



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



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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: 348; O: 467; C: 478; R: 352

MASSES THIS WEEK

SUNDAY OBLIGATION HAS BEEN REINSTATED BY THE BISHOPS

Sat 23/12/23	Advent Feria - <i>O Emmanuel</i>	10:00 Mon.	Michael Quinn (RIP)
		12:30 CTK	Jane Walsh (Anni.)
		18:00 OLAM	Rita Maxwell
Sun 24/12/23	4 th SUNDAY OF ADVENT <i>Day of Prayer for Expectant Mother</i>	10:00 CTK†	Margaret Ngina (RIP)
		11:30 OLAM	John Roche (RIP)
	Christmas Eve	16:00 CTK	PEOPLE OF THE PARISHES
		18:00 OLAM†	Daniel Patrick Keogh (RIP)
		20:00 CTK	John & Joyce McCarthy
Mon 25/12/23	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	09:00 Mon.	Fr. Michael
		10:00 CTK	All known to Fr The-Quang
		10:00 OLAM	Judy Kennedy
Tue 26/12/23	Feast of St. Stephen	09:30 Mon.†	Avril Mitchell (RIP)
		10:30 CTK	Danny Darren Fields (RIP)
Wed 27/12/23	Feast of St. John, Apostle	08:00 Con.†	Ron (RIP) & Monique Hunt
		09:30 Mon.	Maurice Kelleher (RIP)
Thu 28/12/23	Feast of The Holy Innocents	09:30 Mon.	Denis Doyle (RIP)
		12:00 CTK†	Mr & Mrs H Byrne & family
Fri 29/12/23	Feast of St. Thomas Becket, Bishop	09:30 Mon.†	Brendan & George Nessim
		12:00 CTK	Gerard Byrne (RIP)
Sat 30/12/23	6 th Day of the Octave of Christmas	10:00 Mon.	Tom & Mark
		12:30 CTK	Annie Broth (Ann)
		18:00 OLAM†	Jamsie & Marion Cusack
Sun 31/12/23	FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH	10:00 CTK	Luke Crann and Thomas Beirne (RIP)
		11:30 OLAM	Helen & George Nessim

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 Friday of each month from January to June 2024 inclusive at 2.30 pm at 82 Dunedin Road. The next meeting will be on **5th January**.

Please Pray For The Sick: 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, Annette Molloy, David & Josephine Brown.

RIP: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Prem Lata Sharma, Ron Hunt, Fred Farrell, and Hugh Gunn who died recently. May they rest in peace. Funeral: Ron Hunt: CTK, Thurs 4th January, at 11:00.

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.

Last Weeks' Collection CTK
 Loose: £ 425.49
 Envelopes: £ 120.50
 Standing Orders: £ 278.65
Total: £ 824.64

**Thank you for
 your generous support**

Last Weeks' Collection OLAM
 Loose: £ 243.81
 Envelopes: £ 169.70
 Standing Orders: £ 94.69
Total: £ 508.20

Christ the King		23 rd / 24 th Dec	30 th / 31 st 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	John	Angela
	Minister of Holy Communion	Marianne	Sr Michale

Trustee Vacancies: St Mary's College Oscott:

Oscott College is the diocesan seminary which forms men for the priesthood and the diaconate from England, Wales, Scotland and further afield. The College is looking for up to 10 additional trustees over the next couple of years, due to imminent retirements and also to help increase the expertise and diversity of the board. No experience of trusteeship is necessary, and the successful candidates would be invited to attend a board meeting as a guest (in February 2024), before being appointed. Find out more via our Jobs and Volunteering page. Deadline for Applications: 31/01/2024

News from the charity Friends of the Holy Land: Bethlehem - In a departure from the traditional festive decorations and Christmas tree lighting, the Bethlehem Municipality has chosen to cancel Christmas festivities due to thousands killed and in a prayer for peace. Amidst the rubble and ruins, a poignant voice rises to declare that the light of hope will persist in the small West Bank town where the Christmas story unfolded. Youstina Safar, a resident of Bethlehem and a student at Bethlehem University, has collaborated with the London-based band Oberfuse to deliver a powerful message through their Christmas song, 'Hear Angels Cry'. The song resonates with the belief that hope for a better future, born in the hearts of humanity, remains resilient in the face of aggression. Money raised from song downloads will go to the Friends of the Holy Land charity, currently working with those in desperate need.

12 Days of a Climate Conscious Christmas December's Responding to the Call of Creation newsletter looks at the 12 Days of Christmas with a sustainable twist. Including: Instead of or as well as giving presents this Christmas, think about how you can give your time to charities. You could volunteer for your local food bank, a charity shop, your local wildlife trust or any other charity of your choice to make a difference in your local community.

Living with the Spirit of the Synod course: Over this short online course of two evenings and a full day, we will explore synodal expressions of mission, participation and community through shared experience, prayer, reflection and discussion. We hope that this will help us grow more as pilgrims of love, changed through encounter, listening and discernment. To help people prepare for the Jubilee Year of 2025, Pope Francis has called for a 'Year of Prayer'; our events are offered to inspire and accompany Catholics in this. Days/times: Wed 10/01/24 - 19:00 – 20.30 Session 1; Sat 13/01/24 - 10:00 – 16.00 Session 2; Wed 17/01/24 - 19:00 – 20.30 Session 3. Closing date for registrations: Wednesday 3 January 2024.

GOSPEL COMMENTARY: FR DONAGH O'SHEA: When the prophets of Israel spoke of God's intervention in human history, they imagined it as another thunderous event like Exodus or Mount Sinai. No one imagined that it would be an event so hidden in ordinariness as the conception of a child.

There are many stories in literature about the disappointment of expectation when reality appears. The first play I ever saw in a theatre was called *Professor Tim*. The main character was an elderly and wealthy relative whose return from America was eagerly awaited by his family in Ireland. Their disappointment was extreme when he arrived. He staggered around day after day with a whiskey bottle, making caustic remarks about everybody. He was quickly ostracised by everyone (but perhaps there was one exception, probably a local down-and-out; I can't remember). At the end of the play, he suddenly revealed that it was all an elaborate game to find out what they were really like. He disinherited the lot of them, and left all his wealth, I suppose, to the one person who didn't reject him.

All such stories, even the ones with the flimsiest storylines, have some echo of the Incarnation. Some great religious happening on a mountain-top or in the skies would compel your attention; it would impress you greatly but would not sift your spirit or test your depth. It would match your expectation and would therefore not bring you to a new awareness. It would be all 'out there', and to that extent only a spectacle. We have a great hankering for religious visions and transparent messages, even long after all the 'moving statues' have stopped appearing to move. Our religious sensibility has been deeply affected by television and the cinema. But the Incarnation comes closer to us than any spectacle; it comes behind the eye, so to speak.

I spent some time a few years ago in a Cistercian monastery. Monks have many choral Offices throughout the day, three of them being at 6 am, noon and 6 pm. As they stood in choir, waiting, facing the altar, the Angelus bell was rung. I expected that they would recite the Angelus, but instead they stood there in silence for a couple of minutes. Somehow it was deeply affecting. The Word became flesh - *this* flesh. The Word entered our world silently, unobserved. "When peaceful silence lay over all, and night had run the half of her swift course, down from the heavens, from the royal throne, leapt your all-powerful Word" (Wisdom 18:14-15).

In Nazareth, Catholics indicate Mary's house as the place of the Annunciation, while the Greek Orthodox indicate the site of the village well. Nobody knows where it took place, but the symbolism of both places is very affecting. The kitchen and the village well are the most ordinary places in a most obscure village. "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip asked. Yes, the greatest of all.