



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

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Responsorial Psalm – Ps 18(19):8-10,15

(CTK: 252, 183, 381, 147; OLAM: 230, 160, 345, 129)

R: *Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life.*

MASSES THIS WEEK

Sat 22/01/22	12:30 CTK	3rd Sunday in OT	Verity Wire
	18:00 OLAM		Paul Thompson (Anni.)
Sun 23/01/22	10:00 CTK		Dr Hnus Teku Fon (RIP)
	11:30 OLAM†		Patricia Whelan (Anni.)
Mon 24/01/22	08:00 Con.†	St Francis de Sales, Mem	Kathleen Eustace (RIP)
	09:30 Mon		Lissie O'Hagan
	12:00 CTK		Alan & Stephanie Holland (RIP)
Tue 25/01/22	09:30 Mon†	Conversion of St Paul, Feast	Grace Deane (RIP)
	12:00 CTK		Mary Cassidy (RIP)
Wed 26/01/22	08:00 Con†	Ss Timothy & Titus, Mem	Delia Byrne (RIP)
	09:30 Mon		Frank, Louise & family
Thu 27/01/22	09:30 Mon	Feria	The Teece family
	10:30 OLAM		PEOPLE OF THE PARISHES
	13:30 CTK		Requiem - Gary William Taylor
Fri 28/01/22	09:00 CTK	St Thomas Aquinas, Mem	Clare Cooper
	10:30 Mon.		Simon & Michelle
	10:00 Mon	Feria	Krystyna Mikula Deegan
Sat 29/01/22	12:30 CTK		Ed McKeown (RIP)
	18:00 OLAM	4th Sunday in OT	Mr & Mrs McLoughlin
Sun 30/01/22	10:00 CTK		Maria Ban (RIP)
	11:30 OLAM		Carmel Purcell (RIP)

RIP: Please pray for Nuala Gallagher and Leslie Richardson who died recently. May they rest in peace.

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

Bible Study with Deacon Dominic Fahey in the church of Our Lady of the Assumption every Tuesday at 7:00pm.

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, Alberto Bolongaro, Arjun Paul, Teresa Webb, Mary Hickey, Sean Mulkeen.

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 in the porch 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)

"To bring good news to the poor." What is good news for the poor? That they are going to become rich? And then it will be their turn to oppress the poor!

Hurrah for revolution and more cannon-shot!

A beggar on horseback lashes a beggar on foot.

Hurrah for revolution and cannon come again!

The beggars have changed places, but the lash goes on. (W.B. Yeats)

This could not be what Jesus meant. "Blessed are you who are poor," he said (Luke 6:20). Are they blessed in being poor, or because they are poor, or for some other reason that is only materially connected with their being poor?

Is poverty a value? It is hard to see how it could be a value in itself, seeing that it is just the lack of something good: an adequate level of wealth. (It is not wealth that is evil, but the selfish misuse of it.) Where is the value in poverty, then? In 1965 Paul VI, in *Apostolicam Actuositatem*, wrote, "That which is already due in justice [to the poor] is not to be offered as a gift of charity." In fact he was just repeating the much earlier teaching of the Church: for example, St John Chrysostom (5th century) had written, "Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs." And Pope Gregory the Great (also 5th century) wrote, "When we attend to the needs of those in want, we give them what is theirs, not ours. More than performing works of mercy, we are paying a debt of justice."

In the time of Jesus, wealth was seen as a sign of God's favour, and poverty a sign of disfavour. His good news for the poor was not that the rich would welcome them when they came begging, nor that they could prove how humble they were, but that they had an equal dignity in the eyes of God and an equal right to the earth's goods. The good news was not that they would become rich, but that they could stand in their full dignity before God and the world.

Many have imagined a future Utopia, a perfect place where everything will be as it should be. But the word 'Utopia' does not mean a perfect place; it means a 'non-existent place' (from the Greek, *ou* = not, and *topos* = place). Is the Christian vision a Utopia? In a sense yes. The world is not a place of perfect justice, love, or peace. We have not arrived, but we are "on the way," *in via*, as the mediaevals put it. The work has started, the seed has been sown. "This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen," Jesus said. We are not invited to dream ineffectually of a Utopia, but to work for the coming of God's Kingdom on earth.

People who practise *lectio divina* - the slow careful meditative reading of Scripture - stress the importance of being aware, when reading any passage, that 'this text is being fulfilled today even as we read.' Something of the word of God is already moving in us. If there were nothing, then we would only be dreaming of Utopia. The practical way is to care for the little that is there, rather than dream and do nothing. "Better an acre in Wessex," said Macaulay, "than a principality in Utopia."

Last Week's Collection CTK

Envelopes	£ 67.40
Loose	£ 139.38
St. Orders	£ 206.69
Total	£ 413.47

Last Week's Collection OLAM

Envelopes	£ 113.50
Loose	£ 156.37
St. Orders	£ 33.46
Total	£ 303.33

Thank you for your generosity

Synod Conversations: we are encouraged to get engaged in dialogue within the parish community so that everyone can express their concerns about their spiritual well-being. Meetings will be arranged for parishioners, who are serious about their existence in the Church, to come for dialogue. The areas we need to look at are Evangelisation, Formation, Worship, and Social Outreach. You may find the following questions helpful for composing your thoughts: In what situation am I? How did I get here? Am I happy with it? What impact has it on the parish community? Am I concerned about it? To where do I want to get? What do I want to see practised in the parish? If I want to move on, what am I prepared to leave behind? Of what sort of promised land do I dream?

Community meal (sponsored by Dr Deedar Singh Bhomra of Aylesbury Surgery) on 30th January at 16:00, at New Heights Centre. People from both parishes are welcome. Please ring Sandra on 07985607091 to book a place.

Request from SVP: A family is looking for a washing machine. Please contact one of our members if you know of one available. Thank you.

Look Up Project: People in the Diocese are invited to the online relaunch of this project which started six years ago when the Archdiocese joined forces with the Medaille Trust to raise awareness of modern slavery in our communities. The relaunch will be on the feast day of St Josephine Bakhita, Patron Saint of Victims of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. The online event takes place on Tue 8th February from 6pm to 7pm. A number of parishes were visited by a representative of the Trust and awarded a 'Make the Pledge' certificate. Find out more about the Project on: <https://www.medaille-trust.org.uk/news/article/the-look-up-project>.