



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



Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. The-Quang Nguyen  
124 Warren Farm Road, Kingstanding, Birmingham B44 0QN

Monastery: 99 Old Oscott Hill  
Kingstanding, Birmingham, B44 9SR  
Email: sistersofthebvm@gmail.com

Safeguarding Rep: Stephen Clarke  
07971 517 928

Convent: 192 Hawthorn Road  
Kingstanding B44 8PU  
Phone +44 121 3500 716  
Email: smsfbirmingham@gmail.com

Parish Deacons: Rev. Mr. Dominic Fahey, Rev. Mr. Gary O'Brien  
Tel: 0121 373 0988 Email: Admin: [christ-theking.bham@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:christ-theking.bham@rcaob.org.uk);  
Fr. The-Quang: [fr.the.quang.nguyen@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:fr.the.quang.nguyen@rcaob.org.uk)  
Websites: [www.christ-theking.org.uk](http://www.christ-theking.org.uk) & <http://www.maryvale.org.uk>

Hymns: OLAM: E: 53; O: 27; C: 351; R: 76.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 23 **R: The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.**

**MASSES THIS WEEK**

**SUNDAY OBLIGATION HAS BEEN REINSTATED BY THE BISHOPS**

|                     |   |                                      |                                     |
|---------------------|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Sat</b> 18/03/23 | Lent Feria  | 10:00 Mon                            | Private Intention                   |
|                     | <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>                    | 12:30 CTK                            | Dora McKeown (Ann)                  |
| 18:00 OLAM          |   | Michael Foley (RIP)                  |                                     |
| 10:00 CTK           |   | David Ward                           |                                     |
| <b>Sun</b> 19/03/23 |   | 11:30 OLAM                           | Maria Wright (RIP)                  |
|                     |   | 08:00 Con.†                          | Luke Byrne                          |
| <b>Mon</b> 20/03/23 | Solemnity of St. Joseph<br>Spouse of the Blessed Virgin | 09:30 Mon.                           | Lilly Gray (RIP)                    |
|                     |   | 09:30 Mon.†                          | Bridie Ashton (Birthday)            |
| <b>Tue</b> 21/03/23 | Lent Feria  | 12:00 CTK                            | Catherine Gunn (RIP)                |
|                     |   | 08:00 Con.†                          | John Murphy                         |
| <b>Wed</b> 22/03/23 | Lent Feria  | 09:30 Mon.                           | Fr. Kevin (RIP)                     |
|                     |   | 09:30 Mon.†                          | Mrs. June Rose (RIP)                |
| <b>Thu</b> 23/03/23 | Lent Feria  | 10:30 MPS                            | PEOPLE OF THE PARISHES              |
|                     |   | 12:00 CTK                            | Hughes Family                       |
|                     |   | 08:00 CWS                            | Private Intention                   |
| <b>Fri</b> 24/03/23 | Lent Feria  | 09:00 CTK                            | Campbell Family                     |
|                     |   | 10:30 Mon.                           | Fr. Jerzy and his Sister Roza       |
|                     |   | 10:00 Mon                            | Victims of Turkey/Syrian Earthquake |
| <b>Sat</b> 25/03/23 | Annunciation of the Lord                                | 12:30 CTK                            | Wesley Patrick Bye                  |
|                     |   | <b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> | 18:00 OLAM                          |
| 10:00 CTK           | Rosaline Amaechi Ikwuka (RIP)                           |                                      |                                     |
| <b>Sun</b> 26/03/23 |   |                                      | 11:30 OLAM                          |

**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.

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

**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, Joanne Fields and David Cotton. **Please pray for them and their families.**

**RIP:** Please pray for the soul Winifred Maher who died recently & all whose anniversaries are at this time.

**Funerals:** 11:30; Winifred Maher: OLAM, 27/03/23, 12:00.

**"The Greatest Sign of His Love – A Journey Through the Passion, Death & Resurrection of Jesus"**. As part of the Parish's Lenten preparation, Seminarians from Oscott are leading on 4 inspirational themed talks, 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 remaining dates/themes are as follows: **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March** – the events of **Good Friday**, with the final session to be held on **Mon 27<sup>th</sup> March** focussing on the events of **Holy Saturday**. Please consider participating in these unique events, which have been arranged to enable us to fully understand and prepare for Eastertide.

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

**Last Weeks' Collection CTK**

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Loose:             | £ 329.68        |
| Envelopes:         | £ 24.48         |
| Standing Orders:   | £ 206.69        |
| Second Collection: | £ 137.96        |
| <b>Total:</b>      | <b>£ 698.81</b> |

**Last Weeks' Collection OLAM**

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Loose:             | £ 211.33        |
| Envelopes:         | £ 113.50        |
| Standing Orders:   | £ 51.92         |
| Second Collection: | 56.69           |
| <b>Total:</b>      | <b>£ 433 44</b> |

**Thank you for your generous support**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection for the Cathedral Maintenance Fund came to £194.65 from the 2 Parishes.

**Gift Aid Envelopes** are available from this weekend. Those who have signed up for the Gift Aid scheme and would like to use the envelopes please help yourselves to a box & leave your name & envelope number for recording.

