



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, March 17, 2024

Dear Friends,

Today is the Fifth Sunday of Lent.

"A Pure heart create for me, O God."

We now enter into Passiontide:

Passiontide is a name for the last two weeks of Lent, beginning on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, and ending on Holy Saturday. Traditionally statues and crucifixes in Church are veiled from during this period.

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

https://www.youtube.com/live/vzV1K_WJCH8?si=8N3zdcFjZxj7soM

Apologies that the livestream from last Sunday ended during the prayer after communion. When I arrived back into the sacristy following the conclusion of the Mass the laptop had frozen. I rebooted the laptop so hopefully it will work better this week.

From the Sunday Missal for today:

In the imminence of his Passion Jesus declared "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (Jn 12:24). Now is no longer the time for words and discourses; indeed the crucial hour has come for which the Son of God came into the world and although his soul is troubled, he makes himself available to fulfil the Father's will to the end. And this is the will of God: to give eternal life to us who have lost it. However, in order for this to be brought about Jesus dies, like a grain of wheat that God the Father has sown into the world. Indeed, only in this way can a new humanity germinate and grow, free from the dominion of sin and able to live in brotherhood, as sons and daughters of the one Father who is in heaven.

From the Office of Readings for today:

A reading from the Easter letters of St. Athanasius.

We keep the Lord's feast which is coming, not in word but in action

The Word who became all things for us is close to us, our Lord Jesus Christ who promises to remain with us always.

He cries out, saying: "See, I am with you all the days of this age." He is himself the shepherd, the high priest, the way and the door, and has become all things at once for us. In the same way, he has come among us as our feast and holy day as well. The blessed Apostle says of him who was awaited: "Christ has been sacrificed as our Passover." It was Christ who shed his light on the psalmist as he prayed: "You are my joy, deliver me from those surrounding me." True joy, genuine festival, means the casting out of wickedness. To achieve this one must live a life of perfect goodness and, in the serenity of the fear of God, practise contemplation in one's heart.

This was the way of the saints, who in their lifetime and at every stage of life rejoiced as at a feast. Blessed David, for example, not once but seven times rose at night to win God's favour through prayer. The great Moses was full of joy as he sang God's praises in hymns of victory for the defeat of Pharaoh and the oppressors of the Hebrew people. Others had hearts filled always with gladness as they performed their sacred duty of worship, like the great Samuel and the blessed Elijah. Because of their holy lives they gained freedom, and now keep festival in heaven. They rejoice after their pilgrimage in shadows, and now distinguish the reality from the promise.

When we celebrate the feast in our own day, what path are we to take? As we draw near to this feast, who is to be our guide? Beloved, it must be none other than the one whom you will address with me as our Lord Jesus Christ. He says: "I am the way." As blessed John tells us: it is Christ "who takes away the sin of the world." It is he who purifies our souls, as the prophet Jeremiah says: "Stand upon the ways; look and see which is the good path, and you will find in it the way of amendment for your souls."

In former times the blood of goats and the ashes of a calf were sprinkled on those who were unclean, but they were able to purify only the body. Now through the grace of God's Word everyone is made abundantly clean. If we follow Christ closely we shall be allowed, even on this earth, to stand as it were on the threshold of the heavenly Jerusalem, and enjoy the contemplation of that everlasting feast, like the blessed apostles, who in following the Saviour as their leader, showed, and still show, the way to obtain the same gift from God. They said: "See, we have left all things and followed you." We too follow the Lord, and we keep his feast by deeds rather than by words.

Responsory

- ℟. Jesus has entered heaven before us and on our behalf, a lamb without blemish.* He has become high priest of the order of Melchizedek, for ever and ever.
- ℣. Look, there is the Lamb of God: it is he who takes away the sin of the world.* He has become high priest of the order of Melchizedek, for ever and ever.

From the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/>

For the Fifth Sunday of Lent there is a Gospel reflection for John 12:20-33, by Sister Elaine, Head of the National Office of Vocation.

The reflection is:

We humans have a natural aversion to death, especially our own death. The challenge from Jesus in this gospel invites us to follow him in his path to death; "If a man serves me, he must follow me."

The crucial difference in Jesus' way of living his life, is that he sees it from a universal perspective... an outer-space universe, infinite-time, perspective. Pain, suffering and even death is a blip in the bigger picture of what we are called to share in when we follow Jesus. He sees this life not as the central purpose of existence, but at the service of our life, existence, salvation... "It was for this very reason I have come to this hour." Humanly, it is hard even for Jesus, but he shows us it can be done.

