



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



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Websites: www.christ-theking.org.uk & <http://www.maryvale.org.uk>

Hymns: (OLAM: Ent: 181; Off: 27; Com: 593; Rec: 205)

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 145(146):6-10 **R: Come, Lord, and save us.**

MASSES THIS WEEK

SUNDAY OBLIGATION HAS BEEN REINSTATED BY THE BISHOPS

Sat 10/12/22	10:00 Mon	Advent Feria	Andy Comeford (Ann)	
	12:30 CTK		Pauline Biffin (Anni.)	
	18:00 OLAM		Margaret/Peter Harvey & Tommy Murtagh (RIP)	
Sun 11/12/22	10:00 CTK	3rd Sunday in Advent	John Cassidy (Anni.)	
	11:30 OLAM		Mary & Mick McDonald (RIP)	
			Eddie Walsh (80 th B'day Thanksgiving)	
Mon 12/12/22	08:00 Con.†	Advent Feria	Rob, Gab & Bella Lennon	
	09:30 Mon.			
Tue 13/12/22	09:30 Mon.	St. Lucy, Mem	Tom & Edie Lennon	
	12:00 CTK		Pat Leadbetter (RIP)	
Wed 14/12/22	08:00 Con.	St. John The Cross, Mem.	Rose Maroney (RIP)	
	09:30 Mon.		Bernie & Noel Shanahan & Family	
	10:30 OLAM		Margaret Bennet - Requiem	
Thu 15/12/22	09:30 Mon.†	Advent Feria	Private Intention (AX)	
	10.30 OLAM		PEOPLE OF THE PARISHES	
	12.00 CTK		Mary Mahon (RIP)	
Fri 16/12/22	09.00 CTK	Advent Feria	Holy Souls	
	10.30 Mon.		Sr. Marie Inglis	
	14:30 OLAM		Julia German - Funeral Service	
Sat 17/12/22	10:00 Mon	Advent Feria	Mrs Alice O'Toole	
	12:30 CTK		4th Sunday in Advent	Henry Byrne & Tommy Judge (Ann)
	18:00 OLAM			Bob Thompson (Anni.)
Sun 18/12/22	10:00 CTK†		Mary Cassidy (RIP)	
	11:30 OLAM		John Roche (RIP)	

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

Rosary Group: meeting **every Wednesday** in Christ the King Church at 1:30pm, following Church cleaning at 12.30.

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, Mary McGee, Claire & Mark, Jo Teece, Mary Ann Gniadkowski, Niamh O' Reilly, Carole Smith, Alan Rowan, Kyle Billing, Nicola Jones, Daniel Kelly, Patricia Nash, Alberto Bolongaro, Arjun Paul, Teresa Webb, Mary Hickey, Sr Marie, Carol Timmis, Carlos Beckford, and Ian Kennedy. **Please pray for them and their families.**

Funerals: Margaret Bennett: Wed 14/12/22, OLAM, 10:30; Julia German: Fri 16/12/22, OLAM, 14:30; Henrietta Nesbitt: Mon 19/12/22, OLAM, 13:00. Margaret Gasson. May they rest in peace.

Celebration Of The Ministry Of Our Altar Servers: On 26th December, the Church celebrates the Feast of St Stephen, who was one of the first seven deacons to be ordained and who is the patron saint of the Altar Servers' Guild. In light of St. Stephen's patronage, a special Mass will be held in Christ the King on Mon 26th December, for all altar servers - whether they serve at OLAM or CTK - followed by nibbles and hot and cold soft drinks. We would like to make the Mass a full solemn "High Mass" for the Feast, and all Servers present on the day will be invited to sit in the Sanctuary, with as many specific roles as possible being allocated to them. Any altar servers planning to attend are asked to give their names to Deacon Gary and (if they are under the age of 18) Gary will need their parents' telephone number as well. All parishioners are, of course, also heartily encouraged to attend.

Are You Planning To Have Your Child Baptised? If so, please come to the next monthly meeting, to be held at Christ the King Church on Sunday 8th January at 3:00pm.

The Deadline for a Free Meal Being Offered to Residents of Kingstanding on Christmas Eve - Sat 24th Dec has been extended to next Wed (14th Dec). Priority will again be given to those most vulnerable, isolated or suffering from financial hardship, but if may be worthwhile enquiring early on whether there is still capacity to meet your need. To make an enquiry you can do this **by telephone on 07555 496 614** or **by emailing enquiries@new-heights.org.uk**. Please be aware that the offer of a cooked meal is not a "sit-down" meal at a particular location, but is **DELIVERY ONLY** to your home between 1:00pm and 3:00pm on Christmas Eve and, with limitations on the number of volunteers willing to undertake the deliveries, **no exact time can be given**, as traffic and distance between "drop off's" will also have to be taken into account on the day.

