



**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.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](mailto:sg.christ-theking.bham@rcaob.org.uk)

Alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk)

Hymns: E: 181; O: 382; C: 50; R: 128

**MASSES THIS WEEK**

<b>Sat</b> 09/12/23	Advent Feria	10:00 Mon.	Maria Nguyen Thi Chinh (RIP)
	2 <sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT	12:30 CTK†	Pauline Biffin (Ann)
18:00 OLAM		Brendan O'Reilly (RIP)	
10:00 CTK		Joyce Whelan (RIP)	
11:30 OLAM		Alun Richards (RIP)	
<b>Sun</b> 10/12/23		08:00 Con.†	Johanna Donnellan (Recovery)
		09:30 Mon.	Dang and Nguyen families (RIP)
<b>Mon</b> 11/12/23	Advent Feria	09:30 Mon.†	David Cotton (RIP)
<b>Tue</b> 12/12/23	Advent Feria	08:00 Con.†	Robert Ibbotson (RIP)
<b>Wed</b> 13/12/23	St. Lucy, Martyr, Mem.	09:30 Mon.	Marian Baran (RIP)
		09:30 Mon.	Margaret Gasson (RIP)
<b>Thu</b> 14/12/23	St. John of the Cross, Mem.	12:00 CTK	Jean Fahy (RIP)
		19:00 OLAM	Jacqueline Carron (RIP)
		08:00 CWS	PEOPLE OF THE PARISHES
<b>Fri</b> 15/12/23	Advent Feria	09:00 CTK	Maria Chau Thi Det (RIP)
		10:30 Mon.	Maria Chau Thi Nhut (RIP)
		10:00 Mon.	Joseph Tho & Maria Tam (RIP)
<b>Sat</b> 16/12/23	3 <sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT O Sapientia	12:30 CTK†	James Cunningham
		18:00 OLAM	Bob Thompson (Ann.)
		10:00 CTK	Henry Byrne & Tommy Judge (Ann.)
<b>Sun</b> 17/12/23		11:30 OLAM	Andrew Deane (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.

**PRAYER GROUP IN SUPPORT OF THE PARISH MISSION:** A new prayer group has been set up to focus specifically on praying for the forthcoming Parish Mission. It will meet on the First Fridays of each month in January to June 2024 inclusive at 2.30 pm at 82 Dunedin Road. The next meeting will be on **5<sup>th</sup> January**.

**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, Pauline O'Brien, Edward Bridger and Annette Molloy.

**Carol Service with the Sisters Minor of St Francis** at the Convent on Sat 16<sup>th</sup> December at 3:00pm, with tea and coffee and cake afterwards.

**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** at Christ The King and for the **Collins/Rattigan Family Circle** at Maryvale.

**2<sup>ND</sup> COLLECTION:** There will be a 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection **this weekend** for the Poor Parishes of the Diocese.

The parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216

**Last Weeks' Collection CTK**  
 Loose: £ 310.52  
 Envelopes: £ 133.00  
 Standing Orders: £ 278.65  
**Total: £ 722.17**

**Thank you for  
 your generous support**

**Last Weeks' Collection OLAM**  
 Loose: £ 101.35  
 Envelopes: £ 179.70  
 Standing Orders: £ 94.69  
**Total: £ 375.74**

Christ the King		9 <sup>th</sup> / 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	16 <sup>th</sup> / 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec
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	Patience	Theresa
	Minister of Holy Communion	Sr Michela	Joyce

**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:** Tue 26<sup>th</sup> Dec 23 - 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.

**Christmas Bazaar:** Many thanks to everyone who assisted, in any way, in the preparation for our annual fundraising event held last 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 is displayed at both Churches in time for the Sunday Mass. 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](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk) for further information.

**The Year of Jubilee 2025:** The Holy Father has decided that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, something which happens every 25 years. The theme is “Pilgrims of Hope”, and it will be a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of the man-made pandemic, and a climate crisis. Preparations for the 2025 Year of Jubilee will begin in Advent 2023, which will mark the start of a year of prayer. The Bishops' Conference will be producing resources for the preparatory year of prayer, focusing on the Our Father, as well as resources about Jubilee in the Catholic Church. For use by parishes, priests, religious, laypeople, and more, these resources will help guide you as you ready yourself for this most vital year in the Church's life.

**Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock & Co Mayo, 14/04/24.** £899.00 pps. Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 5 nights' in 4\* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick & Ashford Castle. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact Patricia or Natali on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email [knockpilgrimages@gmail.com](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com).

**GOSPEL COMMENTARY: FR DONAGH O'SHEA:** These are the first words of the earliest Gospel. It is also the shortest of the four Gospels, and was probably written sometime between 60 and 70 AD. In the first thirty (or so) years of its life the Church had no written Gospels. What it had, was an oral tradition: memories shared by people who had known Jesus, or who knew people who had known him.

It is "good news", Mark writes, even though there is a strong emphasis throughout on the suffering of Jesus, and the final third of this short Gospel is devoted to the last week of his life. How such a tragic story could be good news is the mystery we are plunged into from the opening words. Clearly, it is only with hindsight that anyone could call it good news. That hindsight is provided by the resurrection.

'Provided'? We should not be too quick to provide the solution to this tragic story. The resurrection does not slip into place like the final piece of a jigsaw puzzle. Unlike all the other pieces of a jigsaw puzzle, the last piece is no surprise. But the resurrection is from beyond the frame, so it is right to speak of "the surprise of the resurrection". In Mark's Gospel, Jesus seems reluctant even to be recognised as the Messiah, the Promised One; he refers to himself only as the "Son of Man", and orders his followers to tell no-one about him until after his resurrection (Mark 9:9); this is called the "Messianic Secret".

In this Advent season, we are to let the story develop at its own pace, so that we too can experience the surprise of the resurrection. We are not advised to skip to the end. And so, like many a story, Mark's Gospel begins at a certain distance from the main subject. It begins with John the Baptist. Next Sunday's Gospel reading is also about him. The point seems to be that we have to learn to wait – a difficult thing for us who move so fast, and who tend to concentrate on facts rather than their meaning, and who prefer to see results rather than contemplate their causes. Advent is a season of depth and waiting ....