

St Anne's Parish, Wappenbury
with
Our Lady of the Angels', Princethorpe

13 December 2020

Second Sunday of Advent
Fr Teddy O'Brien MSC - Parish Priest

Year B

The parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham
(Registered Charity Number: 234216) and is conducted, on behalf of the Archdiocese,
by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

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“Consubstantial with the Father....” - Really?

I introduced you to KO-KO the Parish Cat a couple of weeks ago, and last week I introduced you to young Anna. Both are really very like us, you know. They were both quite small and both were welcomed into their adopted home away from their family home. KO-KO became attached to a church while Anna gave an entirely new meaning to ‘church’. Each ‘found’ God and both had their own way of communicating with ‘God’. All the while away from home, they harboured a secret longing but what that really was, it is hard to fathom immediately.

KO-KO, in particular, began to figure out just what being in church meant. You remember he had many conversations with angels and other friends. He puzzled over the goings on in church and never really came to terms with them. Anna, on the other hand, displayed some intriguing insights into quite deep subjects. Hers was a startling insight into church going. *“You went to church to get the message when you were very little”, she said to Flynn. “Once you had got it, you went out and did something about it. Keeping on going to church was because you hadn’t got the message, or didn’t understand it, or it was ‘just for swank’”.*

She has a point there, don’t you think?



Anna was unique as well. She never used the word ‘Jesus’: he was always referred to as ‘Mister God’s boy’ – you remember, she was a smart girl. And when she was introduced to the microscope, well, that really blew her mind – no, her mind was not little! If Mister God had made all those things that Anna saw in the microscope, then he must be something larger that Anna had bargained for. And then came her questions, never ending inquiries. *“Does Mister God love us truly?”* she inquired of Flynn. *“Sure thing”,* was his reply. *“Well then”* - you just knew there was more to come here - *“why does he let things get hurt and dead?”*. *“There’s a great many things about Mister God that we don’t know about”,* Flynn retorted. *“Then, how do we know that he loves us?”* said Anna.

This is one girl who just does not mess with her questions!

Then came the revelation. *“Flynn”, she said. “People can only love outside and can only kiss outside, but Mister God can love you right inside, and Mister God can kiss you right inside..... Mister God ain’t like us: we are a little bit like Mister God, but now much yet”.* And then silence.

As Anna wandered with Flynn through the streets of East London, observing so much loneliness, the insights came thick and fast. (Don’t be concerned, KO-KO has not been forgotten!). “It is the fullness of Mister God that can’t get out or find its proper ‘other place’ that makes for loneliness”, she said. Mister God could be any size he wanted to be, but “if he couldn’t be little (as well), how could he know what it’s like to be a ladybird?!” Perhaps for us it is somewhat different: we often make our God *too* small and so we only go to him when we are really in trouble. How hard we find it to accept that we are not *just* like Mister God but rather made in His very image and likeness, like the broken pieces of glass and broken iron bars that, with Alice in Wonderland, enabled Anna *‘to eat of the cake of imagination’*.
(“Your God is Too Small” - J. B. Philips).



And that’s where Anna and KO-KO come close together. Both puzzled at the religious jargon and the goings on in church. ‘Church rules’ were like “keep off the grass” signs – always keeping you away from the best bits. Being good and kind and generous and so on kept you busy ‘doing’ with little time for ‘being’ - and that is what Mister God (for Anna) and Goldilocks the Archangel (for KOKO) wants us to be. Rules for both, especially Anna, was ‘playing it safe’. Both knew that religion was really about being like Mister God. And the whole point of being alive was to be *like* Mister God and then *“you couldn’t help but be good and kind and loving, could you?”*. Once KOKO realised this, he knew then that he could still chase birds and mice and all that – but for fun now – and Anna could continue to be *“at least one hundred per cent child, complete with giggles, dirty face and breathless wonder”*.

What about you and your Mister God?

(“Mister God, this is Anna” - Flynn; “KO-KO The Church Cat who found love” - Redemptorist Publications)

**Mass streamed live from St Anne's using fb.me/stanneswappenbury
Please see diary below for this week's timings of Mass and Prayer Services**

I hope that celebrating with me for this short service gives you a feeling of community which still remains for all of us.

