



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



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Parish Deacons: Rev. Mr. Dominic Fahey, Rev. Mr. Gary O'Brien
Websites: www.christ-theking.org.uk & <http://www.maryvale.org.uk>

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and National and Archdiocesan policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Stephen Clarke. He can be contacted at sg.christ-theking.bham@rcaob.org.uk

Alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk

Hymns: E: 285; O: 41; C: 364; R: 17

MASSES THIS WEEK

SUNDAY OBLIGATION HAS BEEN REINSTATED BY THE BISHOPS

| | | | |
|---------------------|---|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| Sat 02/12/23 | Feria in Ordinary Time | 10:00 Mon. | Dang and Nguyen families (RIP) |
| | 1 st SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year B) | 12:30 CTK | Mary Hall (Ann) |
| Sun 03/12/23 | | 18:00 OLAM | Benny McGinn (RIP) |
| | 10:00 CTK | James Fisher (RIP) | |
| Mon 04/12/23 | Advent Feria | 11:30 OLAM† | Andrew Deane (RIP) |
| | | 08:00 Con. | Peter Doan Minh Thoai (RIP) |
| Tue 05/12/23 | Feast of St. Birinus, Bishop | 09:30 Mon.† | Peter Le (RIP) |
| | | 09:30 Mon.† | Margaret Gasson (1st Ann) (1) |
| Wed 06/12/23 | Advent Feria | 12:00 CTK | John White (RIP) |
| | | 08:00 Con.† | Maria Chau Hong Diep (RIP) |
| | | 09:30 Mon. | Alice O'Toole (SI) |
| Thu 07/12/23 | Feast of St. Ambrose, Bishop | 11:15 OLAM | Requiem: Alun Richards |
| | | 09:30 Mon.† | Eileen Gilsean (RIP) |
| Fri 08/12/23 | Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary | 12:00 CTK | Margaret & Charles Butcher (RIP) |
| | | 09:00 CTK | PEOPLE OF THE PARISHES |
| Sat 09/12/23 | Advent Feria | 10:30 Mon. | Claire and Deacon Gary O'Brien |
| | | 10:00 Mon. | Maria Nguyen Thi Chinh (RIP) |
| | | 12:30 CTK† | Pauline Biffin (Ann) |
| Sun 10/12/23 | 2 nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT | 18:00 OLAM | Brendan O'Reilly (RIP) |
| | | 10:00 CTK | Joyce Whelan (RIP) |
| | | 11:30 OLAM | Alun Richards (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, Luke Byrne, Jean McCabe, Muriel/Paul Cowan, Gerald, Sr Marie, Mary McGee, John/Sandra Mageean, Sarah McCallion, John, Sadie Pulido, Claire/Mark, Carole Smith, Alan Rowan, Arjun Paul, Mary Ann Gniadkowski, Jo Teece, Niamh O' Reilly, Alberto Bolongaro, Kyle Billing, Nicola Jones, Daniel Kelly, Patricia Nash, Teresa Webb, Angela Madigan, Carol Timmis, Elizabeth Teague, Joanne Fields, Caitlin Hodgetts, Joan & Alan Horton, Yvonne Cowman, Fr Michael Ho, Debbie Davis, Peggy O'Donovan and Pauline O'Brien.

RIP: Pray for Alun Richards, Dorothy Howard, Andrew Dean and Jacqueline Carron who all passed away recently. May they rest in peace. **Funerals:** Alun Richards: OLAM, 06/12/23, 11:15.

THE SANCTUARY LAMP, which burns to indicate the presence of the Blessed Sacrament on the Altar, is **dedicated throughout December** for the **deceased members of the Canavan/Stapleton/Hayden families.**

Training for New Altar Servers: Sat 09/12/23 at 9:00am.

2ND COLLECTION: There will be a 2nd Collection next weekend for the Poor Parishes of the Diocese.

Last Weeks' Collection CTK
 Loose: £ 404.09
 Envelopes: £ 107.00
 Standing Orders: £ 278.65
Total: £ 789.74

**Thank you for
 your generous support**

Last Weeks' Collection OLAM
 Loose: £ 108.36
 Envelopes: £ 219.00
 Standing Orders: £ 94.69
Total: £ 422.05

| Christ the King | | 2 nd / 3 rd Dec | 9 th / 10 th Dec |
|-----------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 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 | Steve | Patience |
| | Minister of Holy Communion | Marianne | Sr Michela |

Car Parking: Kingstanding Inn has kindly agreed that parishioners of Christ The King can use their car park, free of charge, when attending the 12.30 Mass on Saturday and the 10.00 Mass on Sunday morning.