Bishop Challoner Training School Alliance works with Catholic schools in the Birmingham area to help new trainee Teachers into this rewarding profession. Primary and Secondary School Direct places are available. A further online Information Event is to be held on **Thursday 5th January 10am**, with an additional School Experience Day being held on **Wed 4th Jan 23**, to offer an insight into life in a school. If interested please visit www.bctsa.org for details, or email trainingschool@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk.

Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, 27th March 2023. £699.00 per person sharing (with supplement of £150.00 for single occupancy). Price includes flight, all transfers, a 4 night stay at the Knock House Hotel on a full-board basis. All entertainment and day trip excursions to Westport, Ballintubber Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Fr. Peyton Centre and National Museum. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175 557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

Last Week's Collection CTK

Loose:	£ 383.31	
Envelopes:	£ 117.00	
2 nd Collection:	£ 120.87	(Poor Parishes)
Standing Orders:	£ 206.69	
Total:	£ 827.87	

Last Week's Collection OLAM

Loose:	£ 176.66
Envelopes:	£ 133.00
2 nd Collection:	£ 127.40
Standing Orders:	£ 51.92
Total:	£ 488.98

Thank you for your generous support

Christmas Carol Service at the Franciscan Convent (192, Hawthorn Road, B44 8PU) on Sat 17th Dec at 3:00pm. The service includes Carol singing and a short talk to reflect on the mystery of God's Love made flesh, an opportunity to prepare ourselves for the celebration of Christmas. Tea and coffee afterwards. All welcome.

RCIA Meeting: Thurs 15/12/22 at 7 pm. We will start in the Guild Room and then move into Church.

Deacon Gary's study leave in the New Year: Gary will be away from 10th January to 4th February inclusive and then again from 11th February to 27th February inclusive.

Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School is currently under consultation to change their school admissions criteria for the intake year 2024/2025. All details of the proposed changes can be found on the school website www.cardinalwiseman.net under 'School Admissions' – 'Proposed Admissions Arrangements 2024-2025'. If you wish to comment on these changes, please contact the school admissions team directly at enquiry@cardinalwiseman.net.

Gospel Commentary – Fr Donagh O'Shea, OP

John the Baptist is almost a New Testament figure; he is a kind of honorary member of the new community. The Church does not refer to Isaiah or Jeremiah or any of the great prophets as 'Saint', but we call John 'Saint John the Baptist'. Yet, as Jesus said to the crowd, "the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he".

Do you feel greater than John the Baptist? Few in history could equal him for fire and passion. Jesus said of him, equivalently, that he was one of the greatest men who ever lived. But membership of the new community does not depend, it seems, on the qualities that John had to an exceptional degree. What does it depend on, then?

John's 'persona' was 100% adult male; he was the original "Iron John", hard and demanding. He lived on the edge of society, not integrated with it and perhaps not integrated in himself. There are many like him, there always have been. It is a straight-forward, two-dimensional image, lacking in depth and humour. The essential missing ingredient is paradox. There are Christian preachers (especially on TV) whose persona is exactly John's.

Kierkegaard (1813-1855) identified three stages in the spiritual development of a human being: the aesthetic, the moral, and the spiritual The first (the stage of beautiful thoughts and feelings) runs aground after a time, and you grow (probably through crisis) into the second, the stage of responsibility and moral awareness ... But after struggling here a long time, you come to know your own weakness and the ambiguity of your motives; you learn that it is impossible to be a moral person if you are attempting only to be a moral person You realise that your religion has become self-righteous, judgemental, resentful, even hypocritical. This crisis opens you to deeper spiritual reality When you can no longer disguise your failure, you learn the wisdom of failure; you learn the meaning of the Cross of Christ God has to come to you from beyond all your efforts.

Jesus, like John, came from the desert and appeared at the edge of society. But, unlike John, he came in and sat down with sinners and outcasts He created a new kind of society, in which the values of the old were inverted: success/failure, first/last, even death/life. If John had lived, he would surely have embraced the new society and its paradoxes; he would not have run from Calvary, as the others did; it was never in his nature to be a reed shaken by the wind. His raging fire would long since have been transformed into intense love, his judgments into compassion.