He has become our justice, our sanctification, our redemption, so that, as it is written: Let him who glories glory in the Lord.*

*Truth, then, has arisen from the earth: Christ who said, I am the Truth, was born of the Virgin. And justice looked down from heaven: because believing in this new-born child, man is justified not by himself but by God.*

*Truth has arisen from the earth: because the Word was made flesh. And justice looked down from heaven: because every good gift and every perfect gift is from above.*

*Truth has arisen from the earth: flesh from Mary. And justice looked down from heaven: for man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven.*

*Justified by faith, let us be at peace with God: for justice and peace have embraced one another. Through our Lord Jesus Christ: for Truth has arisen from the earth. Through whom we have access to that grace in which we stand, and our boast is in our hope of God's glory. He does not say: "of our glory," but of God's glory: for justice has not come out of us but has looked down from heaven. Therefore he who glories, let him glory, not in himself, but in the Lord.*

For this reason, when our Lord was born of the Virgin, the message of the angelic voices was: *Glory to God in the highest, and peace to men of good will.*

For how could there be peace on earth unless *Truth has arisen from the earth*, that is, unless Christ were born of our flesh? And *he is our peace who made the two into one*: that we might be men of good will, sweetly linked by the bond of unity.

Let us then rejoice in this grace, so that our glorying may bear witness to our good conscience by which we glory, not in ourselves, but in the Lord. That is why Scripture says: *He is my glory, the one who lifts up my head.* For what greater grace could God have made to dawn on us than to make his only Son become the son of man, so that a son of man might in his turn become son of God?

Ask if this were merited; ask for its reason, for its justification, and see whether you will find any other answer but sheer grace.

### **Responsory**

- ℟. A shoot shall grow from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall spring from his roots.\* Round his waist he shall wear the belt of justice, and good faith shall be the girdle round his body.
- ℣. The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, a spirit of wisdom and understanding, a spirit of counsel and power.\* Round his waist he shall wear the belt of justice, and good faith shall be the girdle round his body.

For preparations you may like to spend time listening to a Christmas message from Our Bishop:

The YouTube link is:

[Bishop Peter Collins Christmas Message Dec 2023](#)

The link to read the message is:

<https://www.rcdea.org.uk/bishop-proclaims-peace-and-joy-that-will-overcome-all/>

From part of a homily that I preached a few years on the Fourth Sunday of Advent:

Perhaps our prayer for the remaining few hours until Christmas should be that as even today God is still searching for hearts, he might find our hearts and find them willing to say "Yes" and to commit to his service. May the approach of

Christmas truly cause our hearts to sing for joy with a renewed and strengthened willingness to serve God in whatever way he wills for our lives. The encounter between Mary and the angel assures us that we can call upon the Lord to move us, to give us the grace and strength we need. May we, when Christmas comes, truly celebrate that God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only son so that we could have life through him and know that he is walking with us as we face each and every day.

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Christmas Mass times:

**9.00pm 24th Dec**, Mass during the night at Holy Family Church.

Christmas Day:

**9.30am** Mass of the Dawn at Holy Family Church.

**11.30am** Mass of the Day at Our Lady's Church.

**1pm** Lithuanian Mass at Our Lady's Church.

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### **Reminders from the newsletter:**

#### **St. Stephen's Day-Tuesday 26th December.**

Mass is at the Bank Holiday time of 10.30am in Our Lady's Church. It is the feast day of our Deacons and Altarservers and we hope to be enrolling a number of our servers in the Archconfraternity of Saint Stephen, Deacon and Protomartyr, for Altarservers.

#### **Carol Service-Sunday 31st December.**

Our service of Carols by Candlelight with exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will be next Sunday at 4pm in Our Lady's Church followed by refreshments.

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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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