



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

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## Responsorial Psalm – Ps 90(91):1-2,10-15

**R:** *Be with me, O Lord, in my distress.*

(CTK: 150 298 180 335      OLAM: 130 268 155 308)

## MASSES THIS WEEK

Sat 05/03/22	12:30 CTK†	<b>First Sunday in Lent</b>	Clara Perry (Anni.)
	18:00 OLAM		Kitty Heaney
Sun 06/03/22	10:00 CTK		Annie Rochford (Anni.)
	11:30 OLAM		Johnny O'Brien (RIP)
Mon 07/03/22	08:00 Con.	<i>Ss Perpetua &amp; Felicity,</i>	Carol & Eddie McKeown
	09:30 Mon		Veronica Finnerty (RIP)
	12:00 CTK		Mr & Mrs J Judd & David
Tue 08/03/22	09:30 Mon	<i>St John of God</i>	Bridget Quinn (RIP)
	12:00 CTK		Gary Taylor (RIP)
Wed 09/03/22	08:00 Con	<i>St Frances of Rome</i>	Michael Fitzmaurice (RIP)
	09:30 Mon		Krystyna & Emil Banat (RIP)
Thu 10/03/22	09:30 Mon	<b>Lent Feria</b>	Krystyna Mikula-Deegan
	10:30 OLAM		PEOPLE OF THE PARISHES
	12:00 CTK		Denis Doyle (RIP)
Fri 11/03/22	09:00 CTK	<b>Lent Feria</b>	Frank Brady (RIP)
	09:30 Mon.		Fr Patrick Joyce (RIP)
Sat 12/03/22	10:00 Mon	<b>Lent Feria</b>	Vince Phelan
	12:30 CTK		Annie Connolly (RIP)
	18:00 OLAM		Tia-Mae Cowman (RIP)
Sun 13/03/22	10:00 CTK	<b>Second Sunday in Lent</b>	Les Brookes (RIP)
	11:30 OLAM		John Williams (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.

## Dates for your diary

Gary will give three talks under the general heading of "What are deacons for?" on Saturdays 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of March and 2<sup>nd</sup> April. We will meet for a coffee at 11 am in the St John's Centre and finish comfortably in time to get ready for Mass at 12.30. Each session will end with an opportunity for Q & A.

## 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)

John the Baptist had no questions about his own identity, even when he had been thrown into the dungeon, this child of the desert. He sent word to Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" (Lk 7:20). 'Are we to wait for another?' He had doubts about Jesus but not about himself!

What are we to make of the temptations of Jesus? Were they real temptations? If they were, then he was seeking to understand his own identity and considering different ways of spending the rest of his life. If they were not, then the whole scene was only a charade. It is not at all to doubt his divinity if we take the temptations seriously. He was divine, but his human mind was human: that is, limited. The three gospels that tell of his temptations link them with his baptism in the Jordan. He came to the Jordan as an unknown carpenter, and the Holy Spirit came and "rested on him" (others are touched or moved by the Spirit, but the Spirit "rested" on Jesus). He was catapulted out of his old way of life; Mark says the Spirit "drove him out into the desert" (1:12). The Voice had said to him "You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you." To see how he was going to spend the rest of his life, he had to have time to think and pray and struggle.

Remember, too, that in the New Testament the word 'temptation' means 'test'; Jesus was being put to the test. A temptation may come from the outside, but unless it goes to the inside it is not a temptation. The first temptation was to be a material provider. This is a good thing to be. How do you tempt a good person? – *with goodness*, because he will not take an evil bait. It's not so difficult to be a material provider, and in fact most people can do it for themselves. But if Jesus had given in to this temptation, the work would have absorbed him completely, distracting him from his real task, which only he could do. The next temptation was to power. This is always a subtle one, and very easily rationalised. Any kind of power will do. It was said of someone that he entered the priesthood in order to do good, and did well instead. I can persuade myself that a position of power would give me greater opportunities of doing good. Jesus avoided this trap too. The most distinctive thing about him throughout his public life was his refusal of power. In the end he made himself utterly powerless on the Cross. It is very moving to see that that choice was not automatic, but conscious and deliberate. The third temptation, which cannot have occupied his mind for long, was to become a celebrity.

Some scholars suggest that this gospel passage was a summary story; that is, that it describes a process that went on throughout his life, rather than a single occasion. Whether or not that is the case, it is certainly the case that these temptations are ever-present for the disciples of Jesus, the Church. Most of us would find it easier to buy groceries for someone than to sit and listen to their pain and confusion, or their anger.... As for power and glory: that is a long story! We may imagine sometimes we are defending the power and glory of God when in reality we are only defending the worldly power and pride of the Church. The Church's identity does not consist in titles and honours and regal dress, but in following the poor man of Nazareth. We, the disciples of Jesus, the Church, have to be *driven* into the desert again and again... until we understand profoundly and embrace wholeheartedly the way the Cross.

### Last week's collection CTK

Envelopes	£ 78.00
Loose	£ 336.98
St. Orders	£ 206.69
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 621.67</b>

### Last two weeks' collections OLAM

Envelopes	£ 78.70
Loose	£ 146.74
St. Orders	£ 33.46
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 258.90</b>

**Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal by CAFOD:** Please give your donations in a marked envelop and put in the box in the porch. Also, if you can donate clothes, shoes, toiletries, baby nappies for the Ukrainian refugees arriving at Pryemysl on the Polish border please leave them in the porch in labelled bags. All items will be sorted and transported to the refugee camps in Poland.

**Update on the Parish Council:** I have accepted the recommendation unanimously made by those present at the meeting last Monday to set up a Parish Council. It will operate under the Constitution which has been on the websites of each parish amended with a handful of tweaks suggested at the meeting. If you think you can contribute to the parish by becoming a member of the Parish Council, please print off a copy of the Constitution in its amended version and a Nomination Form which you will also find on the website. All nomination forms with a signed copy of the Constitution must be handed in either to me or to Deacons Dominic and Gary after the Sunday Masses on 20<sup>th</sup> Mar 2022. If we need to hold elections, these will take place over the weekend of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> April. The aim is to hold the first meeting of the new Parish Council on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 7 pm (venue to be confirmed).

**Finance Report 2020 & 2021:** is available for viewing on the noticeboard.

**Youth Initiative Ideas Meeting:** You are all invited to a meeting being held at Maryvale Parish Centre on the 14<sup>th</sup> March at 6:45pm to discuss what we can do/put on for the young people in both of our parishes. If you have any ideas, or would like to get involved with any youth groups or prayer groups as a leader yourself, we really encourage you to come along so we can gauge the numbers we have across our two wonderful parishes and start planning! Absolutely no pressure to join, but we would love to see you there! (Any questions, see Fr The or Freya)

**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.