

Parish of Christ the King



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MASSES AND INTENTIONS

28th December 2024 to 5th January 2025

Sat 28th Dec

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

Sun 29th Dec The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:30am Latin Mass: *The faithful of the parish*
10:30am Mass: *Winifred McAuley, Anniv.*
5pm Kerala Mass

Tue 31st Dec

6:30pm Mass: *Teresa Tickyj (RIP)*

Wed 1st Jan Mary, the Holy Mother of God

10am Mass: *Palladino family*

Thu 2nd Jan Saint Basil the Great and Saint Gregory Nazianzen

10am Mass: *Michael Keaveney*

Fri 3rd Jan

11am – 11:45am Adoration and Confessions
12 noon Mass: *Bishop David Oakley*

Sat 4th Jan

10am to 10:45am Confessions
6pm Mass: *Kerin family*

Sun 5th Jan The Epiphany of the Lord

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

SUNDAY'S RESPONSORIAL PSALM

They are happy who dwell
in your house, O Lord.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Note to parents: our next activity for the children is on Saturday 25th January at 3pm in the church (for one hour.) Parents must accompany their children.

THE NEW CHILDREN'S LITURGY

We will launch this soon in January and it will be more like a 'Tiny church'. In other words, we plan to host this for the younger age group – pre-school and up to Year 2. Parents are welcome to accompany their children. Please watch this space.

WHITE FLOWER APPEAL

This will be held on 18th and 19th January in support of the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Children.

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 Father Richard.

PARISH QUIZ NIGHT 2025

For your 2025 diary, our popular parish Quiz night with fish & chips supper Saturday 25th January 2025, at 7:30pm. You are invited to take part in this very enjoyable evening in the parish later in January. For more details see Rachel Kirkham or Tel: 01234 314093. Tickets on sale now. All welcome.

REFLECTION

From the shepherds we should learn not to be crushed by all the pressing matters in our daily lives. From them we should learn the inner freedom to put other tasks in second place however important they may be so as to make our way towards God, to allow him into our lives and into our time. Time given to God and, in his name, to our neighbour is never time lost. It is the time when we are most truly alive, when we live our humanity to the full. Most of us in the world today live far from Jesus Christ, the incarnate God who came to dwell amongst us. We live our lives by philosophies, amid worldly affairs and occupations that totally absorb us and are a great distance from the manger. In all kinds of ways, God has to prod us and reach out to us again and again, so that we can manage to escape from the muddle of our thoughts and activities and discover the way that leads to him. But a path exists for all of us. The Lord provides everyone with tailor-made signals. He calls each one of us, so that we too can say: "Come on, let us go over to Bethlehem to the God who has come to meet us." Yes indeed, God has set out towards us. Left to ourselves we could not reach him. The path is too much for our strength. But God has come down. He comes towards us. He has travelled the longer part of the journey. Now he invites us: come and see how much I love you. Come and see that I am here... Let us go there! Let us surpass ourselves!... God's sign is his humility. God's sign is that he makes himself small; he becomes a child; he lets us touch him and he asks for our love... God comes to us as man, so that we might become truly human. Pope Benedict XVI

LAST CHANCE – RAFFLE PRIZES

There are a few main draw raffle prizes still uncollected from the Parish Fair. If you have won a prize please collect from Rachel Kirkham ASAP. Any unclaimed prizes will be re-entered in our next event the parish Quiz Night.



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.*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Last Week's Collections - £603.70

*Wishing you all a very
Happy New Year
Father Richard*





Pope Francis asks us to be signs of hope for others, by putting Catholic Social Teaching into action through caring for our common home and supporting our sisters and brothers who are experiencing war, hunger or poverty.

We know that the world is facing many of these challenges but you are one of millions of people who are joining together in the Jubilee Year to bring the light of hope and the message of God's love to every part of the world!

We can all be Pilgrims of Hope, so let's start our journey right now! Pope Francis says: "By our actions, our words, the decisions we make each day, our patient efforts to sow seed of beauty and kindness wherever we find ourselves, we want to sing of hope and reawaken in every heart the joy and courage to embrace life to the full

Luke 4.16-21

Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read, And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me. because he has anointed me

to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed. to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing

Pause for a moment of quiet reflection



MARY'S RESPONSE AND OURS

Some people expect that because Mary was so talented by God, this makes her no longer really human. Mary has a unique role to play in history: as the Church teaches, she "occupies a place in the Church which is the highest after Christ and closest to us. (Lumen Gentium, 54)

Being chosen by God for such a task does not exclude Mary from the human race; God's choice of her does not free her from making her choice for God. Mary was asked to put her freedom, her whole person at the service of God's plan.

The difference between us and Mary is not that Mary was chosen while we are not; rather, it is that she fully responded to be chosen for her role while we remain hesitant and half-hearted about responding to what God asks of us. God has chosen all of us. This great truth was expressed by St Paul when he wrote: "God chose us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless and to live through love in his presence". (Ephesians. 1)

Like Mary, we face God's choice of us; like her, we are challenged to say yes. If we could see ourselves as the result of God's choice rather than a mobile mistake, we might be keener to say yes! God has chosen every single person here today; he has a role for each of us. He waits for our choice that puts our freedom at his service. God's word to Mary in today's Gospel is a word of supreme value Rejoice, highly favoured". Perhaps we don't really believe that God Favours us; maybe we have reached the stage where we don't think we are worth anything anyway. So today, let that be God's word to you: "Rejoice. highly favoured, for I have chosen you to be holy and live through live in my presence.

Yes, you! Rejoice."