



The Parishes of Our Lady of the Assumption, Maryvale and Christ the King, Kingstanding

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Responsorial Psalm – Ps 79(80):2-3,15-16,18-19

R: *God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.*

MASSES THIS WEEK

Sat 18/12/21	12:30 CTK 18:00 OLAM	4th Sunday of Advent O Radix Iesse	Francis Coogan (Anni.)
Sun 19/12/21	10:00 CTK† 11:30 OLAM		Rita Maxwell (Anni.)
			Frances Ormsby (RIP)
			Mary Finn (RIP)
Mon 20/12/21	08:00 Con. 09:30 Mon 12:00 CTK	Advent Feria – O Clavis David	Thanksgiving (TAN)
			Joseph NT Hung (RIP)
			Henry Byrne & Tommy Judge
Tue 21/12/21	09:30 Mon 12:00 CTK	Advent Feria – O Oriens	Helen & George Nessim
			Steve FitzHenry (RIP)
Wed 22/12/21	08:00 Con 09:30 Mon	Advent Feria – O Rex Gentium	Paul Lewsley (Anni.)
			Maureen Greenan
Thu 23/12/21	09:30 Mon 10:30 OLAM 19:00 CTK	Advent Feria – O Emmanuel	Carmel Butcher
			Funeral Service - Kathleen Vincent
			Induction of Deacon Gary O'Brien
Fri 24/12/21	09:30 Mon. 16:00 CTK 19:00 OLAM 20:30 CTK†	Christmas Eve	Andy Deane
			Jane Walsh (Anni.)
			John McDonnell & Annie McDonnell (RIP)
			Martin Monaghan (RIP)
Sat 25/12/21	09:30 Mon 10:00 CTK 10:00 OLAM†	Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord	Mary Donohue (RIP)
			All known to Fr The-Quang
			All known to Bishop David Evans
Sun 26/12/21	10:00 CTK† 10:00 OLAM	Feast of the Holy Family	Delia Byrne (RIP)
			Michael & Anne Collins and family

Rosary Group: meeting every Wednesday in Christ the King Church at 3:30pm.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Ron & Monique Hunt, Jean McCabe, Luke Byrne, Muriel Cowan, Paul Cowan, John & Sandra Mageean, Gerald, Sarah McCallion, Audrey Vickers, John, Sadie Pulido, Sheila Ferns, Mary McGee, Margaret Gasson, Claire & Mark, Mary Ann Gniadkowski, Niamh O' Reilly, Carole Smith, Alan Rowan, Doreen Lakin, Kyle Billing, Jo Teece, Nicola Jones, Deacon Jack, Daniel Kelly, Sean Butler, Sr Marie, Patricia Nash, Vanda Strlikovska-Czeczko, Alberto Bolongaro, Mandy Hawkes, Arjun Paul, Teresa Webb, Mary Hickey, Sean Mulkeen, Chenai & Stephanie Svinurai.

Altar Servers who started serving before the pandemic and would like to serve again please contact Andrew Leadbetter on ctkliturg@outlook.com

Dates for your diary: Parish Visit to Oscott College: on Sunday 13th February afternoon, from 3:00pm – 7:15pm.

Prayer of Spiritual Communion

Lord God, our light and our salvation, we praise you for your gifts of life and faith. We thank you for the desire you have planted in our hearts, our yearning to see your face. Help us to meet you in prayer, to walk in your ways, and to speak to others of our joy and consolation in your presence. Give us the wisdom to appreciate your Son's self-gift in the Eucharist, so that although we cannot now be at mass to receive this gift sacramentally we may still be able to receive him spiritually. Give us faithfulness in this present life so that we may come into full communion with you and with all that belong to you. We make this prayer through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

The *dramatis personae* don't lead us to expect anything revolutionary. They are an old woman and a young girl. Both are to give birth, true, and the birth of a child is always a potential revolution. There is an indication that something is going to be different here: the old woman is really beyond the age of child-bearing (Lk 1:7) and the young girl wasn't expected to be there yet (Mt 1:18).

But the revolutionary language of Mary's *Magnificat* takes us by surprise. "He scatters the proud-hearted... he casts the mighty from their thrones and raises the lowly... he fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty...." If we really heard these words (which means hearing them addressed to *oneself*) we would be part of the revolution. But when we imagine them addressed only to others, we turn them into an ideology and we turn ourselves into observers.

Addressed to oneself.... Who is 'oneself' in the Church? Our deepest identity is not our personal ego but our identity within the Body of Christ. "We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members of one another" (Romans 12:5). The *Magnificat* is not only a call to the individual to turn his or her life around; it is a call to the Church to live by the Gospel.

In all three Liturgical cycles Mary makes her appearance today, the fourth Sunday of Advent. It is as if the picture is becoming clearer: in the previous Sundays we heard from Isaiah and John the Baptist, now we hear from Mary herself in whom the waiting is localised precisely. It is important to know how to wait. There are many ways of waiting: look at a bus-queue and you will see them all. There is the restless impatient waiting of the person who regards waiting as a pure waste of time. There is the stoical waiting of the person who endures it by escaping inwards to another world. Perhaps what Mary teaches us is that the only fruitful kind of waiting is the waiting that an expectant mother does. You know from looking that she has her centre of meaning already within her. She is waiting, but for something that is already here: she is waiting for the full flowering, and there is no impatience and no desire to escape. This is how we might learn to wait for everything. This is the kind of waiting that is Advent.

Last Week's Collection CTK

Envelopes	£ 164.90
Loose	£ 239.72
St. Orders	£ 206.69
Total	£ 611.31

Last Week's Collection OLAM

Envelopes	£ 122.50
Loose	£ 291.50
St. Orders	£ 33.46
Total	£ 447.46

Thank you for your generosity

Tea and Coffee after Mass on Sunday is suspended until further notice. So is **Children Liturgy**.

Children coming to mass on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are welcome to dress as Angels, Shepherds or Magi.

Appointment of Additional Deacon: As we are praying and waiting for Deacon Jack to recover from his treatment, a newly ordained Deacon, Gary O'Brien, has been appointed to the parish of Christ the King. He is involved with the work of the Marriage Tribunal and is still to finish his licence in Canon Law. He is going to start at Christ the King on the weekend 18/19 December. His induction as a Parish Deacon will be on Thursday 23/12/21 at 7:00pm mass.

Christmas Cards and Calendars are available in Piety Stall of both churches. Please do take a look.

Voluntary Activities: The brief notes from the recent open parish meeting highlighted 10 activities in the parish which do good work but need more volunteers. If you would like to find out about any of these please sign up on the lists at the back of the Church and someone will contact you.

Sign up: Volunteer-led balance programme for older people

Parishes are invited to participate in a volunteer-led balance programme for older people.

Dr Sheeba Rosewilliam is a physiotherapist and lecturer at the University of Birmingham and has developed a programme to prevent falls in older members of church congregations, which can be run by volunteers after they have received appropriate training.

The programme, which initially involved a number of churches in the Wolverhampton area, was very successful but has been interrupted by the pandemic.

An expansion of the programme is now underway and it is hoped even more churches will take part.

For more information please see the attached document from Dr Rosewilliam and contact her via email:

s.b.rosewilliam@bham.ac.uk

Fri 24 Dec: [Midnight Mass broadcast on BBC from St Chad's Cathedral](https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news/midnight-mass-to-be-broadcast-live-on-the-bbc-from-st-chads-cathedral)

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