



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

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Responsorial Psalm – Ps 95(96):1-3,7-10

R: *Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.*

MASSES THIS WEEK

Sat 15/01/22	12:30 CTK†	2nd Sunday in OT Peace Day	Annie Rochford (B'day Anni.)
	18:00 OLAM		David Taylor (RIP)
Sun 16/01/22	10:00 CTK		Gerry Gorman (Anni)
	11:30 OLAM		Joe Callaghan (RIP)
Mon 17/01/22	08:00 Con.†	St Anthony, Feast	Eugeniusz Mikula (RIP)
	09:30 Mon		Sr Marie
	12:00 CTK		The Farrelly Family
Tue 18/01/22	09:30 Mon	Feria	Michael Quinn (RIP)
	12:00 CTK		The Malone family
Wed 19/01/22	08:00 Con†	St Wulstan, Feast	Vince Phelan
	09:30 Mon		Mrs M Moore
Thu 20/01/22	09:30 Mon	Feria	Joe Callaghan (RIP)
	10:30 OLAM		PEOPLE OF THE PARISHES
	12:00 CTK†		Mary V. Gniadkowski
Fri 21/01/22	09:00 CTK	St Agnes, V M, Memorial	Theresa Gniadkowski & family
	09:30 Mon.†		Paddy Marsfield (RIP)
Sat 22/01/22	10:00 Mon	Feria	Veronica Finnerty (RIP)
	12:30 CTK		Verity Wire
	18:00 OLAM		Mr & Mrs McLoughlin
Sun 23/01/22	10:00 CTK	3rd Sunday in OT	Dr Hnus Teku Fon (RIP)
	11:30 OLAM†		Patricia Whelan (Anni.)

RIP: Please pray for Gary William Taylor who died recently. His Requiem Mass is on Thursday 27/01/22 at 13:30. May he rest in peace.

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

Bible Study with Deacon Dominic Fahey in the church of Our Lady of the Assumption every Tuesday at 7:00pm.

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, Kyle Billing, Jo Teece, Nicola Jones, Deacon Jack, Daniel Kelly, Sean Butler, Sr Marie, Patricia Nash, Mandy Hawkes, Alberto Bolongaro, Arjun Paul, Teresa Webb, Mary Hickey, Sean Mulkeen.

Dates for your diary: Parish Visit to Oscott College: on Sunday 13th February afternoon, from 3:00pm – 7:15pm. Please put your name and contact number on the list in the porch if you plan to come.

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.

Gospel Reflection (Fr Donagh O'Shea OP)

Some commentators with a strict attitude to alcohol had trouble with this parable. Why would Jesus make a thousand bottles of that unsafe drink? Some even went so far as to say that what he really made was grape-juice. What do you think? The steward was surely a better judge of wine than that, and there was no complaint from the guests. No, it was the real thing.

Many people turn water into wine. I did it myself on one occasion. It takes at least six weeks. But with Jesus it took no time at all. And it required no effort: he did it without even a word or a gesture or command; it just turned into wine in his presence, and he instructed the waiters to take it to the table. C.S. Lewis remarked that all the miracles worked by Jesus were in accord with the laws of nature, and not against them. There are no magical transformations, no weird metamorphoses. He did in a moment what nature does slowly. "Each miracle writes for us in small letters something that God has already written, or will write, in letters almost too large to be noticed, across the whole canvas of nature."

Water into wine is a wonderful transformation, but it is not magic. Who needs magic? When a hard man gets the courage to leave the door of his heart open, it is not magic. When a miser begins to practise the bounty of God, it is not magic. When a sinner turns into a saint, it is not magic. It is a miracle.

In the presence of Jesus things like this happen all the time. John calls the miracle at Cana "the first of his signs." So it was not just a favour - even a miraculous one - for an embarrassed host. It was a parable in action. It carried a profound teaching about Jesus himself (it "revealed his glory"), and also about our life as his disciples.

He appeared transfigured (transformed) on the mountain before the eyes of Peter, James and John (Matthew 17:2; Mark 9:2). But his disciples too are being transformed: "All of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit" (2 Corinthians 3:18). "He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself" (Philippians 3:21).

Transformation is not magic; there is a line of continuity (by God's grace) between the beginning and the end. We continue with our ordinary life, our daily employment; but like the water changed to wine, it is given a kind of flavour and fragrance that is beyond what we call 'ordinary'.

Our whole life is 'sacramental' in this sense. The ordinary bread of labour is transformed into the Body of Christ. After we celebrate the Eucharist the celebration continues into every moment. It is not magic. The sacraments are not magic. But when we detach a sacrament from its home in a life-being-transformed, we can only think of it magically. For a long time now we have been losing the power of symbolic thinking, and replacing it with a barren literalness that is nowhere found in the Scriptures. It is getting worse. Fundamentalists are appearing everywhere, accusing of heresy. The first part of us that needs transformation is our mind. "Let that mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5).

Last Week's Collection CTK

Envelopes	£ 111.00
Loose	£ 271.87
St. Orders	£ 206.69
Total	£ 589.56

Last Week's Collection OLAM

Envelopes	£ 115.47
Loose	£ 107.57
St. Orders	£ 33.46
Total	£ 256.50

Thank you for your generosity

Second Collection next week: SPUC

Synod Conversations: we are encouraged to get engaged in dialogue within the parish community so that everyone can express their concerns about their spiritual well-being. Meetings will be arranged for parishioners, who are serious about their existence in the Church, to come for dialogue. The areas we need to look at are Evangelisation, Formation, Worship, and Social Outreach. You may find the following questions helpful for composing your thoughts: In what situation am I? How did I get here? Am I happy with it? What impact has it on the parish community? Am I concerned about it? To where do I want to get? What do I want to see practised in the parish? If I want to move on, what am I prepared to leave behind? Of what sort of promised land do I dream?

Community meal (sponsored by Dr Deedar Singh Bhomra of Aylesbury Surgery) on 30th January at 16:00, at New Heights Centre. People from both parishes are welcome.

Message from SVP

Dear parishioners, on behalf of all our members I would like to sincerely thank you for your ongoing and generous support, particularly your very kind donations during the Christmas period. In the month of December alone we visited over 60 families struggling to make ends meet and were able to support them all with groceries, food vouchers and household items. This would not have been possible without your generosity. I suspect that we will continue to receive a significant amount of referrals for our help due to the current financial climate and so your support is very precious. Please keep our members and those we visit in your prayers as we will keep you in ours. Wishing you and your loved ones a happy new year. Theresa.