



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

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. The-Quang Nguyen
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Responsorial Psalm – Ps 83(84):2-3,5-6,9-10

R: *They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.*

MASSES THIS WEEK

Sat 25/12/21	10:00 CTK	Feast of the Holy Family	All known to Fr The-Quang
	10:00 OLAM		All known to Bishop David Evans
Sun 26/12/21	10:00 CTK†		Delia Byrne (RIP)
	10:00 OLAM		Michael & Anne Collins and family
Mon 27/12/21	08:00 Con.†	St John, Apostle, Feast	Mary & Joseph O'Reagan (RIP)
	09:30 Mon		Paul Thompson (RIP)
	12:00 CTK		Bernadette Garvey (B'day Anni.)
Tue 28/12/21	09:30 Mon†	Holy Innocents, Feast	Bob Thompson (RIP)
	12:00 CTK		Michael Madigan (Anni.)
Wed 29/12/21	08:00 Con	St Thomas Becket, B, M, Feast	Annie Broth (RIP)
	09:30 Mon†		Alice O'Toole
	10:00 OLAM		Requiem Mass - Joseph Callaghan
Thu 30/12/21	09:30 Mon	Octave of the Nativity – 6th	Sr Marie
	12:00 CTK†		Rubina Silva (RIP)
Fri 31/12/21	09:30 Mon.†	Octave of the Nativity – 7th	Christopher & Ada Welch (RIP)
	19:00 CTK		Kevin Greaves (RIP)
Sat 01/12/21	11:00 Mon	Solemnity – Mother of God	Beatrice & Gerry Atkinson
	12:30 CTK†	Second Sunday after the Nativity	The Rice & Wood families
	18:00 OLAM		Jim McCarthy (Anni.)
Sun 02/12/21	10:00 CTK		Luke Crann & Thomas Beirne (RIP)
	11:30 OLAM		Seamus Finnerty (Anni.)

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.

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.

Jesus is now twelve years old, on the threshold of adulthood. Already there is a hint of what is to come: he must be "in his Father's house." The enclosing circle of family opens to the greater world. There is pain in the opening, because life is not idyllic for long; it is tragic, which means it is destined for unimaginable greatness. Just how great, we would never know but for that small Child born so long ago, so far away.

He had caused a delay of five days: his parents had to return to the city, a day's journey, and then spend three days searching for him, before making their way back again to where they were when they first missed him. I have seen one or two mothers whose child went missing for an hour or so, and it is a chilling sight; it must be an unimaginable feeling, save for parents who have experienced it. For four of those five days, Mary and Joseph knew that feeling. There is no explosion of anger or impatience in Luke's description of their meeting: "When his parents saw him they were astonished," and "Child, why have you treated us like this?" Later piety made more of it, commemorating it as the fifth joyful mystery of the Rosary. It could equally well have been a sorrowful mystery, had people concentrated their piety on the other four days: the loss of the child Jesus. Joy and sorrow are often so closely linked as to be inseparable. It must be especially true for parents. Why do we keep the joyful, the sorrowful and the glorious mysteries so separated – even consigning them, in the Rosary, to different days of the week?

Homework: see how many of the mysteries could fit in more than one category!

How did Jesus manage to get lost in the Temple if he was an only child? The fact is that he was part of an oriental family, which is usually about a hundred people! – uncles, aunts, innumerable cousins, their wives, their children, their mothers-in-law... a tribe! But we make such lonely-looking statues of the Holy Family: just three people, a *nuclear* family. The metaphor is chillingly accurate: we reduce the extended family to a little group of three, as scientists see solid objects as atoms. The word 'atom' means 'indivisible', but that became a challenge: how to split it! It was done, as we know, releasing nuclear energy which no one knows how to control ultimately; its waste will still be deadly tens of thousands of years hence. We do something similar with society, splitting it into little nuclear families, which, we used to say, were 'indissoluble'. But, as in the case of the scientists, this seemed to operate only as a challenge, and now in some countries as many as fifty percent of all marriages are dissolved. As we celebrate the Holy Family we must think of ways to strengthen and support the family.

Last Week's Collection CTK

Envelopes	£ 115.10
Loose	£ 206.28
St. Orders	£ 206.69
Total	£ 528.07

Last Week's Collection OLAM

Envelopes	£ 93.00
Loose	£ 127.07
St. Orders	£ 33.46
Total	£ 253.53

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you from our new Deacon. Gary is very touched by the warm welcome he received last weekend and thanks to those who came to his induction mass on Thursday.

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