



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



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Hymns: E: 508; O: 525 (tune Rockingham LM – When I survey); C: 345; R: 341

Psalms 144(145):2-3,8-9,17-18

R: The Lord is close to all who call him.

MASSES THIS WEEK

SUNDAY OBLIGATION HAS BEEN REINSTATED BY THE BISHOPS

Sat 23/09/23	St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Mem.	10:00 Mon.	Ann & Pat Malanaphy
	25 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	12:30 CTK	Pete Service (RIP)
18:00 OLAM		Michael Fahey (RIP)	
10:00 CTK†		Margaret Gray and Bill Rice (RIP)	
11:30 OLAM		John McDonnell (RIP) Ann.	
Mon 25/09/23	Feria in OT	08:00 Con.†	Private Intention
Tue 26/09/23	Feria in OT	09:30 Mon.x	Bernadette Leydon (RIP)
		11:00 OLAM	Requiem: John Logan
Wed 27/09/23	St. Vincent de Paul, Priest, Mem.	08:00 Con.†	De La Salle brothers
		09:30 Mon.x	Maureen Hennessy (RIP)
		11:00 CTK	Requiem: Ann Patricia Conlon
Thu 28/09/23	Feria in OT	09:30 Mon.x	Fr Edwin Cownley (RIP)
		12:00 CTK	Angela Mohammed (Golden Jubilee)
Fri 29/09/23	SS Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels, Feast	09:00 CTK	PEOPLE OF THE PARISHES
		09:30 Mon.†	Agatha Hong Nguyen (RIP)
Sat 30/09/23	St. Jerome, Priest, Mem.	10:00 Mon.	David Cotton (RIP)
	26 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	12:30 CTK	Marcella Eivors (RIP)
18:00 OLAM		Lily McDonald (RIP)	
10:00 CTK		Michael Kenny (RIP)	
11:30 OLAM		Margaret & James Head	

Mass Intentions: Obviously, when requesting Masses to be said for loved ones, most people are requesting they be held at weekends, so that they can attend. Unfortunately, there are only 2 Masses at each parish at a weekend, but 19 other masses said during the week. To limit any associated disappointment, when preferred dates cannot be met, can I ask parishioners to consider this when asking specifically for a weekend Mass as, when there are competing requests, consideration will have to be given to death anniversaries falling on the actual day requested.

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, John, Sadie Pulido, Mary McGee, Sr Marie, Claire & Mark, Jo Teece, Mary Ann Gniadkowski, Niamh O' Reilly, Carole Smith, Alan Rowan, Alberto Bolongaro, Kyle Billing, Nicola Jones, Daniel Kelly, Patricia Nash, Arjun Paul, Teresa Webb, Angela Madigan, Carol Timmis, Elizabeth Teague, Joanne Fields, Caitlin Hodgetts, Joan and Alan Horton, Yvonne Cowman and Fr Michael Ho. Please pray for them and their families.

RIP: Please pray for Jack Logan, Audrey Vickers, Michael Kenny and Christine Ford who all passed away recently. May they rest in peace. **Funerals:** Jack Logan: Tue 26/09/23, OLAM, 11:00; Nancy Conlon: Wed 27/09/23, CTK, 11:00; Christine Ford: Wed 18/10/23, CTK, 11:30.

THE SANCTUARY LAMP, which burns to indicate the presence of the Blessed Sacrament on the Altar, is **dedicated throughout September for members of the Holder family**, both living and deceased.

Red Mission Boxes: Would parishioners holding Red Mission Boxes please bring them to Church, in order that they may be emptied and your grateful donations passed on to the APF Missionaries.

Last 2 Weeks' Collections CTK

Loose: £ 553.18
 Envelopes: £ 242.00
 Standing Orders: £ 557.30
Total: £ 1,352.48

**Thank you for
 your generous support**

Last 2 Weeks' Collections OLAM

Loose: £ 347.94
 Envelopes: £ 338.40
 Standing Orders: £ 189.38
Total: £ 875.72

This weekend there is a Second Collection for Fr Hudson's Society.

