



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

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Responsorial Psalm – Ps 103:1-2,3-4,24-25,27-30

R: *Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are.*

MASSES THIS WEEK

Sat 08/01/22	12:30 CTK†	Baptism of the Lord, Feast	Alfie Bourn (RIP)	
	18:00 OLAM		Jozef Gniadkowski (Anni.)	
Sun 09/01/22	10:00 CTK		Teresa Keogh (RIP)	
	11:30 OLAM		Maria Dermody	
Mon 10/01/22	08:00 Con.†		Wk 1 OT Sundays: C Weekdays: 2	Fr Eugene Lynch (RIP)
	09:30 Mon			Vince Phelan & family
	12:00 CTK			Michael Fitzmaurice (RIP)
Tue 11/01/22	09:30 Mon†		Feria	Bernard (RIP)
	10:30 OLAM			Requiem -Jillian Diane Mary Broadbent
Wed 12/01/22	08:00 Con†		Feria	Dr Hnus Teku Fon (Anni.)
	09:30 Mon	P J Riordan (RIP)		
Thu 13/01/22	09:30 Mon	Feria	Christine Alliston	
	10:30 OLAM		Shaun Daly	
	12:00 CTK†		Gerry Gorman (Anni.)	
Fri 14/01/22	09:00 CTK	Feria	Kathleen Walsh (RIP)	
	10:30 Mon.		Andrew Burns (RIP)	
Sat 15/01/22	10:00 Mon	Feria	Grace Deane (RIP)	
	12:30 CTK†		Annie Rochford (B'day Anni.)	
	18:00 OLAM		David Taylor (RIP)	
Sun 16/01/22	10:00 CTK	2nd Sunday in OT	Gerry Gorman (Anni)	
	11:30 OLAM		Joe Callaghan (RIP)	

Rosary Group: meeting every Wednesday in Christ the King Church at 3:30pm.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Ron & Monique Hunt, Jean McCabe, Luke Byrne, Muriel Cowan, Paul Cowan, John & Sandra Mageean, Gerald, Sarah McCallion, Audrey Vickers, John, Sadie Pulido, Sheila Ferns, Mary McGee, Margaret Gasson, Claire & Mark, Mary Ann Gniadkowski, Niamh O' Reilly, Carole Smith, Alan Rowan, Kyle Billing, Jo Teece, Nicola Jones, Deacon Jack, Daniel Kelly, Sean Butler, Sr Marie, Patricia Nash, Mandy Hawkes, Arjun Paul, Teresa Webb, Mary Hickey, Sean Mulkeen.

Altar Servers who started serving before the pandemic and would like to serve again please contact Andrew Leadbetter on ctkliturgy@outlook.com

Dates for your diary: Parish Visit to Oscott College: on Sunday 13th February afternoon, from 3:00pm – 7:15pm. Please put your name and contact number on the list if you plan to come.

Prayer of Spiritual Communion

Lord God, our light and our salvation, we praise you for your gifts of life and faith. We thank you for the desire you have planted in our hearts, our yearning to see your face. Help us to meet you in prayer, to walk in your ways, and to speak to others of our joy and consolation in your presence. Give us the wisdom to appreciate your Son's self-gift in the Eucharist, so that although we cannot now be at mass to receive this gift sacramentally we may still be able to receive him spiritually. Give us faithfulness in this present life so that we may come into full communion with you and with all that belong to you. We make this prayer through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gospel Reflection (Fr Donagh O'Shea OP)

Jesus is there anonymously in the crowd, coming forward with the rest to meet the famous John the Baptist. It is impossible for us to see him as an anonymous person; to us he stands out from every crowd and from the whole human race: above them, beyond them; we can't imagine him not yet majestic. But there he is, the village man, Jesus, known only to his family and neighbours. He is not yet famous.

There is only one famous man there: John the Baptist. When you see a famous person among the crowds you notice that there is nearly always something false about it: he or she is looking for something, votes or applause or some other sort of ego-stroking. But John the Baptist wasn't looking for anything; he was delivering! He was delivering a verbal lashing of extraordinary severity, calling the crowd 'a brood of vipers.' Jesus is there, watching, listening, anonymous. He is indistinguishable from the brood of vipers. He is one of us. This is nothing new for him; this is how he has been all the thirty years of his life.