The point is not simply the death, it is the giving of everything he has, to us, because of love, because God is our life-originator and sustainer. The point is that nothing will be too much for his purpose of giving us life, so that we can be with him forever. We are that precious to God!

So, for us, Jesus says, "wherever I am, my servant will be there too." To be a servant means to follow the master all over the place, always ready to respond to his wishes. The reassuring thing is that this goes both ways. Where we go as Jesus' servants, or where we see servants of Jesus, we know that Jesus is there too. His servants will be those who do the work of bringing life to the world, those building up the Kingdom of God, those proclaiming the Good News through their words and actions.

Following Jesus' example to give of ourselves, even through suffering and exhaustion, even to death, for the sake of our fellow humans loved by God... that "grain" of our offering will bring life also, multiplying itself in a sacred pass-it-on liturgy of praise, glorifying the Father, and honouring Jesus.

In the end, Jesus prays, "Father, glorify your name!" just like in the way he taught us to pray, "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name." Jesus' life was at every moment, directed to God the Father. His trust in the divine plan was so absolute, that he would do nothing that was outside the function of God's creative wisdom.

How can we, in our daily lives, transform our thoughts, prayers and actions to those modelled by Jesus?

Sr Elaine Penrice

Head of the National Office of Vocation

Source: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/fifth-sunday-of-lent-reflection/>

Tuesday **19th March** is **The Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.**



Collect:

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that by St. Joseph's intercession your Church may constantly watch over the unfolding of the mysteries of human salvation, whose beginnings you entrusted to his faithful care. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

From the Sunday Missal:

The figure of this great Saint, even though remaining somewhat hidden, is of fundamental importance in the history of salvation. Above all, as part of the tribe of Judah, he united Jesus to the Davidic lineage so that, fulfilling the promises regarding the Messiah, the Son of the Virgin Mary may truly be called the "Son of David". The Gospel of Matthew highlights in a special way the Messianic prophecies which reached fulfilment through the role that Joseph played: the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem; his journey through Egypt, where the Holy Family took refuge; the nickname, the "Nazarene". In all of this he showed himself, like his spouse Mary, an authentic heir of Abraham's faith: faith in God who guides the events of history according to his mysterious salvific plan. His greatness, like Mary's, stands out even more because his mission was carried out in the humility and hiddenness of the house of Nazareth. Moreover, God himself, in the person of his Incarnate Son, chose this way and style of life-humility and hiddenness in his earthly existence. From the example of St. Joseph we all receive a strong invitation to carry out with fidelity, simplicity and modesty the task that Providence has entrusted to us.

Bishop Alan's 80th Birthday.

Bishop Alan celebrates his 80th birthday today (Sunday). He will be offering a Mass of Thanksgiving in the Cathedral on Tuesday at 11.30am and everyone is welcome to join him.

Date for your diary-

Chrism Mass-Tuesday 26th March at 11.30am at the Cathedral.

From the Newsletter:

This Mass is when the Oils for the sacraments are blessed and the priests renew their commitment. The easiest way to get there is on the bus which leaves the bus station at 8.40am (arr 10.25) or 9.10am (arr 10.37). The Cathedral is a ten minute walk from Norwich Bus Station. If you have a bus pass it is free, otherwise it is £2 each way.

THE EASTER TRIDUUM

28th March - Maundy Thursday **8pm OL**
29th March - Good Friday **3pm HF**
30th March - The Easter Vigil **8pm OL**

The Universalis podcast

Universalis has launched a new weekly podcast.

If you want to listen to it the link to the page is:

<https://universalis.com/podcasts.htm?selected=3>

God bless

Shaun

Deacon Shaun Morrison

I cannot end this email without mentioning St. Patrick. As you know St. Patrick's day is 17th March but because this year it falls on a Sunday, the Sunday takes precedence. (5th Sunday of Lent).

But I understand that if you are in Ireland (by special arrangement) St. Patrick will be celebrated even though it is a Sunday.

We can of course still ask St. Patrick to pray for us.

Collect:

O God, who chose the Bishop St Patrick to preach your glory to the peoples of Ireland, grant through his merits and intercession, that those who glory in the name of Christian may never cease to proclaim your wondrous deeds to all. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The link to our YouTube channel is:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8V030I7usRZiKoTlrwBAKq>

And the link to our Parish Website:

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