

Friendship



Image by Dimhou from P1xabay

Dictionaries have to be objective, sober, and precise. One dictionary defines 'friend' as a person with whom one enjoys mutual affection and regard. The reality is, of course, difficult to convey but the best way of thinking about the meaning of a 'friend' is to experience friendship. At its best, friendship is a dazzling reality in many people's lives. If you have a close friend, a real friend, you do not need dictionaries or other explanations. "A faithful friend is priceless" (Sirach 6:12-19).

In discussions referring to friends, you will notice that the word friend is often qualified as 'best', 'loyal' or 'lasting'. This is because there are too many false friends around; we call them 'fair-weather friends' and don't expect much support from them.

Our religious background as depicted in the Bible is well stocked with friends, good and bad. The friendship between David and Jonathan (1 Sam 18:1-4.19.20) endured till the tragic death of Jonathan. The friendship between Ruth and Naomi underpins the narrative of the Book of Ruth. Old Testament friendship flourished as a glimpse of the friendship between God and God's people.

When Love became flesh in Jesus, friendship was raised to a new level. Jesus gives God's friendship for us a human face. Jesus celebrated close friendships throughout his time on earth: with John the Baptist; with the three siblings from Bethany, Martha, Mary and Lazarus; with his apostles and other disciples; with Mary Magdalene; with the holy women who ministered to him; with Nicodemus who

remained faithful to the end.

In John's Gospel we read about the pinnacle of Gospel friendship:

This is my command, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, than to lay down their life for their friends.... I called you my friends (15:15).

In the Middle Ages, the Cistercian saint, Aelred of Rievaulx, in his classic, "Christian Friendship", moved from the proposition 'God is love' to the conclusion 'God is Friendship'. Certainly, Christian friendship is a graced experience in which God comes to us in our mutual affection and our shared love of Jesus.

God also comes close to us in our family. We speak of family members as 'nearest and dearest', even though we sometimes feel that some family members are too close for comfort! The family remains the cradle of self-giving love, the school of love and the enduring strength and support for all life's challenges. The 4th chapter of Pope Francis' Exhortation, "The Joy of Love", roots his vision of family friendship in St Paul's great hymn to love (1 Cor 13).

We also discover that God can come to us through strangers who happen to enter our lives. How often we are surprised by the kindness of strangers, sometimes the efforts that strangers make to comfort us, assist us or guide us.

The greatest surprise is still awaiting us: when we see God face to face as our most loving friend.



SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-18.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Isaiah 12:2-6.

RESPONSE:

Shout, and sing for joy, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

1. 'Behold, God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the Lord God is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation'.
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation. **R**
2. 'Give thanks to the Lord,
call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the nations,
proclaim that his name is exalted'. **R**
3. 'Sing praises to the Lord,
for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.
Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,
for great in your midst
is the Holy One of Israel'. **R**

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7.

GOSEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he has sent me to preach good news to the poor. Alleluia.

GOSEL: Luke 3:10-18.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

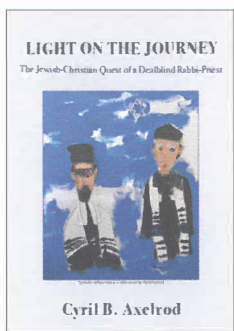
Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

Fr Cyril Axelrod has done it again – he has written another book! Undaunted by being Deafblind, having already written an autobiography and a sequel, he now reflects prayerfully on his Jewish origins and spirituality, bringing these into harmony with his Christian faith. This book is an inspiration to all.

R150
plus delivery



Order from our website www.rpp.org.za or email orders@rpp.org.za. Office: Tue-Fri 08.30-13.00



THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 16 Dec Liturgy of the Day

Numbers 24:2-7,15-17; Psalm 25; Matthew 21:23-27
Waiting can give us the opportunity to see and hear and feel things we're often too busy to notice. It calls us to slow down and become aware of those around us, aware of the Christ-child present in our midst.

Tue 17 Dec Liturgy of the Day

Genesis 49:2,8-10; Psalm 72; Matthew 1:1-17
We glibly pray the prayer of forgiveness at every Eucharist and often in our personal prayers. "Forgiveness is God's greatest gift to all of us, setting us free to live as the beloved children of God." – Megan McKenna

Wed 18 Dec Liturgy of the Day

Jeremiah 23:5-8; Psalm 72; Matthew 1:18-24
"When we forgive, we choose the goodness of others over their faults, we experience God's goodness flowing through ourselves, and we also experience our own goodness in a way that surprises us." – Fr Richard Rohr

Thu 19 Dec Liturgy of the Day

Judges 13:2-7,24-25; Psalm 71; Luke 1:5-25
"Violence is contagious. Violence begets violence. But grace is also contagious. An act of kindness inspires another act of kindness. Grace begets grace. Love rubs off on those who are loved." – Shane Claiborne

Fri 20 Dec Liturgy of the Day

Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 24; Luke 1:26-38
"If I deserve credit for courage, it is ... for continuing in my daily struggle under occupation on so many fronts, and remaining open to love, and to the beauty of the earth..." – Palestinian Quaker Jean Zaru

Sat 21 Dec (St Peter Canisius, PrD)

Zephaniah 3:14-18; Psalm 33; Luke 1:39-45
Our true calling is to love one another as God has loved us, and to be transformed into lovers who care for all beings. As St Francis of Assisi says, "Before you speak of peace, you must first have it in your heart."

