



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

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Hymns: OLAM: E: 59 (tune 56); O: 209; C: 460; R: 502.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 129(130) **R: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

**MASSES THIS WEEK**

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

<b>Sat</b> 25/03/23	Annunciation of the Lord	10:00 Mon	Victims of Turkey/Syrian Earthquake
	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	12:30 CTK	Wesley Patrick Bye
18:00 OLAM		John Roche (RIP) (Bday)	
10:00 CTK		Rosaline Amaechi Ikwuka (RIP)	
11:30 OLAM		James Heaney (Anni.)	
<b>Mon</b> 27/03/23	Lent Feria	08:00 Con.†	Baby Emmie Carraigh (RIP) & family
		09:30 Mon.	Private Intention
		<b>12:00 OLAM</b>	<b>Winifred Maher - Funeral Service</b>
<b>Tue</b> 28/03/23	Lent Feria	09:30 Mon.†	Josie Keenan (RIP)
		12:00 CTK	Thomas Matthews (RIP)
<b>Wed</b> 29/03/23	Lent Feria	08:00 Con.†	John Fields (RIP)
		09:30 Mon.	Krystyna & Janina
<b>Thu</b> 30/03/23	Lent Feria	09:00 OLAM	Celebrant's Intention
		09:30 Mon.	Delia Byrne (RIP)
		11:30 OLAM	Mark & Tom
<b>Fri</b> 31/03/23	Lent Feria	09:00 CTK	PEOPLE OF THE PARISHES
		09:30 Mon.†	Peggy and Gerard Costello
<b>Sat</b> 01/04/23	Lent Feria	10:00 Mon	Private Intention
		12:30 CTK	Ted McKeown (RIP)
		18:00 OLAM	Anne McCarthy (RIP 1st Ann.)
<b>Sun</b> 02/04/23	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	10:00 CTK	Frank King (RIP)
		11:30 OLAM†	Douglas Kennedy (RIP Ann.)

**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: £ 326.36  
 Envelopes: £ 111.00  
 Standing Orders: £ 206.69  
**Total: £ 644.05**

**Last Weeks' Collection OLAM**  
 Loose: £ 149.27  
 Envelopes: £ 120.00  
 Standing Orders: £ 51.92  
**Total: £ 321.19**

**Thank you for your generous support**

<b>Christ the King</b>		<b>25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> /2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>
<b>Sat 12:30</b>	<b>Minister of the Word</b>	<b>Kathleen Foxall</b>	<b>Kathleen Foxall</b>
	<b>Minister of Holy Communion</b>	<b>Sue Nugent</b>	<b>Ordinary Minister</b>
<b>Sun 10.00</b>	<b>Minister of the Word</b>	<b>John</b>	<b>Steve &amp; John</b>
	<b>Minister of Holy Communion</b>	<b>Ordinary Ministers</b>	<b>Sr Michele</b>

**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 1<sup>st</sup> April, so if you wish to do this for a month, please approach me and let me know.

**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 7<sup>th</sup> May at 3:00pm.

**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 this by clicking on the live Link on the Parish Website, <http://www.christ-theking.org.uk/> and then watching the Live Service, or going into YouTube, typing in Christ the King Kingstanding in the Search Bar and then clicking the "Live" picture screen that shows up. This can also be watched later. Please let other Parishioners that access our Masses know that this is now available.

**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 Saint 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 three days. This mighty man had to be led by the hand like a child into Damascus and there he sat helpless, in darkness, for three days until someone else, a total stranger, restored his sight. Even then, he did not go about shouting, "Now I see!" He went into the Arabian desert for three 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 (c. 332 A.D. - 395) 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).