Mass of Thanksgiving for Altar Servers: On Tuesday 26th December 2023 - the Feast of St. Stephen - there will be a Mass of Thanksgiving at Christ The King at 10:00am for all our Altar Servers and the excellent work they do. Altar Servers planning to attend are asked to let Sam Dosumu know, so that we can organise any medals which may be due and think about the various roles to be undertaken during this special service. Everyone in the parish is invited to attend the Mass and the informal "Social" to be held afterwards in the St. John's Centre.

Christmas Bazaar: Many thanks to everyone who assisted, in any way, in the preparation for our annual fundraising event to be held this weekend – to those who sold/bought raffle tickets or made a donation towards the prizes on offer, who generously brought in gifts over many weeks for the stalls, who worked so hard in recent weeks to collect and store the items, and then gave up their time to set up all the stalls on Friday evening. Every one of them is an "unsung hero" and we thank them for all their support. A list of prize-winners will hopefully be displayed at both Churches in time for the Sunday Mass and details of the funding raised will be included in next week's Newsletter. Again, many thanks for all your support, which will assist both Churches and the School to continue the great work they do.

Retrouvaille is a Catholic programme but is open to married couples of any faith, or none. It is offered as a gift from the Catholic Church to any married couple who wishes to heal the difficulties they are experiencing in their marriage. The programme is presented by trained volunteers who themselves have experienced the programme and want to share the benefits they have experienced first-hand in their own relationships. The presenting team on the weekend also includes a priest who has experienced the programme and believes that it has something to offer couples in difficulties. All priests are invited to come and experience the programme for themselves for free. We do need priests to help us present the weekend - their presence is highly valued by the couples on the weekend. Please consider coming to one of our weekends. Please help us to help couples in distress or crisis by publicising this programme. Do explore the 'Retrouvaille' website www.retrouvaille.org.uk for further information.

GOSPEL COMMENTARY: FR DONAGH O'SHEA: For many folk two of the hardest tasks each day are to get up and to go to bed. They are not separate; as they are really two sides of the same task. It is because we don't go to bed on time that we can't get up, and it is because we didn't get up early that we don't want to go to bed. Would that we experienced this problem only at the beginning and the end of a day! But it repeats itself throughout our 'waking' hours. We find it hard to finish things, and are seldom totally ready for the next thing when it begins. Like the great spiritual teachers of all times, Jesus kept saying, "Wake up!" (Matthew 25:13; Mark 13:33; 14:38; Luke 21:36). He did not mean (as some have meant) that this life was a nightmare, from which we would do well to awaken; Jesus had no hatred of this life and would never have called it "a bad dream between two awakenings". Rather, he meant that, by being asleep, we were missing the wonder of what God was doing. He meant something like the great line in Genesis, "Jacob woke from his sleep and said 'Surely the Lord is in this place and I did not know it!'" (28:16).

Advent is the season when we hear that wake-up call repeatedly, as in today's Gospel reading. The master of the house, Jesus said, could come at any moment. Later, the first Christians expected the Second Coming of Jesus in their own lifetime but, as the years passed, they had to get used to a longer perspective. This was difficult for them, and they had to struggle to make sense of it. Peter did so by quoting Psalm 89, "To your eyes, a thousand years are like yesterday, come and gone, no more than a watch in the night" (2 Peter 3:8). Paul had to tell the Thessalonians to get back to work: "We hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living" (2 Thessalonians 3:11-12).

"Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down!" cried Isaiah (today's first reading). Julian of Norwich (14th Century) prayed to God for a deeper longing for God. She longed to long more for God. She called it a wound, "the wound of longing". Our world no longer struggles with this. On the contrary, we look for complete fulfilment through our own work; and we expect nothing to happen (unless it be something of a scientific nature). Many now expect nothing really from their religion, and some even see it as an obstacle to life. In "The White Peacock", D.H. Lawrence described a new friend of his. "He was very good stuff. He had hardly a single dogma, save that of pleasing himself. Religion was nothing to him. So he heard all I had to say with an open mind". The mistake is to think that pleasing only oneself doesn't close the mind. Nothing closes it more effectively. By God's grace, we may feel some opening of the "wound of longing" (Julian of Norwich) in this Advent season. We are never finished with our work, and so we are never ready for the completely new. We need to be reminded again to look up from our frenzied labour, to wake up from our dream, to awaken our spirit to the master who can come at any moment.