Sun 22 Dec 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Micah 5:2-5; Psalm 80; Luke 1:39-45
"It is a first-class human tragedy that peoples of the earth who claim to believe in the message of Jesus whom they describe as the Prince of Peace show little of that belief in actual practice." – Gandhi

KEY: SOLEMNITY; FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial) Pr=Priest; D=Doctor

CHRIST THE KING PARISH

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 Tel: 012 333 4738

(For banking details please contact the Parish Office)

MASS INTENTIONS DECEMBER 2024

14	Sat	18h00	We pray for safe travelling mercies for all who are travelling this festive season
15	Sun	08h00	We pray for all members of our parish
		10h00	RIP Clementina de Nobrega
		18h30	In thanksgiving to the Lord for all he has done for my family this year Josephine and the Sallh famiy
16	Mon	08h00	PUBLIC HOLIDAY
17	Tues	18h00	In thanksgiving for all blessings received through this year
18	Wed	18h00	In thanksgiving for family life
19	Thu	18h00	For the intentions we carry in our hearts
20	Fri	18h00	RIP R Martin

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND AND THEIR CAREGIVERS

Veronica Wheeler, Wendy Elliott, Genevieve van der Merwe, Gideon Wathen, Venancio Ruguwa, Okopantse Matshane, Moira Lottering, Pieter Du Pokoy, Cecilia Forbes, Innita Davies, Miriam Marais and Lyne Bogle

We would appreciate an update every 2nd month as to whether they stay on the list or if they are well enough to be removed.

Should you wish to add a loved one to our sick list please send their details to

secretary@christking.org.za

PARISH NOTICES

WELCOME FR CHARLES: We warmly welcome Fr Charles, who will be standing in for Fr Daniel during his home visit. He can be reached at +39 351 162 4513.

FR DANIEL'S HOME VISIT: Fr Daniel will be away from 12 December to 21 February for a well-deserved break with his family. Fr landed safely in Nairobi.

OFFICE CLOSURE: The parish office will be closed from the 13 December 2024 and reopens on the 06 January 2025.

JOIN US IN CARING FOR OUR CHURCH! Volunteers are needed to clean the church on 24th and 31st December from 09h00. Your help makes a huge difference!

SECOND COLLECTION ADVENT APPEAL: There is a second collection for the Archbishops Advent Appeal ending the weekend of the 22 December 2024. Please give generously.

2025 JUBILEE YEAR PILGRIMAGE: Posters are on the noticeboard with additional information.

CHRISTMAS TREE TAGS: The tags on the tree are for gifts for children and the elderly. Please show your support for this project by taking a tag and returning it on a gift to make it a special Christmas for all. If all presents could be **returned by the 22nd of December** for distribution by the 23rd of December it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for participating in this amazing project.

BISCUIT SALES:

Cookie sales will be taking a break between 15 December 2024 to 12 January 2025. Cookie sales will resume on Sunday 19 January 2025.

REPOSITORY NEW HOURS:

The repository will be open every Saturday evening from 5-6pm and Sunday between 7.15am and 9.45am. There is new stock great for Christmas gifts. Our Bible diaries have arrived. Grab yours before they are sold out.

NEW OPERATING SECURITY / CHURCH HOURS

The security is on a new rotational roster which means the church will open for **Adoration** during the following hours 10h00 till 22h00 Monday to Saturday and from 07h30 to 19h30 on Sunday.

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK



14 Dec: Mr Rakolote Matlala

15 Dec: Mrs Chantal Aucamp

16 Dec: Mr Ilanga Mukendi, Mrs Maria Coutinho

17 Dec: Ms Barbara Giera

18 Dec: Mrs Camilla O'Reilly

19 Dec: Mr Frank De Sousa

20 Dec: Mr Fernando Gomes, Ms Karen Tobias

(If your birthday does NOT appear on the weekly list, you are NOT registered on the electronic system. Please inform the Parish Secretary at 012-333 4738 to update your particulars).

PARISH FINANCES

TITHING. There are Tithe application sheets in the front of the church please fill one in and either drop it in the slot or email to

finance@christking.org.za We encourage you to tithe to support the parish and its many projects that are underway.

Thank you to everyone who currently supports the works of the church.

Please continue to support our Parish via the banking details or the attached

Snapscan code

Banking details:

Christ the King Catholic Church

Standard Bank Branch 051001

Main Account No. 011564733

Tithing Account No. 011181230

Snapscan

SnapScan

Scan the SnapCode to complete the payment.