Have you thought of inviting someone to join with you at one of the streamed Masses thought the week?

Sunday 13 December	9.30am 11.00am	Wappenbury (live stream) Princethorpe	Third Sunday of Advent Covid-19 restrictions apply
Monday 14 December	9.30am	Wappenbury (live stream)	St John of the Cross, priest, Doctor of the Church
Tuesday 15 December	9.30am	Wappenbury (live stream)	
Wednesday 16 December	-----	NO LIVE STREAM MASS TODAY	
Thursday 17 December	9.30am	Wappenbury (live stream)	
Friday 18 December	9.30am	Wappenbury (live stream)	
Saturday 19 December	9.30am	Wappenbury (live stream)	
Sunday 20 December	9.30am 11.00am	Wappenbury (live stream) Princethorpe	Covid-19 restrictions apply

Forward Dates For Your Diary

Monday 14 December	7.00pm	Princethorpe College (Virtually)	Carol Service – Readings and Carols See information below
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**Join In A Virtual Carol Service From Princethorpe College – Monday 14 December At 7.00pm –
Remember To Sign Up If You Would Like To Receive The Link To Join In**

As we are unable to come together with St John's and Fr Hugh at either of our churches it would be wonderful, if you would spend an hour listening to and enjoying the music and Christmas Readings from Princethorpe College.

This year, for the first time, we have the opportunity to join with pupils of the College in a virtual Carol Service. The College has kindly given us the link to register your interest in this event. **You need to register your interest prior to the event.**

Feel free to register at <https://connect.princethorpe.co.uk/event/virtual-carol-service> and the video will be shared with you on Monday 14 December.

St Anne's Church

During Advent, I will continue to stream morning Mass from Wappenbury, apart from Wednesday 16 December. As soon as government regulations permit, I will make provision for a limited number of parishioners to attend daily Mass here with me. I will keep you informed. During the Advent and Christmas period, please let me know if you would like Holy Communion brought to you at your home.

Have you thought of inviting someone to join with you at one of the Masses that are streamed every day at 9.30am?

Masses on Christmas Eve And Christmas Day

Places have been allocated for the parishioners that have contacted Loretta. Please do not just turn up at the door. We have very strict government and archdiocese guidelines to follow. It would be awful to refuse anyone entry to the church.

If you have contacted Loretta I will be in touch to confirm your seats for both the 5.00pm and 9.00pm Masses. To enable as many people as possible to celebrate the Christmas Eve Mass at 9.00pm I intend to live stream this Mass from Princethorpe Chapel

The Christmas Day Mass will be live streamed via Facebook as usual at 9.30am. This will be the only Mass on Christmas Day.

Sebastien, Carolina And Family – Christmas Card

If anyone would like to send Sebastien and Carolina a Christmas Card email Loretta at lkpcurtis@hotmail.com. Loretta has permission to pass it onto to any parishioner that would like to make contact.

**Re-Opening Of Our Churches – Currently No Parish Mass Available At St Anne’s
Live Stream From St Anne’s Via Facebook – See Diary For Weekly Information**

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended.

Parish Finances

If you have received a letter regarding our Standing Order please return the Options Form by **Friday 18 December at the latest**. **Please Note** - there was an error in one of the account numbers. If you have not received an email or a letter from me about this please get in touch. Completing the form will help to ensure that we have a record of your wishes regarding your donations.

If you would like to discuss how you can help in any way with the parish finances please talk to one of the Finance Committee or by emailing Fr Teddy directly at fr.teddy.obrien@rcaob.org.uk

Thank you to everyone who is managing to continue with financial support to the parish. It is hugely appreciated.

Internments at St Anne’s Parish Cemeteries

The Parish Finance committee has worked very hard this year to clarify the conditions for interment and/or burial of ashes at St Anne’s cemeteries. Further details will be available on the parish website from 1 January 2021.

Holy Communion For Those Who Cannot Attend Mass and for Those Sharing Streamed Mass Daily

Thank you to those of you who have volunteered to take communion to our house bound parishioners. I will explain the details to all those interested so that everyone is safe. If anyone else would like to come forward please let me know. Let me know if you would like to have communion at home during lock down.

