



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



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Hymns: OLAM: E: 413; O: 449; C: 357; R: 508

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 118(119):1-2,4-5,17-18,33-34

R: They are happy who follow God's law!

MASSES THIS WEEK

SUNDAY OBLIGATION HAS BEEN REINSTATED BY THE BISHOPS

Sat 11/02/23	10:00 Mon	Feria in OT	Paudie Holland (RIP)
	12:30 CTK	6th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Annette Deeley
	18:00 OLAM		John & Annie McDonnell (RIP)
Sun 012/02/23	10:00 CTK		Gareth Friel (RIP)
	11:30 OLAM	Patrick Finn (RIP)	
Mon 13/02/23	09:30 Mon.	Feria in OT	Paul Carrie & Shaun Avery
	10:00 CTK.		Paudie Holland (RIP)
Tue 14/02/23	09:30 Mon.	Ss Cyril & Methodius, Feast	Michael & Christina Foley (RIP) 1
	12:00 CTK		Mr & Mrs K Byrne & family
Wed 15/02/23	08:00 Con.	Feria in OT	Andreas Fieldler (RIP)
	09:30 Mon.		Vince Phelan (Treatment)
Thu 16/02/23	09:30 Mon.	Feria in OT	Get Well Mass
	11:00 CTK		Ann Teresa Fitzgibbons - Requiem
Fri 17/02/23	09:00 CTK	Feria in OT	Special Intention (JF)
	10:30 Mon.		Marek & Walentyn Bartoszczyk (RIP)
Sat 18/02/23	10:00 Mon	Feria in OT	Sr. Deirdre Michael (RIP)
	12:30 CTK	7th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Joe McKeown (Ann)
	18:00 OLAM		Patricia Nevit (RIP)
Sun 19/02/23	10:00 CTK		Patricia Tams (Anni.)
	11:30 OLAM	Michael McMahan (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.

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 Angela Madigan and Joanne Fields. **Please pray for them and their families.**

RIP: Pray for the souls of Ann Fitzgibbons, John Fields, Paul Guilfoyle, Winifred Wagstaff, Tracy Byrne, & Kellan Whitehouse who died recently and all whose anniversaries occur at this time. Eternal rest grant onto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.

Funerals: J Fields: CTK, 23/02/23, 10:30; P Guilfoyle: OLAM, 24/02/23, 11:00; W Wagstaff: CTK, 09/03/23, 14:00; T Byrne: OLAM, 11/03/23; K Whitehouse: CTK, 17/03/23, 11:30.

News about Deacon Gary

Having spent the best part of last month in Belgium working on his thesis, Gary is now back there for lectures on all the new topics he will be learning for this final term of his degree. He will be back in the country on 27th February, although due to a family event in Bristol he will not be with us for a Sunday Mass until 12th March. Thereafter to help him create the time for the completion of his studies he will be alternating between the Saturday and Sunday masses rather than attending both of them.

Last Week's Collection CTK

Loose: £ 363.95
 Envelopes: £ 158.00
 Standing Orders: £ 206.69
Total: £ 728.64

Last Week's Collection OLAM

Loose: £ 220.50
 Envelopes: £ 137.30
 Standing Orders: £ 51.92
Total: £ 409.72

Thank you for your generous support

Christ the King		11/12 Feb	18/19 Feb
Sat 12:30	Minister of the Word	Kathleen Foxall	Kathleen Foxall
	Minister of Holy Communion	Sue Nugent	Theresa Wilkin
Sun 10.00	Minister of the Word	Angela	John
	Minister of Holy Communion	Miriam & Sr Michele	Angela & Joyce

Fund-raising Idea: After the success of the New Christmas Craft Fayre in November we very much hope to do it again this year. So we would ask that if you have Gifts or Presents which you have received and may be surplus to requirements, instead of passing them on, please donate them for our use at Christ the King. We will keep them to be used as gifts and prizes when our Fayre comes around. It would help us greatly with raising funds for the Parish and we would be very grateful. Please contact Cath Madden at the School or Margaret Rochford at the Presbytery if you can help. Thank You.

A visit from Fr Philip Wrigley: Fr Philip Wrigley, who was last year's leader of the house group from Oscott College, was ordained in his Diocese in the Summer. He is coming back for a visit at the weekend 18th/19th February. There will be a voluntary collection for him next weekend.

Quarant'ore at Oscott

From 17th to 19th February the Seminarians of Oscott College will be having 40 hours of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. If you have a prayer intention that you would like to be prayed for, or would like to have a candle lit for a suggested donation of £5, please either visit our JustGiving page, https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/oajp?utm_term=z9Zxba2by or alternatively speak to a Seminarian after Mass. All money raised will be donated by Oscott Action for Justice and Peace to local charities who support local people. Many thanks for your support.

Gospel Commentary - Fr Donagh O'Shea:

The scribes and Pharisees get such a bad press in the New Testament that we might imagine they were purely malicious people. This would certainly be unjust to them as a group. They were generally dedicated and conscientious people, though narrow and legalistic in outlook. Not all of them were as extreme as the sub-group called the *Kizai*, or 'Stumblers', mentioned in the *Talmud*, who shut their eyes when they went out, so that they might not see a woman. St Paul, while he was still Saul, would not have remained long a Pharisee if they were all as we usually imagine them. Even after his conversion, he could still describe himself as a Pharisee (Acts 23:6-8). Still, on the first notice of them in the New Testament (Mt 3:7), they are ranked by Jesus with the Sadducees as a "generation of vipers".

In today's reading, however, Jesus might appear to be exceeding even the Pharisees in strictness of interpretation of the Law. "Until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished". Many Christians (and others) have a core feeling that religion is essentially about strictness and restraint; and so they feel that the more rigid they are, the more religious. Of course there is a place for strictness and restraint, but it is not the first place. Without wishing to trivialise this, one could imagine a driver who rigidly observed all the rules of the road, yet drove "without due care and attention". All rules of the road are general, but every pothole and every pedestrian is particular. It would be hard to imagine Jesus on the side of the Pharisees; so we have to read this passage very carefully.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but *to fulfil*." When is a law perfectly fulfilled? When it is observed to the letter? Hardly. The scribes and Pharisees adhered to the letter of the Law, yet Jesus accused them of "setting aside the commands of God and clinging to human traditions" (Mk 7:8; see Feb. 12). A law is being fulfilled, surely, when the *purpose* for which it was made is being fulfilled. A law is a means to an end; but if the end is being subverted by the law, then it is no longer a law. This is the revolutionary teaching of St Thomas Aquinas. Law, he said, is an act of *reason* (ordering a means to an end), not an act of *will*. Law is not the grip of someone's power over you, but guidance for your mind. It subverts neither your mind nor your will, but guides you along a path. It does not take away your freedom, but supports, enlightens and defends it. This is how there can be such a thing as the 'law of God'. It makes us open our eyes, not close them. Strictness is not the essence of law; the essence of law is *seeing*. Jesus told the Pharisees they were "the blind leading the blind" (Mt 15:14).

"Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees," Jesus said, "you will never enter the kingdom of heaven". For 'exceeds', another translation says 'goes deeper than'. A shallow religion has to compensate for lack of depth by excessive strictness; and it tries in advance to make rules for every possible situation. Konrad Lorenz gave a memorable description of the little semi-blind creature, the water newt, that makes its way around by memory rather than sight. A superficial religion is like this. We pay a heavy price for refusing to open our eyes.