



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: 482; O: 548; C: 52; R: 38

MASSES THIS WEEK

Sat 06/01/24	Christmas Feria	10:00 Mon.	Janina & Krystyna
		12:30 CTK†	Dorothy Howard (RIP)
		18:00 OLAM	Jozef Gniadkowski
Sun 07/01/24	Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord	10:00 CTK	Catherine & John Holmes
		11:30 OLAM	Teresa May Watts (RIP)
Mon 08/01/24	Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (Sun: Yr B; Weekday: Yr II)	08:00 Con.†	Mr & Mrs K Byrne & family
		09:30 Mon.	Mr & Mrs Judd & David
Tue 09/01/24	Feria in Ordinary Time	09:30 Mon.†	Mr & Mrs Kerrigan & family
		12:00 CTK	Mrs M Judge & family
Wed 10/01/24	Feria in Ordinary Time	08:00 Con.†	Evelyn Byrne
		09:30 Mon.x	Jacque Carron (RIP)
Thu 11/01/24	Feria in Ordinary Time	09:30 Mon.†	Theresa Smith (RIP)
		12:00 CTK	Eileen & Pauline
Fri 12/01/24	Feria in Ordinary Time	09:00 CTK	PEOPLE OF THE PARISHES
		09:30 Mon.x	Sr Marie Inglis
Sat 13/01/24	Feria in Ordinary Time	10:00 Mon.	Jan, Mark & Tom
		12:30 CTK	Alfie Bourn (RIP)
		18:00 OLAMx	Rhonda Kennelly (RIP)
Sun 14/01/24	2 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	10:00 CTK	Gerry Gorman (Anni.)
		11:30 OLAM†	Brendan O'Reilly (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: Monique Hunt, Luke Byrne, Jean McCabe, Muriel/Paul Cowan, Gerald, John, Sr Marie, Mary McGee, John/Sandra Mageean, Sarah McCallion, 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..

Youth Group meeting on Fri 12th Jan and 26th Jan at 7:00pm in the Guild Room.

Parish Mission meeting: 10th Jan in the Guild Room at 7:00pm.

Pilgrimage to Walsingham: "The Birmingham and Wolverhampton Walsingham Association is organising a pilgrimage to Walsingham this year from Sat 6th April to Mon 8th of April. The cost is £299pp for En-suite and £261pp for budget accommodation. This includes coach travel from various pick-up points across Birmingham and Wolverhampton. For more details and bookings please contact Charles Keily before Friday 19th January on 07710 189036. All are welcome."

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.

Last 2 Weeks' Collections CTK	
Loose:	£ 527.98
Envelopes:	£ 184.80
Standing Orders:	£ 557.30
Total:	£ 1270.08

**Thank you for
your generous support**

Last 2 Weeks' Collections OLAM	
Loose:	£ 255.87
Envelopes:	£ 325.98
Standing Orders:	£ 189.38
Total:	£ 771.23

Please note, the above figures are for the 2 weeks covering Christmas and New Year Masses.

Christ the King		6 th /7 th Jan	13 th /14 th Jan
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	Steve	Theresa
	Minister of Holy Communion	Isy Moss	Marianne

Use of toilets in New Heights Centre is not allowed, for security reasons, when the hall has been booked and when the staff are in but have not been informed of people coming. Those who come to the midday mass can only use the toilet in church during mass.

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:

Ours is not the first age to look east for wisdom; the East has always had a reputation for it. The word 'magi' is translated here as "wise men". 'Magus' meant different things: a magus was a member of the Persian priestly caste; or one who possessed occult knowledge and power (this is the origin of our word 'magic'). If people had the careless habit of throwing around the term 'New Age' in those times as many do now, the Magi would certainly have been called New Agers.

Herod was one of history's great tyrants: he spared no one, not even his own family; to keep his grip on power he murdered his wife, three of his sons, his brother-in-law, an uncle, and his mother-in-law. He had been appointed "King of the Jews" by the Roman Senate in 40 BC and he had already reigned for over thirty years. He was in no mind to hear of a new king, especially one who was no son of his. "He was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him." He was frightened to hear of a rival, and the people were frightened because they knew what he was capable of. But the chief priests and the scribes – the religious authorities of the day – were able to give him directions in locating this rival. They knew in detail about the expected arrival of "the anointed one." They had studied the Scriptures, they knew the prophecies, they knew where to look. And they used all that knowledge to direct a killer to him. Nor was it just a momentary lapse of judgment: Herod would fail to kill him, but later on they would succeed.

The Magi were foreigners, pagans, astrologers: everything that was most base in the eyes of the religious authorities. Though they had not the benefit of the prophecies the Magi came and did the Child homage. Tradition calls them "kings" – judging, probably, by the wealth of the gifts they brought. At any rate, they came looking for a king. Where do you look for a king? In a palace. Who else is likely to be there? A royal family. But the Magi came to a cave or a stable where they found a poor family, with animals and perhaps a few shepherds. All the appearances would have told them they had made a ridiculous mistake, yet "falling to their knees, they did him homage".

We can look at the significance of this from many angles. Preparation is no guarantee that you will be ready; it may actually blind you, because you prepare according to your own idea. There is no substitute for an open heart; learning sometimes has the effect of closing the heart, and in some cases even the mind. Religious authority is the most perilous of all: the claims are absolute, the deepest things are at stake, and with the years comes the habit of listening to no one. The most chilling feature of this story is the collusion of the religious leaders with Herod.

Later on, when simple people were shouting out their enthusiasm for Jesus, the Pharisees said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out" (Lk 19:40-41). We are not to be surprised at where praise of God can spring up. It is not recorded that any of the authorities went with to Magi to search for the Child; it was the pagan astrologers who sought and found him.