**New Live-Streaming System:** We have had a new Audio-Visual System installed for Live-Streaming of Services, especially the 10.00 Sunday Mass and Funerals. You can access the Stream by clicking on the Link from our Website and then clicking the small circular Icon next to Christ the King on the YouTube link, or going into YouTube, typing in Christ the King Kingstanding in the Search Bar and then clicking the "Live" picture screen that shows up. Please let other Parishioners who access our Masses via the Internet know that this is now available.

**Sponsorship of The Sanctuary Lamp:** To assist with rising Parish expenses, I have been approached to follow the example of other Parishes, in allowing individuals/families to "sponsor" the Sanctuary Lamp, which is always lit above the Tabernacle, indicating the presence of the Blessed Sacrament on the Altar. Individuals who may wish to mark a particular anniversary, or just the on-going memory of a loved one, could sponsor the lamp for a particular month for a donation of £25. A list has been prepared, and anyone who would wish to have a loved one remembered on the Altar for the given month, please approach Fr. The.

| Christ the King |                            | 18th/19 <sup>th</sup> March | 25 <sup>th</sup> /26 <sup>th</sup> March |
|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Sat 12:30       | Minister of the Word       | Kathleen Foxall             | Kathleen Foxall                          |
|                 | Minister of Holy Communion | Theresa Wilkin              | Sue Nugent                               |
| Sun 10.00       | Minister of the Word       | Angela                      | John                                     |
|                 | Minister of Holy Communion | Ordinary Ministers          | Ordinary Ministers                       |

**Luke Byrne's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday:** On behalf of Luke and the extended Byrne family, Luke's daughter (Theresa) would like to convey the following message to all concerned: "To Bishop David, Father The, Deacon Gary and all our friends at Christ the King, deepest thanks to all of you for making Dad's 100 years celebration such a memorable and delightful occasion on Sunday. You made it exactly what Dad wanted, which made it even more special. A mass will be offered for the people of the parish, the community that warmly celebrated this wonderful occasion.

**New Heights Vacancies:** New Heights are currently recruiting to the following positions - **Community Response Worker** – 20 hrs., Term Time Only; **Café 'Warm Space' & 'Activities' Co-ordinator** (20 hrs Mon-Fri (Temp - 6 Month Contract); **Finance Assistant** – 8 hrs per week, **Self-Employed Cleaner 7 hrs per week** (immediate start). For further information/an application pack - visit [www.new-heights.org.uk](http://www.new-heights.org.uk) or email [enquiries@new-heights.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@new-heights.org.uk)

**VOTE FOR MARYVALE:** The Maryvale Community Project, which runs activities for the elderly/people with disabilities, is on a list of 3 finalists to receive a cash donation of between £500 - £1,500 from Tesco's. To be successful, **THEY NEED YOUR VOTE.** It won't cost you a penny more but, if you shop in any Tesco outlet (big or small) in the surrounding areas – you can pick up a blue token at the till each time you shop and place it in the perspex container marked "Maryvale" by the entrance as you leave the store. **THAT'S ALL YOU NEED TO DO.**

**Gospel Commentary - Fr Donagh O'Shea:** John's Gospel is shot through with imagery of light and darkness. In itself, this imagery is open to being used in very facile ways, but John's use of it is complex and paradoxical. In today's reading, the man born blind receives his physical sight but, at a deeper level he also receives spiritual sight; whereas the Pharisees, who thought they had spiritual sight, become increasingly spiritually blind.

"I once was lost but now I'm found / Was blind but now I see," says the hymn *Amazing Grace*. We sense something presumptuous about this; it seems rather too clear-cut. Are you sure there is no darkness in you still? In reality, we see *and* don't see. "I believe; help my unbelief!" cried the father of the child in Mark 9:24. In the story of St Paul's conversion (Acts 9) the same paradox is evident. Paul did not leap up shouting joyfully, "Now I see!" Instead, he was struck blind! Nor was it a case of being dazzled for a moment; he remained blind for 3 days. This mighty man had to be led by the hand like a child into Damascus and there he sat helpless, in darkness, for 3 days a total stranger, restored his sight. Even then, he did not go about shouting, "Now I see!" He went into the Arabian desert for 3 years. And even later, when he was in full spate, he could write, "Now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known" (1 Cor 1:12).

Faith is knowledge, but it is *dark* knowledge. Its light is not a garish light, but a dim light just sufficient to guide our path in humility. St Gregory of Nyssa wrote that John penetrated into the "luminous darkness," and could say, "No-one has ever seen God" (John 1:18). Gregory delighted in this paradoxical expression, "luminous darkness", and used many similar ones: "wise folly", "sober inebriation", "stationary movement", "living death"... Where could he have got the courage to use such expressions, if not from the Gospel itself, which is full of paradox?

To claim to have more light than one has, is a great sin against the light; it cheapens it for oneself and for others. "Now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains," Jesus told the Pharisees (the last verse of today's reading). When we speak of the Faith, we have to do so with humility and with respect for the darkness. Like the blind man in today's reading, we may have to be driven out of the company of those who think they see; and like Paul, led helpless by the hand along a humble path, or driven into the solitude of the desert: whatever it takes to rid us of our own brash light. God alone can penetrate the darkness. "Even darkness is not dark for you / And the night is as clear as the day" (Psalm 38).