



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

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Hymns: OLAM: E: 130; O: 268; C: 155; R: 308.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 50(51):3-6,12-14,17 **R: Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

MASSES THIS WEEK

SUNDAY OBLIGATION HAS BEEN REINSTATED BY THE BISHOPS

Sat 25/02/23	Saturday after Ash Wed.	10:00 Mon	Bronislawa & Jozef Banat (RIP)
	1st Sunday of Lent	12:30 CTK	Louis Kent (RIP)
18:00 OLAM		Donald Smith (RIP)	
Sun 26/02/23		10:00 CTK	Thomas Murphy & family
		11:30 OLAM	Maura Ranahan (RIP)
Mon 27/02/23	Lent Feria	08:00 Con.	Gladstone Reid (RIP)
		09:30 Mon.	John Roche (RIP)
Tue 28/02/23	Lent Feria	09:30 Mon.	Peter Ng V Khang (RIP)
		12:00 CTK	John Chappell (RIP)
Wed 01/03/23	St David, Feast	08:00 Con.	Patty Jimmy & David Judd
		09:30 Mon.	Bishop David Oadkley
Thu 02/03/23	St Chad, Feast	09:30 Mon.	Michael & Christina Foley (RIP)
		10:30 MPS	PEOPLE OF THE PARISHES
		12:00 CTK	Philip O'Driscoll (RIP)
Fri 03/03/23	Lent Feria	09:00 CTK	Carol Collins
		10:30 Mon.	Vincenty, Anna, Helena & Sabina Mikula (RIP)
		12:00 CTK	P J Lennon (RIP) & family
Sat 04/03/23	Lent Feria	10:00 Mon	Sr Deirdre Michael (RIP)
		12:30 CTK	Clara Perry (Ann)
		Sun 05/03/23	2nd Sunday of Lent
10:00 CTK	Annie Rochford (Anniversary)		
11:30 OLAM	Mary Finn (RIP)		

Bible Study with Deacon Dominic Fahey in the Guild Room at Christ The King **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 Winifred Wagstaff, Kellan Whitehouse & Tracy Byrne, who died recently & all whose anniversaries are at this time. **Funerals:** W Wagstaff: CTK, 09/03/23, 14:00; T Byrne: OLAM, 11/03/23; K Whitehouse: CTK, 17/03/23, 11:30.

Are You Planning To Have Your Child Baptised? If so, please come to the next monthly meeting, to the next monthly meeting, to be held at Christ the King Church on Sunday 5th March at 3:00pm.

Stations of the Cross: This devotion is held at Christ the King Church every Friday at 7:00pm during Lent.

Side Chapel is available for those with children who are audible enough to say *Hello* to Fr The at Holy Communion.

Please pray for Emma Cure and her children, Courtney Shanahan and her daughter who will be baptised at Easter.

Last Two Weeks' Collection CTK

Loose:	£	350.00
Envelopes:	£	128.00
Standing Orders:	£	206.69
Total:	£	684.69

Last Two Weeks' Collection OLAM

Loose:	£	240.00
Envelopes:	£	169.30
Standing Orders:	£	51.92
Total:	£	461.22

CAFOD Family Fast Day: Fri 3rd March. Please take an envelope after Mass and support this worthy cause.

Christ the King		25th/26th Feb	4th/5th Mar
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	Stephen Clarke	Patience
	Minister of Holy Communion	Miriam & Sr Michele	Angela & Joyce

Luke Byrne Celebrates His 100th Birthday on Wed 8th March and, apart from celebrating with his immediate family and close friends on the day, he would also like to have a spiritual celebration and an opportunity to give thanks to God for his longevity of life and the many blessings he has received. In order to fulfil this wish, plans have been made for this to centre around the **10:00 am Mass at Christ the King on Sunday 12th March** with family and the Christ the King community, he fondly regards as his friends. After the Mass, a "gathering" will then take place in the St John's Centre, with refreshments, where everyone will have an opportunity to speak to Luke, to share memories of him and his beloved wife Delia over the years. We (the family) look forward to seeing you there, and to spend time in prayer, thanksgiving and chat for his long happy and fruitful life in faith.