But this meeting with John the Baptist is a turning point. Something happened. He experienced the Spirit, and it is described in the kind of language that mystics have used throughout the ages to describe their union with God: 'You are my son, the beloved.'

Have you ever known that experience, in your very bones: God speaking to you (in some sense), 'You are my son, my daughter, the beloved?' If you experience God at all how could it be otherwise? God is love. Even the thundering 19th-century preacher, Spurgeon, became quiet in front of today's gospel passage. He wrote: "The wings of the dove are as soft as they are swift. Quietness seems essential to many spiritual operations; the Lord is in the still small voice, and like the dew, His grace is distilled in silence." The unshakeable intimacy with his Father that Jesus demonstrated throughout the rest of his life bears witness to his experience of God's Spirit.

Was he now somehow 'above' the crowd? Would he no longer queue up with them? On the contrary. He was now more than ever one of them. He spent the rest of his life seeking out "the weak, the sick, the wounded, the strayed, the lost" (see Ezekiel 34). He was for the lost sheep, the outcast, the sinner. This has ever since been the mark of true greatness. Among us human beings (and not only in the farmyard) there is usually a well-enforced pecking order: people who climb up a step are sure to make it visible in some way, and sometimes they will even move into a different circle of friends and abandon the old circle. But Jesus never abandons the abandoned.

Again the mighty Spurgeon: "Gentleness is a sure result of the Spirit's transforming power: hearts touched by Him are meek and lowly henceforth and for ever."

Can language convey this? I know a man who conveys it better than words ever could. When he is talking with you (or, much more often, listening) and someone interrupts, he totally ignores the interruption. His attention is unwavering. Nothing else exists for him at that moment, and you know that he would stop at nothing to help you, and there is not the slightest hint of ego in it - he has no agenda of his own. This is a rare quality. People know instinctively that he is a man of God. In case you've never met one, that's what meeting a saint is like.

If meeting a saint is like that, what must it be like to meet Jesus himself?

Last 2 Weeks' Collections CTK

Envelopes	£ 110.00	£ 118.00
Loose	£ 203.52	£ 130.11
St. Orders	£ 206.69	£ 206.69
Total	£ 520.21	£ 454.80

Last 2 Weeks' Collections OLAM

Envelopes	£ 130.50	£ 101.00
Loose	£ 103.03	£ 25.04
St. Orders	£ 33.46	£ 33.46
Total	£ 266.99	£ 159.50

Thank you for your generosity

Parish Meeting

As you will remember we held an open meeting for Christ the King and Maryvale parishes back on 11th November. It was agreed at that meeting that we should hold another meeting on this coming Monday 11th January. The meeting will be held at 7:00 pm at Maryvale Community Centre and will finish by 8.15 at the latest. I would encourage you to come whether or not you came to the first meeting. It is a forum for us to discuss how we together build and plan the future of the two parishes. I hope to see you there.

Message from SVP

Dear parishioners, on behalf of all our members I would like to sincerely thank you for your ongoing and generous support, particularly your very kind donations during the Christmas period. In the month of December alone we visited over 60 families struggling to make ends meet and were able to support them all with groceries, food vouchers and household items. This would not have been possible without your generosity. I suspect that we will continue to receive a significant amount of referrals for our help due to the current financial climate and so your support is very precious. Please keep our members and those we visit in your prayers as we will keep you in ours. Wishing you and your loved ones a happy new year. Theresa.

Sign up: Volunteer-led balance programme for older people

Parishes are invited to participate in a volunteer-led balance programme for older people.

Dr Sheeba Rosewilliam is a physiotherapist and lecturer at the University of Birmingham and has developed a programme to prevent falls in older members of church congregations, which can be run by volunteers after they have received appropriate training. The programme, which initially involved a number of churches in the Wolverhampton area, was very successful but has been interrupted by the pandemic. An expansion of the programme is now underway and it is hoped even more churches will take part. For more information please see the attached document from Dr Rosewilliam and contact her via email: s.b.rosewilliam@bham.ac.uk