



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

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Responsorial Psalm – Ps 26(27):1,7-9,13-14

R: *The Lord is my light and my help.*

(CTK: 404 536 - 397 OLAM: 371 493 50 364)

MASSES THIS WEEK

Sat 12/03/22	12:30 CTK	Second Sunday in Lent	Annie Connolly (RIP)
	18:00 OLAM†		Tia-Mae Cowman (RIP)
Sun 13/03/22	10:00 CTK		Les Brookes (RIP)
	11:30 OLAM		John Williams (RIP)
Mon 14/03/22	08:00 Con.†	Lent Feria	Michael Reilly (RIP)
	09:30 Mon		Harry Worthington (RIP)
	12:00 CTK		Joe Dowd (RIP)
Tue 15/03/22	09:30 Mon†	Lent Feria	Gill Carter
	12:00 CTK		Jerry Fitzmaurice (RIP)
Wed 16/03/22	08:00 Con†	Lent Feria	David Oldham (RIP)
	09:30 Mon		Sylvia Brennan (RIP)
Thu 17/03/22	09:30 Mon	St Patrick, Feast	John & Annie McDonnell (RIP)
	10:30 OLAM		PEOPLE OF THE PARISHES
	12:00 CTK†		Muriel Cowan
Fri 18/03/22	09:00 CTK	Lent Feria	Jozefa & Henryk Szmalec (RIP)
	09:30 Mon.†		Janina Mikula
	11:30 OLAM		Requiem Mass - Vera Whelan
	14:15 CTK		Funeral Service – Carol Rowland
Sat 19/03/22	10:00 Mon	St Joseph, Husband of the BVM, Solemnity	Margaret Oldham
	12:30 CTK	Third Sunday in Lent	Dora McKeown (Anni.)
	18:00 OLAM		Josephine Keenan (RIP)
Sun 20/03/22	10:00 CTK		Felix Thomes Hughes (RIP)
	11:30 OLAM†		Michael Foley

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, Sr Marie, Patricia Nash, Mandy Hawkes, Alberto Bolongaro, Arjun Paul, Teresa Webb, Mary Hickey, Sean Mulkeen, Jack Foxall, Rose Lewsley, Julia Casey. Please pray for them and their families.

RIP: Please pray for John Butler, Carol Rowland and Ann Davis who died recently. May they rest in peace.

Day of prayer for Vocations: 18th of March at the Convent (192, Hawthorn Road)

Following the Diocesan initiative to pray for vocations, we have organised a special day of prayer at the Convent. There will be Mass at 11 am, followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament throughout the afternoon, and ending with evening prayer at 5 pm. You are all welcome to come and pray with us, at any time!

Dates for your diary

Gary will give three talks under the general heading of "What are deacons for?" on Saturdays 19th and 26th of March and 2nd 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.

Gospel Reflection (Fr Donagh O'Shea OP)

In all three liturgical cycles we have the strange story of the Transfiguration on the second Sunday of Lent. What does it mean? The second reading is a kind of echo of this gospel reading, and perhaps it gives us a key to open up its meaning for us. The Lord, St Paul writes, "will *transfigure* these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body." The Transfiguration, then – whatever we discover it to mean – is not only about Jesus but about us. It is to make some discernible difference to us today.

There was the everyday Jesus who was well known to his friends; and then there was the moment when they scarcely recognised him, so transformed – transfigured – was he. Divinity shone through him, revealing depths that they had never imagined. Can this happen only to Jesus? When the little girl was asked what a saint was, she replied (thinking of the stained glass windows in the church), "A person who lets the light through." Lovely – but is it only an image? Can it also be a reality? Could you and I let the light through? We are probably far too aware of our wretchedness to think thoughts like that. But it is just these "wretched bodies of ours" that are the material of transfiguration, according to St Paul.

In a beautiful poem called *The sunrise ruby*, Jelaluddin Rumi (1207-1273) the Sufi mystic, imagines a girl asking her beloved, 'Do you love me or yourself more? Really, tell the absolute truth.'

He says, 'There's nothing left of me. I'm like a ruby held up to the sunrise. Is it still a stone, or a world made of redness? It has no resistance to sunlight.'

There it is: in one way it is a stone, but in another it is a world of redness. This gives some impression of what transfiguration might mean. When you are completely absorbed and self-forgetful as you look at the sea, or at a sunset, or the night sky, or a tree, you are still yourself, of course; but you are also more than yourself. At any rate you are a kind of larger self, and not the small self that thinks before speaking, and counts money, and always looks after his or her own interests.

But we would like to hear what Christian mystics have to say about it. Johann Tauler (1300-1361) wrote the following: "God fires the spirit with a spark from the divine abyss. By the strength of this supernatural help the soul, enlightened and purified, is drawn out of itself into a unique and ineffable state of pure intent toward God.... This complete turning of the soul toward God is beyond all understanding and feeling; it is a thing of wonder and defies imagination.... In this state the soul, purified and enlightened, sinks into the divine darkness, into a tranquil silence and inconceivable union. It is absorbed in God, and now all equality and inequality disappear. In this abyss the soul loses itself, and knows nothing of God or of itself, of likeness to Him or of difference from Him, or of anything whatsoever. It is immersed in the unity of God and has lost all sense of distinctions."

Sadly, this aspect of the Christian faith is not as familiar to many as it could be. We have learnt to settle for less. Most people believe that the best things are not for them. But we are all called to deep enlightenment and union with God. Does this mean that we are to be somehow unreal and up-in-the-air? Hardly. Tauler and the people of his time had to be intensely practical. But his words live for centuries beyond the time he uttered them, because he was in touch with the living heart of our Faith. It is he, and the likes of him, who will lead us to the heart of God.

Last week's collection CTK

Envelopes	£ 56.00
Loose	£ 291.25
St. Orders	£ 206.69
Total	£ 553.94

Last week's collections OLAM

Envelopes	£ 98.70
Loose	£ 90.96
St. Orders	£ 33.46
Total	£ 223.12

This week's second collection is for CAFOD Family Lent Fast Day.

Reception of Holy Communion: If you receive Holy Communion, please DO NOT walk away with but consume the Blessed Sacrament immediately.

Formation of the Parish Council: 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 20th Mar 2022. If we need to hold elections, these will take place over the weekend of 2nd and 3rd April. The aim is to hold the first meeting of the new Parish Council on 25th April 2022 at 7pm (venue to be confirmed).

Youth Initiative Ideas Meeting at Maryvale Parish Centre on the 14th 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 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 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.