Sponsorship of The Sanctuary Lamp: The economics of running the Parish have prompted us to look at innovative ways of covering the various regular expenses. A number of Parishes have allowed people to sponsor the Sanctuary Lamp, which is always lit above the Tabernacle, indicating the presence of the Blessed Sacrament on the Altar. I have been approached to allow this on our Sanctuary, so that those who wish to have a presence in remembrance of their families over the Altar, may do so. It has been proposed that we do this monthly, at a payment of £25 for a month to help with our costs and give Parishioners an opportunity to have a remembrance in memory of their loved ones on the Altar. We will make a list of people, initially starting from 1st April, so if you wish to do this for a month, please approach me and let me know.

Lost property: A lens to a pair of spectacles was found on the floor after 10.00 O'clock Mass last Sunday. If you have lost one please contact the Presbytery.

One-off Fuel Energy Vouchers for those on low incomes are available. Winvic/IMProperties will be featuring a pop-up energy voucher stand at Trussell Trust Foodbanks close to their site in Erdington. They will run this every Tue/Thu starting on 21st Feb, during foodbank opening hours (12pm-2pm) until all 1,000 vouchers have been allocated. Details are available from a member of the SVP.

Many thanks to those who registered an interest in the Gift Aid/Planned giving Scheme, last weekend. We will be in touch with you shortly about the next stage.

"The Greatest Sign of His Love – A Journey Through the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus". As part of the Parish's Lenten preparation, several Seminarians from Oscott are leading on 4 inspirational themed talks under the above title, all of which will be held at the Convent on Hawthorn Road at 7:00pm on each of the four Monday evenings in March. The 1st one, on **Mon 6th March, will focus on Palm Sunday**, with the events of **Maundy Thursday** being considered on **Mon 13th March, Good Friday on 20th March** and ending with the events of **Holy Saturday on 27th March**. Please consider participating in these unique events which have been arranged to enable us to fully understand and prepare for Eastertide.

Gospel Commentary - Fr Donagh O'Shea: A First Communicant, hands joined, white prayer-book, rosette, no front teeth: a very image of innocence. But it is only a moment, soon past. They grow teeth, in every sense. They become teenagers and adults. Yet somehow that early image persists, as if it represented some ideal state of humanity, and to grow up were to fall away from perfection. Whole civilisations have similar dreams of a past Golden Age, but it was never more than a dream.

"People who have not suffered, what do they know?". Suffering, in a broad sense, is just experience: in that sense, life is suffering. Life is a crucible of experience in which everything that is not real is burnt away. If Jesus was to be credibly human he had to suffer like us. He was not an eternal First Communicant. He was "made perfect through suffering" (Hebrews 2:1). The words of the Lord, the Psalm says, are "silver from the furnace, seven times refined" (Psalm 11); the Word made flesh was put to the test ("tempted", in Scriptural language) in the fiery Judean desert.

Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to find out what he was made of. Mark's gospel puts it more strongly: "the Spirit *drove* him out into the desert" (1:12). The first temptation was "to turn these stones into loaves of bread". A hungry man sees bread everywhere. An Indian poet who used to write beautiful poems about the moon lost all his talent when he became impoverished. He began to see nothing but chapatti whenever he looked at the moon. Jesus was hungry but saw beyond his own hunger; he would become a provider of food for the hungry. (A good man is not tempted by evil but by goodness: in this case, a limited goodness, far less than his full capacity for goodness). Soon he saw this was not exactly what God was asking of him.

The second temptation was to become a celebrity. Many false prophets had attempted to attract notice by doing spectacular feats. Jesus countered this by saying, equivalently, "One doesn't play games with Go".

The third temptation was power. As a Jew he knew what power did to people; every day of his life he saw the Roman Empire at work. He knew that Roman emperors were 'deified' - proclaimed gods - after death; to Jews, who had a profound sense of the unity of God, this practice was an abomination.

Jesus rejected all these possibilities. The gospel text doesn't tell us at that point what he chose to do, but the rest of his life made it plain. He chose the way of love, which is deep, unspectacular, and powerless.

Every First Communicant is driven into the desert sooner or later and has to face these temptations. The Church at large has to face them and be tested by them. "In the evening of life you will be tested in love," wrote St John of the Cross. That is the hardest test of all.