Queenswood Catholic Church

PARISH OFFICE

Parish Priest:

Fr. Daniel Kivuw'a IMC

Tel: 012 333 4738 / 071 306 3769

Email: dankbwa@yahoo.fr

Parish Office Administrator:

Angela Solomons

secretary@christking.org.za

Office Hours:

Mon to Fri **08h00 - 16h00**

Tel: 012 3334738

For any appointments with Fr. Daniel, please contact Angela, she manages Fr. Daniel's calendar.

University Chaplain:

Fr Manuel Graca: m.c.graca16@gmail.com

Tel: 073 254 4185

HUMANITAS

OUTREACH. We would like to ask the generous community to continue their support of this worthy cause. This is one of the outlets we use to service the needy in our community.

Should you wish to donate to this worthy cause our banking details are:

Christ the King Catholic Church Queenswood; Standard bank, cheque account, Account number 011182709, Branch code 000145. All donations are gratefully accepted.



JUBILEE 2025

GENERAL CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2024

24 December

Opening of the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica



Photo: Vatican Media

JANUARY 2025

24-26 January

Jubilee of the World

FEBRUARY 2025

8-9 February

Jubilee of Armed Forces, Police and Security Personnel

15-18 February

Jubilee of Artists

21-23 February

Jubilee of Deacons

CHRISTMAS

CHRIST THE KING QUEENSWOOD

CHRISTMAS EVE
BELLS MASS:
19:00

CHRISTMAS EVE
CAROLS SERVICE:
23:00

CHRISTMAS DAY:
MIDNIGHT
00:00

CHRISTMAS DAY:
MORNING
09:00

THURSDAY
BOXING DAY:
09:00

FRIDAY
27TH DEC:
09:00

SATURDAY
28TH DEC:
18:00

29TH SUNDAY:
08:00
10:00

30TH MONDAY:
09:00

31ST TUESDAY:
17:00

NEW YEARS

NO 18:30
MASS
5TH
JAN
2025

NEW YEARS
DAY:
09:00

NO 18:30
MASS
12TH
JAN
2025

PLEASE NOTE ALL WEEKDAY MASS WILL BE
AT 09:00 TILL THE 10TH JANUARY 2025



JUBILEE 2025

GENERAL CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2024

24 December

Opening of the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica



Photo: Vatican Media

JANUARY 2025

24-26 January

Jubilee of the World of Communications

FEBRUARY 2025

8-9 February

Jubilee of Armed Forces, Police and Security Personnel

15-18 February

Jubilee of Artists

21-23 February

Jubilee of Deacons

MARCH 2025

8-9 March

Jubilee of the World of Volunteering

28 March

24 Hours for the Lord

28-30 March

Jubilee of the Missionaries of Mercy

APRIL 2025

5-6 April

Jubilee of the Sick and Health Care Workers

25-27 April

Jubilee of Teenagers

28-29 April

Jubilee of People with Disabilities

MAY 2025

1-4 May

Jubilee of Workers

4-5 May

Jubilee of Entrepreneurs

10-11 May

Jubilee of Marching Bands

12-14 May

Jubilee of the Eastern Churches

16-18 May

Jubilee of Confraternities

30 May - 1 June

Jubilee of Families, Children, Grandparents and the Elderly



JUNE 2025

7-8 June

Jubilee of Ecclesial Movements, Associations and New Communities

9 June

Jubilee of the Holy See

14-15 June

Jubilee of Sport

20-22 June

Jubilee of Governments

23-24 June

Jubilee of Seminarians

25 June

Jubilee of Bishops

25-27 June

Jubilee of Priests

JULY 2025

28 July - 3 August

Jubilee of Youth

SEPTEMBER 2025

15 September

Jubilee of Consolation

20 September

Jubilee of Justice

26-28 September

Jubilee of Catechists

OCTOBER 2025

4-5 October

Jubilee of the Missions

4-5 October

Jubilee of Migrants

8-9 October

Jubilee of Consecrated Life

11-12 October

Jubilee of Marian Spirituality

31 October - 2 November

Jubilee of the World of Education



NOVEMBER 2025

16 November

Jubilee of the Poor

22-23 November

Jubilee of Choirs

DECEMBER 2025

14 December

Jubilee of Prisoners



VISIT THE WEBSITE



DEDICATION / TITHE

After prayerful consideration, I would like to be included as a Dedication / Tithe Contributor.

Once completed, please email to Finance@christking.org.za or leave at the **Parish Office** during office hours.

SURNAME: _____

NAME: _____

CELLPHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Your dedication number will be emailed, sms'd or phoned through to you.

I have decided that I can dedicate R_____

- Monthly to the works of the Church
- Annually to the works of the Church
- I will do this by EFT into the Parish Tithe Account
- I would like to give cash in an envelope
- Please contact me to make a Bequest to the church in my Last Will and Testament

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Thank you for your kind contribution.