Message From Sylvia Lamb – Red Missionary Boxes

If you are a ‘holder’ of a red box please could you take time to empty your box send any you may have collected/donated in one of the following ways:

- Send a cheque payable to: Mission Mill Hill, Red Box, 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU
- Give via Text: Text REDBOX 5 to donate £5.00, REDBOX 10 to donate £10.00 to 70085
- By Phone: 02078219755 office hours to donate with debit or credit card.
- Bank transfer: Account name Mission, Sort Code 16 00 16 - Account number 10824230

Because of the Covid virus donations are well down –

Anything you can do to help would be greatly appreciated – thank you.

Prayer List – Would You Like Any Amendments Or Additions?

If you have any amendments to the Prayer List you would like me to make please do get in touch either with myself, by using the contact details at the top of the newsletter, or with Loretta at lkpcurtis@hotmail.com. It is important in these difficult times that we think and pray for those dear to us and allow our community to pray for them too. Please let me know of any wedding anniversaries, anniversaries of death and any significant birthdays – we would love to share our prayers with you on that day.

Spreading Our News

Do you know anyone who would like to receive our newsletter by email? Please ask them to contact me and I would be delighted to add their details to my records. Are you willing to deliver a copy of the newsletter to those who do not have internet? Please let me know.

Don’t Throw The Envelope Into The Recycling – Cut Off The Stamp First – Please!

This year let’s focus on helping the RNIB (Royal National Institute for the Blind) by cutting off the stamps on your envelopes that are arriving daily with your Christmas cards. If you put them into an envelope and keep them safely for Loretta until after Christmas Loretta with post them off to raise funds for the charity. It’s a really simple thing to do and will benefit so many – thank you.

The Parish Is On Facebook! - Thank You Sebastien Buhour

Please take time to ‘like’ and ‘share’ or indeed ‘comment’ the page so that as many of the wider community can enjoy the delights of our wonderful St Anne’s and Princethorpe College. The link to use is <http://www.facebook.com/stanneswappenbury>

Walk With Me – Advent Edition

I have copies of the Advent Edition of Walk With Me. Please let me know if you would like one and I will send it to you. Still two weeks reflections to enjoy.

Handcrafted Charity Christmas Decorations

Would you like to support a small charity, struggling to find new ways to sell their products during the pandemic? They sell beautiful and unique decorations gifts handmade by a group of women in the shanty towns around Lima, Peru. All monies raised will go directly to feed their families this Christmas. Do take a look @handmadeperuvianhandicrafts on Facebook to order Or email peruviancrafts90@gmail.com to request a leaflet of products. By buying these handmade goods you are directly supporting the poor. With your purchase children will be fed and medicines bought for those who rely on our help. Thank you (Aid for Chad and Peru Reg. Charity 328051)

Vacancies At Princethorpe College And Crackley Hall School

Princethorpe College

Development Database Assistant - We are looking for a Development Database Assistant to assist with the successful planning and implementation of campaigns for the Foundation's Development Office. The role will initially be on a fixed-term basis until the end of March 2021, with the possibility for an extension thereafter. Current initiatives include the Science+ Campaign and a telephone fundraising campaign. The role is offered on a part-time basis, ideally working 20 hours a week over five days.

Salary from £8.82 - £9.74 per hour/ £17,191.01 - £20,714.11 full time equivalent (B17 – C7 on the Princethorpe Foundation salary scale) by negotiation, depending on qualifications and relevant experience. Closing date Tuesday 5 January 2021.

Princethorpe College

Lunchtime Supervisors – Monday to Friday 12.00pm to 2.00pm – term time only – initially on a temporary basis but could become permanent - From £8.82 - £9.50 per hour (B17 – C5 on the Princethorpe Foundation salary scale) by negotiation, depending on qualifications and relevant experience. Closing date Tuesday 5 January

Princethorpe College

Teacher of Business Studies - a well-qualified, dynamic and lively graduate to teach Business Studies to GCSE and A-level for significant part-time or full-time, negotiable for September 2021. The ability to teach A-level Economics and BTEC Level 3 Business Studies would be advantageous. The vacancy is a result of the continued growth in popularity of the courses we are offering in our department. Closing date Monday 11 January 2021.

