



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



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MASSES THIS WEEK

SUNDAY OBLIGATION HAS BEEN REINSTATED BY THE BISHOPS

Sat 24/12/22	10:00 Mon	Advent Feria	Intentions of Alice O'Toole
	16:00 CTK		Delia Byrne (RIP)
	20:00 OLAM		Bob & Paul Thompson (RIP)
	20:00 CTK		Mary & Joseph Regan (RIP)
Sun 25/12/22	10:00 CTK	Nativity of the Lord	PEOPLE OF THE PARISHES
	11:30 OLAM		Maura Ranahan (RIP)
Mon 26/12/22	09:30 Mon.	St. Stephen, Feast	Holy Souls
	10:00 CTK.		Gerry Gorman (RIP)
Tue 27/12/22	09:30 Mon.	St. John, Apostle, Feast	Marie Wright (RIP)
	12:00 CTK		Michael Madigan (RIP)
Wed 28/12/22	08:00 Con.	The Holy Innocents, Feast	Deceased members of Redding/Trinder Families
	09:30 Mon.		Mary & Mick McDonald (RIP)
Thu 29/12/22	09:30 Mon.	St. Thomas Becket, Feast	Intentions of Beatrice/Gerry Atkinson
	12:00 CTK		Callam, Chloe & Baby Douglas
Fri 30/12/22	09:30 Mon.	Feast of the Holy Family	PEOPLE OF THE PARISHES
	12:00 CTK		M. Crosby
Sat 31/12/22	10:00 Mon	7 th Day within Octave of the Nativity	Theresa Mulvihill
	12:30 CTK	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	Annie Broth (Anni.)
	18:00 OLAM		Benny McGinn (RIP)
Sun 01/01/23	10:00 CTK		Luke Crann & Thomas Beirne (RIP)
	11:30 OLAM		Eugeniusz Mikula (RIP) (Bday Ann)

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.

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 and Ian Kennedy.
Please pray for them and their families.

RIP: Pray for the souls of Henrietta Nesbitt and Margaret Gasson who died recently and all whose anniversaries occur at this time. **Eternal rest grant onto them, O Lord, 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.

Christ the King		New Year 2023	07/08 Jan 2023
Sat 12:30	Minister Of the Word	Angela Madigan	Kathleen Foxall
	Minister of Holy Communion	Deacon Gary	Deacon Gary
Sun 10.00	Minister Of the Word	Theresa Byrne	Angela Hooker
	Minister of Holy Communion	Deacon Gary	Deacon Gary

Last Week's Collection CTK

Loose:	£	399.39
Envelopes:	£	73.10
Standing Orders:	£	206.69
Total:	£	679.18

Last Week's Collection OLAM

Loose:	£	337.00
Envelopes:	£	149.30
Standing Orders:	£	51.92
Total:	£	538.22

Thank you for your generous support

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.

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.

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.

Time to say goodbye

Andrew Leadbetter is leaving the parish to take up a post as Exams Officer and Data Manager at a School in the Falkland Islands. His last Sunday with us will be 22nd Jan 2023. Over the last 20 years, Andrew has served the parish in numerous ways, notably as Altar Server and MC, manager of the live-stream and through our pilgrimages to Lourdes. We are going to have a Farewell Mass for Andrew followed by a presentation in St John's Centre in which we can express our thanks more fully. We have not completely tied down the date yet. It could be as early as 2nd Jan (Bank Holiday Monday) or 22nd Jan itself. Please keep an eye out for more information in the Christmas Day and New Year's Day newsletters.

Gospel Commentary – Fr Donagh O'Shea, OP

There is a kind of timelessness about Christmas: it takes us out of our routines; suddenly all the rush of preparation is over and there is nothing more to do. This could be the moment to experience something different from the perpetual motion that is our ordinary life. But what happens? We turn on the TV, which is what we may have been doing every single evening since last Christmas. No change. Then we say Christmas is boring, or sad, or too commercial... Of course it is; it is just like all the other days. We have not allowed change to happen. We have not allowed space for anything new to appear. Paradoxically, all the flashing lights, the incessant television, the e-mailing and text-messaging ... all have the effect of filling our lives, and so, leaving no space to move, no space for anything really different to appear; so we are enclosed in a cave of artificial lights that never lead us to the sun. "The light shines in the darkness." But it does not shine in artificial light. We have to turn something off. We have to leave space and time for the new thing to appear.

Christmas festivals, generally observed by Christians since the 4th century, incorporate pagan customs, such as the use of holly, mistletoe, Yule logs, and so on. Many other things that we might have imagined deriving from Bethlehem itself are of much more recent origin. The Christmas tree is derived from the so-called paradise tree, symbolising Eden, from German mystery plays. The use of a Christmas tree began in the early 1600s, in Strasbourg, France, spreading from there through Germany and then into northern Europe.

In 1841, Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria, introduced the Christmas tree custom to Britain, from where it spread to America. Meanwhile, Dutch settlers in America had brought with them the custom of celebrating St Nicholas' Day on December 6, and especially St Nicholas' Eve, when gifts were given to children, of whom the saint was patron. British settlers there took over the tradition as part of their own Christmas Eve celebration. The English name of the legendary jolly, red-garbed man who delivers presents to good children at Christmas - Santa Claus - is derived from the name 'St Nicholas' (say it fast and you will see why).

The Child born today is God's new deed: the newest, the youngest, the most recent...the latest. But this is not announced in the excited voice of the advertisers; it is a silent deed. He is the Word made flesh, but he lies there as helpless to speak as any infant. Only in silence can this silent Word be heard. The new blade of grass does not make a scene or a noise; neither does the Word made flesh.