



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

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. The-Quang Nguyen  
124 Warren Farm Road, Kingstanding, Birmingham B44 0QN



Parish Deacons: Rev. Mr. Dominic Fahey, Rev. Mr. Jack Foxall & Rev Mr. Gary O'Brien

Tel: 0121 373 0988

Email: [christ-theking.bham@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:christ-theking.bham@rcaob.org.uk)

Websites: [www.christ-theking.org.uk](http://www.christ-theking.org.uk) & <http://www.maryvale.org.uk>

## Responsorial Psalm – Ps 91(92):2-3,13-16

**R:** *It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.*

(CTK: 79 298 66 391 OLAM: 65 268 56 356)

## MASSES THIS WEEK

Sat 26/02/22	12:30 CTK 18:00 OLAM	8 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in OT	Ed McKeown (RIP)
Sun 27/02/22	10:00 CTK 11:30 OLAM†		Frances Farry Margaret Drewett Jimmy Banaghan (RIP)
Mon 28/02/22	08:00 Con. 09:30 Mon	Feria in OT	Frank McClintock (RIP) John Roche (RIP)
Tue 01/03/22	09:30 Mon† 12:00 CTK		Breeda Honrihane (Get well) Felix Thomes Hughes (RIP)
Wed 02/03/22	08:00 Con† 09:30 Mon 10:30 OLAM 12:00 CTK 19:00 CTK	Ash Wednesday <i>Fasting &amp; Abstinence</i>	Patrick Byrne John Foley (RIP) PEOPLE OF THE PARISHES <b>Eucharistic Service + Distribution of Ashes</b> Jo Teece
Thu 03/03/22	09:30 Mon 12:00 CTK		Joe Callaghan (RIP) Paddy O'Shea (RIP)
Fri 04/03/22	09:00 CTK 09:30 Mon.† 12:00 CTK	First Sunday in Lent	Margaret Coogan Marie Brady, Patricia Morrisroe, Jim Ranahan Pat Blaney (Get Well)
Sat 05/03/22	10:00 Mon 12:30 CTK† 18:00 OLAM		Eugeniusz Mikula (RIP) Clara Perry (Anni.) Kitty Heaney
Sun 06/03/22	10:00 CTK 11:30 OLAM		Annie Rochford (Anni.) Johnny O'Brien (RIP)

**Children's Liturgy:** will recommence on Sun 6<sup>th</sup> March.

**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.

**RIP:** Please pray for Vera Whelan who died recently. Her funeral will be on 18/03/22. May she rest in peace.

## 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.

## 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)

In all its forms, hypocrisy displays one thing and lives another. Nobody is completely transparent, so this is about us all. The Psalmist who wrote "I do not sit with the worthless, nor do I consort with hypocrites" (25:4) appears greatly over-confident - or he didn't know himself very well. The worst form of hypocrisy is to claim that we are never hypocritical.

Jesus repeatedly called the Pharisees hypocrites: see especially Matthew 23. It is significant that in today's reading he is saying the very same thing to *his own disciples*. He called the Pharisees "blind guides leading the blind." And he added, "If one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit" (Matthew 15:14). To the disciples he said, "You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbour's eye."

We Christians are quick to condemn certain evils but slow to condemn others. We can be quick to condemn social injustices but slow to admit that there are injustices in the Church. We can be quick to defend the unborn but indifferent to them and their families once they are born. The vile crime of child sexual abuse has blighted the lives of thousands and brought shame on the Church. Those crimes were often compounded by the silence of Church authorities. There is no shortage of commentators eager to call attention to all this, many of them deeply antagonistic to the Church. But what matters is the truth or falsity of what is said, not who says it. The Vatican II document *Gaudium et Spes* made these points. "The Church...is very well aware that among her members, both clerical and lay, some have been unfaithful to the Spirit of God during the course of many centuries; in the present age, too, it does not escape the Church how great a distance lies between the message she offers and the human failings of those to whom the Gospel is entrusted....The Church admits that she has greatly profited and still profits from the antagonism of those who oppose or who persecute her" (n. 44). Sadly, that kind of humility is not nearly as much in evidence today.

There is the hypocrisy of a group and the hypocrisy of individuals. Their relationship is not at all one of simple arithmetic. Groups are made up of individuals, yes, but a group is more than the sum of individuals. There is a kind of group hypocrisy that far outweighs the sum of individual hypocrisy. Individuals who are personally not at all hypocritical can somehow be party to group hypocrisy, willing to defend the indefensible. Narcissistic attitudes like vanity, defensiveness, meanness of spirit, which would be considered unworthy in an individual, are "loyalty" and "fidelity" in a group. We should ask forgiveness for our sins, and not rename them as virtues. God is not honoured by hypocrisy. To turn group hypocrisy into a virtue is a form of atheism; it is to see God as in no way different from pagan idols, which have "mouths but they cannot speak, eyes but they cannot see, ears but they cannot hear" (Ps 113). "Do not be deceived," wrote St Paul, "God is not mocked" (Gal 6:7).

They are hypocrites who belittle others and their religion. They are hypocrites who "tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; while they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them" (Mt 23:4). They are hypocrites who "tithe mint, dill, and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith" (Mt 23:23) - those who make a couple of external practices the touchstone of the faith.

The Word of God invites us to cast out the old yeast and celebrate with "the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth" (1 Cor 5:8).

## Parish Synodal Pathway - Personal Questions

1. What is my own situation?
2. How did I get here?
3. Am I happy where I am?
4. What impact do I have on our Parish Community?
5. Does it concern me and could I do more?
6. Where would I like to help?
7. What would I like to see practised in our Parish?
8. If I want to do more, what can I take on?
9. What Promised Land do I dream of?

### Last week's collection CTK

Envelopes	£ 69.05
Loose	£ 319.19
St. Orders	£ 206.69
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 594.93</b>

### Last two weeks' collections OLAM

Envelopes	£ 113.00
Loose	£ 131.00
St. Orders	£ 33.46
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 277.46</b>

**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 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> 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

The next meeting to discuss this draft is at 7.00 pm on February 28<sup>th</sup> 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.