Christ the King		23 rd 24 th Sept	30 th Sept/1 st Oct
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	John	Maggie
	Minister of Holy Communion	Mariane	Sr Michale

Baptism Preparation: The next meeting is to be held at Christ the King Church on Sunday 1st October at 3:00pm.

Race Night: We are now "Under Starters Orders" for the Parish Race Night, which is being held in the St. John's Centre next to Christ The King Church this coming Friday 29th Sep. A big "Thank You" to all who have sponsored the horses, jockeys and races. It should be a great fun evening, with all funds raised supporting the 2 Parishes, so please come along enjoy the fun and ensure the evening is a success. The 1st Race takes place at 7.30 p.m.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION FOR CHILDREN ATTENDING NON-CATHOLIC SCHOOLS:

Classes will begin with an introductory meeting for parents and children at Christ The King Catholic Church, 124 Warren Farm Road on Sunday 1st October at 11.30 a.m. and will run weekly until mid-June 2024. Please contact Loretto on 07732 474 470 for further information.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION: for the young people of the parish who are not in a Catholic school takes place on **Friday 29th Sep at 5pm in the Guild Room.**

WORKING HOURS: Following Gary's graduation from his canon law degree, the Archbishop has appointed Deacon Gary as a Judge of the Marriage Tribunal and Gary is very like to have an additional diocesan responsibility around safeguarding. This means that Gary's six-day working week will be shared: two days at "head office" and four for the parish - including the weekend. Monday will be his day off. On most Wednesday's, Gary will work in the Parish Office so that Father Thé can take Wednesdays as his day off.

AGM FEEDBACK: We discussed the need for more volunteers from the congregation to assist both Father and our Parish Deacons with various tasks. Please be generous: the parish needs more people to step forward to help us.

GOSPEL COMMENTARY: FR D. O'SHEA: *So the last will be first, and the first will be last.*

"My thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways are not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks". This is from the first reading at today's Mass. This, written about seven centuries before Christ, could serve as a summing up of the Gospel reading, for this parable shows us the kind of 'labour relations' that God has with us.

The men who had worked all day received a normal day's wages: one denarius. So far, we are with him; this is normal justice. But they believed that the men who had worked less than they would receive less, particularly those who had worked only one hour. But they received the same amount. They complained bitterly, but the employer replied, "Are you envious because I am generous?" Justice is about merit, but generosity is about need.

God is more than just to us; God is generous. This is a "thought of God" that is far above our thoughts. If God were strictly just to us, we would all be in a bad way. Our hope lies in the fact that God is also merciful. How can we reconcile the justice and the mercy of God? I have read some chilling attempts to do so. Here is one from the 19th Century: "It is because God is *just* that His wrath had to be poured out, and it is because God is *merciful* that His wrath was not poured out on all sinners, but on Christ in place of sinners". This would not be mercy, but justice gone wrong; in other words, injustice.

That was from a famous theologian and preacher, but it needed another 19th Century person – a young woman of no theological education and no pretensions to being a preacher – to rid us of that cold-blooded way of thinking. St Thérèse of Lisieux said simply, "*God's justice IS his mercy*". In other words, mercy is God's kind of justice. There is no justice in God that can be considered separately from his mercy, and therefore it is false to consider God's justice as needing expression in punishment, either of us or vicariously of Christ. Everything in God is one, as theologians have always said; the only distinction in God is the distinction of the three Divine Persons. The separation of justice and mercy is due only to our language; we have separate words for them, and this leads us to consider them separately – which then leaves us with the insoluble problem of putting them back together again. St Thérèse's insight was that they should not be separated in the first place. It is a good example of the wisdom that is hidden from the learned and clever and revealed to little ones (Luke 10:21).

Put it this way. If your six-year-old child misbehaved, you would not call the Police, you would not subject her to the rigour of the law; your correction of her would be gentle and appropriate to her age and understanding – in other words it would be merciful. Even while repeating that God is the Supreme Good, many have made God far worse than we are.