

Parish of Christ the King



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MASSES AND INTENTIONS

4th to 12th January 2025

Sat 11th Jan

10am to 10:45am Confessions
6pm Mass: *Teresa Walsh, anniv, and
Vladimir Copjan, anniv.*

Sun 12th Jan Baptism of the Lord

8:30am Latin Mass: *The faithful of the parish*
10:30am Mass: *The parish's call to evangelise*
5pm Kerala Mass

Tue 14th Jan

6:30pm Mass:

Wed 15th Jan

10am Mass: *YB*

Thu 16th Jan

10am Mass: *Dead List*

Fri 17th Jan Saint Anthony

11am – 11:45am Adoration and Confessions
12 noon Mass: *Anna Sheridan, anniv*

Sat 18th Jan

10am to 10:45am Confessions
6pm Mass: *Vocations to the Christian life*

Sun 19th Jan 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

WHITE FLOWER APPEAL

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

SUNDAY'S RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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

TINY CHURCH

We are starting this initiative today, 12th January at the 10:30am Mass. It is a children's liturgy aimed at children who are four to six years old, and it is designed to enable the children to engage with the Sunday's Gospel reading. We will be using the 'Mark10Mission' resource. Parents of children in this age group will be invited to present their children for this activity at the start of the Mass. The activity will take place in the parish room and parents, you are welcome to accompany your children. No photography can take place during Tiny church and the children should not have mobile phones with them. The children will return into the church for the Offertory of the Mass. We are grateful to Tanya, Edwin and Cijo for leading this initiative which complies fully with our Safeguarding protocols. Tiny church will take place on all Sundays excepting holidays, including mid-term.

PARISH QUIZ NIGHT 2025

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.
For more details see Rachel Kirkham or Tel: 01234 314093. Tickets on sale now. All welcome.

CONFIRMATION

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

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.

YOU CAN HELP YOUR MARRIAGE

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped because it only makes it worse?

Retrouvaille has helped 10s of 1000s of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about the next programme which will be presented on Zoom ...

27 February to 2 March 2025
Email: info@retrouvaille.org.uk
Call or text 0788 7296983
www.retrouvaille.org.uk

A YEAR OF HOPE

An Introduction to the Jubilee Year with the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development 2025 is a Jubilee year, but what does that mean? Catholic talk show host and author Nana Churcher, and CAFOD's Simon Giarchi will be hosting Fr Jan Nowotnik (Director of Mission for the Bishop's Conference), Christine Allen (CAFOD's Director) and Kayode Akintola (CAFOD's Head of Africa) and more for a lively start to the Jubilee. With a special appearance by Catholic band Ooberfuse. Saturday 18 Jan, 10:30am-midday, online. All welcome. Register here for free: www.cafod.org.uk/jubilee

BEDFORD FOODBANK

Many thanks for your support in 2024. With your support we fed 24,244 people with 8,091 of these being children and handed out 200,546 kg of stock. Below is a list of our needed items for January: Tinned meat/tuna, Tinned veg/fruit, Cooking sauces, Coffee, Milk UHT, Cereals, Fruit juice (long life), Tinned pudding, Jam & Laundry tablets

PARISH FORUM

The date for this is Sunday 26th January following the 10:30am Mass at about 12 noon. Christmas and New Year have been quite full and so we have delayed the Forum to a quieter part of the month.



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 - £654.84

Father Richard thanks the parish for your very generous Christmas Offerings, and also for the many, lovely Christmas cards and gifts that he received over the Christmas festival.





WHAT IS HOPE?

Those of a certain age learnt about our faith through the questions and answers of the Catechism of Christian Doctrine. There is a question, 'What is hope?'. And the answer, 'Hope is a supernatural gift of God, by which we firmly trust that God will give us eternal life and all means necessary to obtain it, if we do what he requires of us'.

The next question is this, 'Why must we hope in God?'. 'We must hope in God because he is infinitely good, infinitely powerful, and faithful to his promises. The more recent Catechism of the Catholic Church confirms this: 'Hope is the confident expectation of divine blessing and the beatific vision of God' (cf. CCC 2090). The Catechism then goes on to speak of despair, which is the cessation of hope in forgiveness and salvation. It also speaks of presumption, which is an understanding of salvation based on our own capacities and without the graces of conversion and the merit of virtue.

We may learn so much from these few words of the two catechisms. Hope is rooted in our relationship with the Lord. We live in an age that has almost lost touch altogether with the supernatural. We sense it is all down to us, and there is a diminished eschatological sense. We even see signs of this within our communities of faith. We might pray for a deepening of the theological virtue of hope. Despair and presumption are the two abiding forces against hope at work within our human nature.

The Scriptures constantly focus our hearts and minds on the need to deepen hope. This begins in the Garden of the Fall (Genesis 3). The image of the woman striking the serpent's head was called the proto-evangelium by the early Church Fathers. This is the promise of salvation and God's desire to fulfil his plan for us, despite sin.

There is a beautiful liturgical expression of this in the Easter Exsultet, 'O happy fault that earns so great, so glorious a Redeemer!'. In fact, let the liturgy and its lectionary be our teacher here. Look to the Easter Vigil readings, psalms and prayers. They are bursting with a true understanding of hope. The Gospels are the fulfilment of the promises made to us by God. They are the flowering of the hope of generations as they looked forward to what the Lord would bring about. Our lives, as disciples of Christ, are meant to be convicted by these mysteries of faith.

Within a society radically anchored to life within the present moment, it is difficult for us to imagine what life will be like in the future. We often find ourselves trapped within the anxieties of what may have happened in our past and fear of what is to come. And if we are imprisoned within one of the many ancient, yet strangely current, "isms" of our age-agnosticism, pelagianism, jansenism-our pastoral encounters descend into the myopia of what we may achieve by ourselves. An encounter with the healing love of the Lord enables us to imagine something different. And this is what hope is about.

BISHOP DAVID OAKLEY

Chair of Department of Evangelisation and Discipleship