



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: 63; O: 377; C: 550; R: 182

MASSES THIS WEEK

SUNDAY OBLIGATION HAS BEEN REINSTATED BY THE BISHOPS

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
Mon	01/01/24	Mary, Mother of God, Solemnity	08:00 Con.†	Sarah Cranke
			10:00 Mon.	Annie & John McDonnell (RIP)
			12:00 CTK	Eugeniusz Mikula (RIP)
Tue	02/01/24	St Basil the Great & St Gregory Nazianzen, Memorial	09:30 Mon.†	Andy Dean (RIP)
			12:00 CTK	Claire Mohan (RIP)
Wed	03/01/24	Christmas Feria	08:00 Con.†	Michael Ewing (RIP)
			09:30 Mon.	Jacqui Carron (RIP)
Thu	04/01/24	Christmas Feria	09:30 Mon.†	Fr. George Ranahan
			11:00 CTK	Requiem: Ron Hunt
Fri	05/01/24	Christmas Feria	09:30 Mon.†	Brother John Feheny
			12:00 CTK	Joan & Alan Horton
Sat	06/01/24	Christmas Feria	10:00 Mon.	Janina & Krystyna
			12:30 CTK†	Dorothy Howard (RIP)
			18:00 OLAM	Jozef Gniadkowski
Sun	07/12/24	Epiphany of the Lord	10:00 CTK	Catherine & John Holmes
			11:30 OLAM	Teresa May Watts (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 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.

Please pray also for the repose of the soul of Fr Paul Lomas, Priest of the Diocese of Shrewsbury, who died on Friday 22nd December. Fr Paul moved to the Archdiocese of Birmingham in 2019 and was appointed as Parish Priest of St Benedict's, Atherstone. We pray for Father Paul's family, friends, his former parishioners and all who mourn him.

Christ the King		30/31 Dec 23	06/07 Jan 24
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	Angela	Steve
	Minister of Holy Communion	Sr Michale	Isy Moss

THE SANCTUARY LAMP, which burns to indicate the presence of the Blessed Sacrament on the Altar, is dedicated throughout January for the **deceased members of the Rochford family** at Christ The King and for the **Myatt/Byrne/Reynolds Families** at Maryvale.

Many thanks to those who joined me in celebrating Christmas with the preparation of their souls and the Church. Thank you for your generous gifts and prayers. Thanks also to those who helped with donating presents, cooking Christmas meals (both from New Heights and from home), delivering and visiting the families who are struggling socially and financially. Your generous kindness is much appreciated.

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

SVP Volunteers Plea: The SVP is looking for volunteers willing to help children put their faith into action. Could this be you? The St Vincent de Paul Society has primary school groups called Mini Vinnies, and volunteers would support teachers or youth leaders wishing to start a group in their school or parish. They will talk to children about how they can make a difference to those living in poverty and share resources to support the group. The role is flexible but does need people with some availability during school hours (at least 2 mornings or afternoons per month) who are willing to travel within the diocese (all costs are covered). If you are passionate about helping children discover how they can make a difference in their communities, please email Sarah for more information on youngvincentians@svp.org.uk. You do not have to have previous experience of working with children as all training will be given. Our next initial training day is on Tuesday 27 February 2024.

Volunteer with Marriage Care: Catholic Marriage Care are looking for Marriage Preparation Course Facilitators to prepare couples for the Sacrament, Relationship Counsellors to support couples in distress and Trustees to join our board. For more information please contact: volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk or visit www.marriagecare.org.uk.

GOSPEL COMMENTARY: FR DONAGH O'SHEA: "The child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him". This shows that they had no hindsight; they thought of themselves in every way as normal people. This is their connection with us. Had they thought themselves special from birth, they would be as distant from us as a royal family. But we see them following the ordinary custom of presenting the child in the Temple, and their offering is the offering of the poor.

When something is actually happening, we have no hindsight on it. Of course, we see things more clearly with hindsight; hindsight is always 20/20, someone said. But in a way, it can be a false and garish light. It judges people in the light of events that they could not have known about; it allows them no future, no development, because we see their future already present in everything they do and say. It flattens out their life like a sheet of paper on which everything is visible simultaneously.

It was the hindsight of the Resurrection, of course, that enabled the disciples to see the life of Jesus in a new light. But this new light of faith did not and was never meant to nullify his earthly life. The early heresies of Docetism and Monophysitism fell into this very trap. Trace elements of these early heresies lived on in mainline theology, and many theologians of the past would have held that Jesus knew all human languages and every event in future history. If that were the case, he could hardly be said to be like us in all things but sin: "We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15). This tendency can be seen in some popular devotions, and we have to be careful lest, while stressing the divinity of Christ, we diminish his humanity and turn the events of his life into a melodrama. The teaching of the Church is that he is fully divine and fully human.

It is our family that makes and keeps us human. We were welded into it before we were born; it is our anchor in human history. Scholars believe that the Gospel accounts (in Matthew and Luke) of Jesus' childhood were not in the original form of the gospels, but were added on at an early stage because they were needed to keep the story of Jesus anchored in this life.

In the West, we tend to think of the family as the 'nuclear family': father, mother and child. Then we project this onto the family of Jesus. But an Eastern family, even to this day, comprises a hundred people or more (this is how Jesus managed to get lost in the Temple). In today's first reading, Abram complained to God of having no children. Then "God brought him outside and said, 'Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them So shall your descendants be'." No mention of a nuclear family.

Jesus too, was part of an extended family. But that physical family was nothing compared to the spiritual family of disciples through the ages and through the whole world. We all have our part in extending it. Every time we extend a hand to a neighbour or a stranger, we are extending that great family. With legitimate hindsight, we can see his spiritual family continuing to extend till it includes the whole world.