Princethorpe College

Assistant Head (Director of Studies) - The successful candidate will have the ability to innovate and implement change. They will be passionate about enabling teachers to ensure pupils achieve their full potential. It is vital that the successful candidate has excellent communication, organisational and IT skills, as well as being proactive and a team player. This role is at the heart of the leadership and management of our large, busy, successful Catholic independent day school.

Princethorpe has its own senior leadership pay scale which is above national scales. Closing date Monday 11 January 2021.

Princethorpe College

Deputy Head (Academic) - Required for September 2021, a well-qualified graduate with successful experience in middle or senior leadership combined with a strong track record of academic improvement to lead on all aspects of the academic life at Princethorpe.

The successful candidate will need to demonstrate creativity, vision and the ability to innovate. They will play a lead role in taking Princethorpe through the next phase of its development, ensuring we are producing pupils who are “world-ready” with the skills and qualities necessary to go on to lead full, rich and meaningful lives. This is an exciting and challenging role and is likely to suit someone who will be looking to move to a headship in the future.

Princethorpe has its own senior leadership pay scale which is above national scales. Closing date Monday 11 January 2021

Crackley Hall

Assistant Head (Key Stage 2 Academic) - Required for September 2021, a well-qualified graduate with successful experience in a leadership capacity.

The successful candidate will be an outstanding classroom practitioner, passionate about the delivery of excellent teaching and learning and committed to raising the achievement of children of all abilities. They will be a natural and confident leader with excellent planning, administration and time management. The successful candidate will work closely with, report to and advise the Headmaster in all areas of school life, with specific responsibility for academic matters and all business relating to Key Stage 2. This role is at the heart of the leadership and management of our busy and successful Catholic independent day school.

The Princethorpe Foundation has its own senior leadership pay scale which is above national scales. Closing date Monday 18 January 2021.

For all of the vacancies visit <https://www.theprincethorpefoundation.co.uk/join-us?vacancyid=1756> or call 01926 634269 (Keren Andrews)

Teaching at Princethorpe College - If you are interested in teaching opportunities at Princethorpe College why not take a look at our new Teaching at Princethorpe College brochure, please click [here](#). Our next Taste of Teaching at Princethorpe event will take place on **Thursday 25 February 2021**. Further details will follow shortly.

Please Remember Especially In Your Prayers This Week – Let Us Not Tire Of Praying

Bill who is experiencing serious difficulties at present. He is awaiting another scan to see what further treatment can be offered. Hold Bill and Yvonne in your prayers

Paul Catterall who is seriously ill from an accident at work last week. Hold Paul, his wife Theresa, and family in your prayers.

Alice, Jim Murray's sister, who is back in hospital and quite ill.

Alice, David and Sonia's daughter. Alice is home again and in pain, awaiting a serious operation. Please hold Alice, James and family in your prayers.

Jo who is recovering at home from her operation. Pray for Jo and Jonnie.

Joseph 14, who has a long standing illness and is now receiving treatment in hospital in Staffordshire.

Sue. Hold Sue and family in your prayers. Sue is receiving ongoing treatment.

Marlene who is awaiting the results of recent tests and waiting for a course of treatment.

Di, who has more tests to overcome.

Anne, Denis and Karen as they cope with health difficulties.

Linda, who is receiving further attention after her cancer treatment. Hold Bede and family in your prayers.

Mary and Brian Gould's niece, Elaine, whose lung cancer has reached stage four and has spread to her bones.

Stephen, friend of Milena's, who has had some setbacks in his preparation for treatment.

John and Veronica as they cope with John's health.

Catherine whose pregnancy with twins is worrying.

Jim and Anne for their young baby. Hold their wider family in your prayers.

David, a young father struggling at the moment.

Anne who is very anxious at present.

Peter Power and family.

School and College leadership for all the hard work in keeping their students safe.

Melanie, a young girl who struggles with identity. Pray for her family and friends as they present support.

Yvonne and Jade. Jade is quite unwell at present. Yvonne has recently retired from Our Lady's School.

Claire as she settles in her new home up north.

Sean who is unwell at present.

Anastasia as she is cared for at home.

Eileen who is being cared for in a rest home in Leamington.

Liz's mum who is unwell.

Parishioners with underlying medical problems of varying kinds and for whom this present viral situation induces increased anxiety. Pray for patience for all as times moves on.

