



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



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Hymns: OLAM: E: 413; O: 65; C: 113; R: 365)

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 28(29):1-4,9-10

R: *The Lord will bless his people with peace.*

MASSES THIS WEEK

SUNDAY OBLIGATION HAS BEEN REINSTATED BY THE BISHOPS

Sat 07/01/22	10:00 Mon	Christmas Feria	Private Intention (AX)
	12:30 CTK†	The Baptism of the Lord	Alfie Bourn (RIP)
	18:00 OLAM		Jozef Gniadkowski (RIP Ann)
Sun 08/01/23	10:00 CTK		Jim McCarthy (Ann)
	11:30 OLAM	DiPiro Family	
Mon 09/01/23	08:00 Con.†	Feria	Barbara Pashkofska
	09:30 Mon.		Janis Eglis
Tue 10/01/23	09:30 Mon.	Feria	Janina Mikula
	10:45 CTK		Gladstone Reid -Funeral Service
Wed 11/01/23	08:00 Con.†	Feria	Krystyna Mikula Deegan
	09:30 Mon.		Private Intention
Thu 12/01/23	09:30 Mon.	Feria	Eugeniusz Mikula (RIP)
	10:30 MPS		People of CTK & OLAM parishes
	12:00 CTK		Hugh McCallion (RIP)
Fri 13/01/23	09:00 CTK	Feria	Teresa Farrington (RIP)
	09:30 Mon.†		Mary & Mick McDonald (RIP)
	12:00 OLAM		Margaret Gasson–Requiem mass
Sat 14/01/23	10:00 Mon	Feria	Holy Souls
	12:30 CTK		Christine Green
	18:00 OLAM		Kitty Heaney
Sun 15/01/23	10:00 CTK	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Gerry Gorman (RIP)
	11:30 OLAM†		Dr. Linus Teku Fon (Anni.)

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 Margaret Gasson, Gladstone Reid, Fr Anthony De Vere and Sister Deirdre Michael (of the Maryvale Ordinariate Community) who died recently and all whose anniversaries occur at this time. Eternal rest grant onto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.

Funerals: Gladstone Reid: CTK, Tue 10/01/23, 10:45am; Margaret Gasson: OLAM, Fri 13/01/23, 12:00.

RCIA: The programme resumes on 12th January at 7 pm in the Guild Room. It will continue on a fortnightly basis until Lent (next meetings: 26th January; 9th and 23rd February) and then weekly throughout Lent up until the Holy Saturday Night Vigil and First Mass of Easter.

Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School is consulting to change their school admissions criteria for the 2024/2025 intake. Details 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 proposals, please contact the school admissions team directly at enquiry@cardinalwiseman.net.

Last Two Weeks' Collection CTK

Loose: £ 1,007.47
 Envelopes: £ 128.40
 Standing Orders: £ 413.38
Total: £ 1,549.25

Last Two Weeks' Collection OLAM

Loose: £ 492.81
 Envelopes: £ 281.30
 Standing Orders: £ 103.84
Total: £ 877.95

Christ the King Rota		07/08 JAN	14/15 JAN
Sat 12:30	Minister of the Word	Kathleen Foxall	Kathleen Foxall
	Minister of Holy Communion	Deacon Gary	Therese Wilkin
Sun 10.00	Minister of the Word	Angela Hooker	John McCarthy
	Minister of Holy Communion	Deacon Gary	Angela and Marian

Parish Council Meeting

The next parish council meeting will be on Monday 30th January at 7 pm in the Guild Room, Christ the King. If you have any items you would like the Council to consider, please speak to any Parish Council Member and it will be put on the agenda.

A Word of Thanks

Deacon Gary completed his first year with us just before Christmas. He is very appreciative of the welcome and all the kind words of encouragement he has had over that year, all the good wishes he has received during this Christmas Season and the assurances of prayers to come for a successful completion of his further studies.

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.

Time To Say Goodbye: As reported previously, Andrew Leadbetter, who has done so much work to support the parish over the last 20 years, is moving away to take up an exciting role within a school on the Falkland Islands. A farewell gathering has been arranged to take place in the St. John's Centre after the 10.00 Mass on Sunday 22nd Jan, which will provide an opportunity for family, friends and parishioners to acknowledge and thank Andrew for all his support and to wish him well for the future.

Gospel Commentary – Fr Donagh O'Shea: The last time we saw Jesus in Matthew's Gospel, he was a very young child, a baby, brought by his parents to live in Nazareth. Now we see him as an adult. But where is he? He is undistinguished among a crowd of penitents. John's baptism was a baptism of repentance: people who were moved by his preaching to change their ways went out to the river to be 'baptised' by him. Thus they symbolised their need to finish with their old ways and turn over a new leaf. The word 'baptism' means 'being plunged': they were plunged in the river as a sign of cleansing. Look back along that line of sinners and who do you see? - Jesus of Nazareth, now a young man, lining up with sinners who want to change their ways. It expresses everything that he is going to be. He will show complete solidarity with sinners: he will sit and eat with sinners, share his life with them, defend them against heartless religious authorities who would call them unclean and cast them out. As he lived among them, he would die among them, crucified as an evil-doer. He does not come like a firebrand yelling God's vengeance on sinners; he comes as one of them.

About seven centuries earlier, speaking in God's name, the prophet Isaiah (42:2-3) had written, "Here is my servant... my chosen one, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice."

'Faithfully to bring forth justice': you would think this meant punishing sinners and rewarding the just. That would be our kind of justice. Apparently it is not God's and not Jesus'. It takes a saint to put the right words on it. St Thérèse of Lisieux wrote, "How great a joy it is to think that God is just; that, in other words, he makes allowances for our weaknesses and understands perfectly the frailty of our humanity." In other words, God's justice is his mercy, his mercy is his justice. A God who was only just would not be just - because we could never take the brunt of such justice. "In every work of God... there appears mercy," wrote St Thomas Aquinas. "For this reason God, out of the abundance of His goodness, bestows on creatures what is due to them more bountifully than is proportionate to what they deserve." This was a new thing in the world.

If we don't experience mercy at the hands of Christ's disciples, they are not really his disciples; they are living by the older morality, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth."

Water is the way to clean yourself. John's baptism was a kind of self-improvement. Jesus would put it on a different footing. "I baptise with water," said John, "he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire" (Matthew 3:11). This is the real way of transformation. Only the Holy Spirit can change us; left to ourselves we just rearrange ourselves to look better.