

Parish of Christ the King



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Hall Bookings: ☎ 01372 457651
Registered Charity Number: 234091

MASSES AND INTENTIONS

21st to 29th December 2024

Sat 21st Dec

10am to 10:45am Confessions
6pm Mass: *Marie Birthday*

Sun 22nd Dec 4th Sunday of Advent

8:30am Latin Mass: *The faithful of the parish*
10:30am Mass: *Renate Kurnoth, anniv. Emmanuela N. birthday*
5pm Kerala Mass

Tue 24th Dec CHRISTMAS EVE

12:30pm Lithuanian Mass
5pm Vigil Mass: *The Facchiano family*
6:45pm Keralan Mass
8:30pm Carol Service
9pm Night Mass: *The Di Stazio family*

Wed 25th Dec NATIVITY OF THE LORD

8am Latin Mass: *The Faithful of the parish*
10am Mass *For peace in the world*

Thu 26th Dec

10am Mass: *Ann Hudson*

Fri 27th Dec

11am – 11:45am Adoration and Confessions
12 noon Mass:

Sat 28th Dec

10am to 10:45am Confessions
6pm Mass: *Nigel Kennedy, anniv*

Sun 29th Dec The Holy Family

8:30am Latin Mass: *The faithful of the parish*
10:30am Mass:
5pm Kerala Mass

SUNDAY'S RESPONSORIAL PSALM

God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

As this week unfolds, we celebrate one of the greatest Christian feasts, a Mystery which has changed the course of our lives and the life of the world. We wish everyone in the parish an experience of the Mercy of God and his plan of salvation. A very happy Christmas to you all.



CHOIR GALLERY

After Christmas we are going to clear and clean the choir gallery so that it can better enable our growing choir.

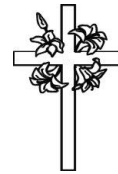
We ask that if you have any items stored in the gallery, that you please come and take these away. Thank you.

CONFIRMATION

If anyone in the parish, who is 18 years or older, and wishes to be confirmed during 2025 – would you please contact Fr Richard.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Last Week's Collections - £567.53



CONDOLENCES

To the recently bereaved family and friends of

Jane Attard (RIP)

Mary Neves (RIP)

Please pray for the repose of their souls.

PILGRIMS - THE JUBILEE PRAYER

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever.

Amen. *Pope Francis.*

PARISH QUIZ NIGHT 2025

For your 2025 diary, our popular parish Quiz night with fish & chips supper Saturday 25th January 2025, at 7:30pm. For more details see Rachel Kirkham or Tel: 01234 314093. Tickets on sale now. All welcome.



Wishing you all a very Happy and Holy Christmas Father Richard

SVP GIVING TREE - BIG THANK YOU

Huge thanks to everyone, who so generously donated gifts for our Giving Tree appeal this year. The response from our Parishioners has been phenomenal and the School very grateful. The parcels have been delivered to the school and already given to the nominated families who are full of gratitude on behalf of their children. This has truly been a wonderful opportunity for us as a Parish, to lay our gifts before the Saviour in our present day Bethlehem and share his love with others, less fortunate than ourselves. Wishing you all a Blessed Christmas, Venite Adoremus, Christ The King SVP.

STRATEGIC EXECUTIVE LEADER VACANCY

Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Academies Trust (OLICAT) are seeking a new Strategic Executive Leader (SEL) to build upon the excellent foundations already in place. Our new SEL will have a strong track record and demonstrable leadership skills, as well as the drive and passion to take on this exceptional opportunity to lead OLICAT and its schools in the next stage of the journey.

If you are interested in this role and would like to apply:

<https://mynewterm.com/jobs/5521/EDV-2024-OLICATL-08206>

To have a confidential conversation about the vacancy call 07901 585959 or via email rlaird@academicis.co.uk.



REFLECTION - Who is This Child?

"This is the best gift we can offer the child; not gold or frankincense, but the gift of ourselves in love and service. Then is Christ born in us."

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

The weeks of Advent urge us to wake up, to be more alert to the presence of God's grace in our lives. Underneath all the glitter, the hectic shopping, the seemingly inevitable harassments as people prepare for Christmas is a deep longing for the Child who comes. We may not be aware of it so crammed is our life with busyness, so out of touch are we with our inner core. But then the unexpected kindness of a stranger, the lovely face of a child in the street, a bar of music - and we are startled into a deeper dimension.



Emmanuel, God with us. God with us in the messiness and failures of our life as much as in the joy and goodness we also experience. To be awake is to notice the gestures of this Other, the delicate yet powerful signs of His presence. Hints of the divine press on us, intimations of His company, what some call 'a rumour of angels', touch us daily. Do we sometimes miss this gentle presence? "Stay awake!"

Jesus said, "You do not know when the Master of the house will come" (Mk 13:35). We are so greatly cherished, not now and then, but every moment, every day, morning, noon and night. All the time we are being drawn "with human cords, with bands of love" (Hos 11:4).

The sun didn't dance, the moon didn't fall when God who created them, created everything, became one of us, not in power and majesty but as a baby in a remote village in Israel. There were angels, yes, there were shepherds. And later came 'Wise Men' bearing rich gifts. At the heart, holding her Son, is Mary. Mary whose great 'Yes' brought her to this place where, alone, among strangers but for Joseph, she gave birth to the Son of God. And, St Luke pointedly tells us, "She kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart" (Lk 2:19).

Will we give time this Advent to reflect with Mary, to sit with her in silence and let the grace and the wonder of this Birth enfold us? Who is this Child Whom I hold in my arms? Is my heart open, wide open to Him? Am I ready to accept His love, His forgiveness, His healing?

This is the Incarnation. God coming into this fragile, damaged creation with love beyond all imagining. When we trust this love then we have the courage, the good spirit to go out to others, especially those who are 'different', who are 'outsiders', who are unwanted, who may even be the people we meet every day. This is the best gift we can offer the Child; not gold or frankincense, but the gift of ourselves in love and service. Then is Christ born in us.