Our medical staff – some members of this parish are actively engaged on the front line in our hospitals.

John whose family has asked for prayers.

Domonkos Kordas (14) who has lost sight in one eye. Pray for him and family and friends. His parents work on the front line.

Elizabeth and Neville Compton, sister and brother-in-law of Margaret Simmons.

John (75) diagnosed with bladder cancer.

All elderly parents of parishioners.

Elizabeth who has been diagnosed with a long term illness and is improving. She has had some good news recently.

Paul, a paramedic friend of Kathy Bond, Stretton on Dunsmore, seriously ill in University Hospital, Coventry.

Marc, who is seriously ill.

Keren and her husband John, Keren is a member of Princethorpe College staff.

Karen, waiting results of an exploratory investigation.

Linda, Stretton on Dunsmore, who is recovering at home. Thank you for your continued prayers.

Carolyn whose daughter is experiencing on-going mental health difficulties.

Roisin and Niamh, as they cope with difficult health problems. Their health problems are on-going.

Louise, suffering from various cancers.

Lucy (29), who is suffering from bacterial meningitis and is unable to digest food.

Eileen, friend of Mary Hewitt who is suffering from cancer.

Harry (23)

Seamus, who suffers from prostate cancer. Hold Seamus' family and friends in your prayers.

Michele, who has some serious health issues.

Kathy, who is recuperating after her successful operation.

Lola (29), who has been ill for most of her life and is again very ill.

Rose, who has severe mental health problems.

Frank

Carolyn, who is ill with breast cancer.

Tom who thanks you for your prayers. His treatment is ended at this time.

Fr David Bazen, Kenilworth, who is improving at home after an accident.

Young people as they struggle with hopeful return home for Christmas.

Parishioners who have been diagnosed with coronavirus.

Remember also, and especially, those who have been shielding now for a long time

All those people who put the lives of others and their own lifestyles before their own in whatever branch of community life they work.

Pray For Those Who Have Died And For Their Families

Kate Tennant RIP, friend of Loretta, who died recently. Please pray for Kate and her family.

Angela RIP, who died recently. Angela was a close friend of Mary Rogers.

Geraldine RIP, close friend of Jane and Tony Phayer, who died recently. Geraldine's funeral service will be on Wednesday 16 December. Invited guests only please at Princethorpe College Chapel.

Chris Peake RIP (71), former caretaker of Our Lady's School, Princethorpe, who died recently. Please pray for Chris's family.

Stuart Cartwright (76), who died recently. Hold Stuart's wife and daughters and Paul in your prayers.

Paula whose mother died recently in Dublin. Paula is secretary to our MSC Provincial, Fr Carl.

Ron, father to a friend of Yvonne, who died from Covid recently.

John Deery (RIP) John was a faithful member of the parish community who regularly attended St Anne's.

Augustine RIP (19 years old) who has died following a 10m fall from a tree in Northern France. Sebastien, Carolina and family ask for your prayers for Augustine's family.

Marie, long standing friend of Mary Gould who has died.

Norman, very dear friend of Paul and Fen Whittle. Keep Paul and Norman's family in your prayers.

Members of the medical profession as they manage the current 'spike' in Covid-19 cases, and those who have died.

Denis and Kate McDaid as they come to terms with the death of Bridie Gallagher, Denis's aunt in Ireland. One of eleven children – Bridie was the last member of the maternal side of the family.

David Ratcliffe whose father in law, Tony, died recently

Margaret Patrick, former headteacher at Our Lady's School, whose husband died suddenly recently

Patrick Horgan (76) RIP who died unexpectedly and peacefully recently. Hold his family in your prayers. Pray for Jo, his very close friend.

Wolfgang, Chrissie's father, who died recently and her mother who has recovered well from her operation and is now at home.

Mildred (87) RIP (Ryton on Dunsmore)

Betty Lucas RIP

Kay RIP, aunt to Yvonne.

Antonio (80) RIP

Thomas Duffy RIP

Pauline RIP.

Chris Smart (77) RIP

Con McCorrison (88) RIP

Darren RIP

Joan (91) RIP

Myrtle Forster (64) RIP

Joan and Sister RIP

Bob RIP

Maria Ramsay (76) RIP

Mont RIP

John RIP