



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

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Responsorial Psalm – Ps 102(103):1-4,8,10,12-13

R: *The Lord is compassion and love*

(CTK: 338 342 506 337 OLAM: 313 317 463 312)

MASSES THIS WEEK

Sat 19/02/22	12:30 CTK	7th Sunday in OT	Michael McMahon (RIP)
	18:00 OLAM		Mary Stanley (RIP)
Sun 20/02/22	10:00 CTK†		Peter Ng Chieu (RIP)
	11:30 OLAM		Dolora Spirez's Intentions
Mon 21/02/22	08:00 Con. †	Feria	Jackie Conway (RIP)
	09:30 Mon		Mark & Tom Mikula
	12:00 CTK		Fiona Barrett (get well)
Tue 22/02/22	09:30 Mon	Chair of St Peter, Feast	Patricia Morrisroe
	12:00 CTK		Patricia Tams (Anni.)
Wed 23/02/22	08:00 Con†	St Polycarp, Mem.	Therese Mulvihill
	09:30 Mon		Helena Trapszo (Recovery)
Thu 24/02/22	09:30 Mon†	Feria	John Foley (RIP)
	12:00 CTK		John Mohammed (Anni.)
Fri 25/02/22	09:30 Mon	Feria	PEOPLE OF THE PARISHES
	12:00 CTK		Bernadette Garvey (RIP)
Sat 26/02/22	10:00 Mon	Feria	Liam Kehoe
	12:30 CTK		Ed McKeown (RIP)
	18:00 OLAM		Frances Farry
Sun 27/02/22	10:00 CTK	8th Sunday in OT	Margaret Drewett
	11:30 OLAM†		Jimmy Banaghan (RIP)

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, Daniel Kelly, Sean Butler, Sr Marie, Patricia Nash, Mandy Hawkes, Alberto Bolongaro, Arjun Paul, Teresa Webb, Mary Hickey, Sean Mulkeen, especially Vera Whelan and our deacon, Jack, whose kidneys have started to fail. Please pray for them and their families.

Parish Visit To Oscott College on Sun 13/02/22: The gate is open to welcome visitors from the three parishes (St Margaret Mary, OLAM and CTK) at 3:45pm. Tea and cakes will be served at 4:00pm. This will be followed by a guided tour around the college. Then after a break, we'll join the seminarians for Evening Prayer in the Chapel. If you have no means of transport, please speak to Fr. The-Quang after the weekend mass you attend.

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)

We should love our enemies. We should be pacifists. But pacifism is not another word for passivity. We are not called to be passive. Jesus was not passive, he was very active on the day he drove the traders and their animals out of the Temple: "Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!'" (John 2:15-16). Nor was he passive when he healed the man against the protests of the Pharisees: "He looked around at them with anger," and then healed him (Mark 3:5). Passivity is a refusal to use one's strength. But love is strong, "stronger than death." There is a kind of passivity that pretends to be Christian love but is probably just cowardice.

'Turning the other cheek' is not so hard when the cheek is someone else's. A false notion of Christian meekness has often been used to allow violence and abuse to go unchallenged. Do you tell children who have been abused that they should love their enemy? Do you tell the family of a murder victim to love the murderer? I should think you would have to pick your words very carefully, or remain silent. Turning the other cheek is for people who have the power to retaliate but choose not to do so. It is not for people who have no power, no choice. When Peter became violent, Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place....Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?" (Matthew 26:53).

But when it is your own cheek, what do you do? What did Jesus do? He did not sink into passivity when the soldier struck him. He challenged him: "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" (John 18:23). The question is *how* you challenge your enemy (assuming that you have the power to do so). The instinct is to respond in kind, to react to violence with violence. We have to see that this is to make yourself exactly like your enemy. In that sense it is no challenge to him; it confirms his view that that is the way for a human being to act. Jesus met violence with reason, not with violence. The enemy doesn't want to see your face or hear your voice. He wants to turn you into an object, and objects don't have faces and voices. If you are only an object, then he finds it easier to take leave of his own humanity. We should not underestimate the power of sheer personal presence. We have to reach somehow behind the violence of the enemy and engage him as a human being. If we can just hold off, he may see the insanity of what he is doing.

God does not respond to us in kind. We pollute the world, we destroy other animals for sport, we exploit and kill one another for profit. We make ourselves enemies of God. But God waits - not, however, in a spirit that says, "I'll get you in the end!" If God imposed instant sanctions there would be no evil-doing in the world; but neither would there be insight or mercy or real humanity; the world would be a larger version of the boarding-school I went to long ago! God has to wait so that we can see how God treats enemies. God waits for us to become human beings and "children of the Most High."

Last week's collection CTK

Envelopes	£ 78.00
Loose	£ 322.22
St. Orders	£ 206.69
Total	£ 606.91

Last two weeks' collections OLAM

Envelopes	£ 117.50
Loose	£ 139.70
St. Orders	£ 33.46
Total	£ 290.66

Thank you

To Noel Fields who arranged to have the Church roof made safe and secure in memory of his mum, Phyllis Fields.

Children's Liturgy: will recommence on Sun 6th March.

The Church in England: Then, Now and Next ...: Pope Francis and Archbishop Bernard invite us to consider and share our understandings of the Church and her mission. This series of three Lenten talks by Dr Judith Champ, an eminent Church historian, active in the Diocesan Synod consultation process, will provide interesting and helpful context for our continuing reflections on the life and mission of the Church in our parish and Archdiocese. Tuesdays 8th, 15th and 22nd March, 7.45 — 9pm, meeting in the Benedict Room at St Nicholas parish church (access through the church) 243 Jockey Road, Boldmere, B73 5US

Parish Council Update

You will know that there have been two meetings so far to discuss the setting up of a parish council. The latest draft of the Parrish Council is on our website and there are also some paper copies at the back of church. The next meeting to discuss this draft is at 7.00 pm on February 28th at the St Johns Centre. All are welcome to attend!

Offertory envelopes: are available for collection from the porch. Please help yourselves to the box with your name and number on it.

Prayer Intentions for the month:

20th - For our society. That as a culture we would promote the value of life, and that we would seek the protection of all humans from the point of conception to natural death.

27th - For all considering abortion. We pray that the love and kindness of those around them would support pregnant women everywhere to continue with their pregnancy and find peace and joy in what the future holds.