



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

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. The-Quang Nguyen
124 Warren Farm Road, Kingstanding, Birmingham B44 0QN
Parish Deacons: Rev. Mr. Gary O'Brien (dcn.gary.obrien@rcaob.org.uk) and Rev. Mr. Dominic Fahey (dcn.dominic.fahey@rcaob.org.uk)

Fr Simon Ellis Tel: 0121 373 0069
fr.simon.ellis@rcaob.org.uk
Assistant Priest: Fr Leonard Cox
fr.leonard.cox@rcaob.org.uk

Fr. The-Quang Nguyen
fr.the.quang.nguyen@rcaob.org.uk
Tel: 0121 373 0988. Email: Admin:
christ-theking.bham@rcaob.org.uk

Convent: 192 Hawthorn Road
Kingstanding B44 8PU
Phone +44 121 3500 716
Email: smsfbirmingham@gmail.com

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and National and Archdiocesan policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Stephen Clarke. He can be contacted at sg.christ-theking.bham@rcaob.org.uk
Alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk

Hymns: E: 27; O: 68; C: 219; R: 304

MASSES THIS WEEK

Con: Convent; CTK: Christ the King; OLAM: Maryvale; SMM: St Margaret Mary's

Sat	26/10/24	Feria in Ordinary Time	12:30 CTK	Maria McCartan (Anni.)
			18:00 OLAM	Molly James (SI)
Sun	27/10/24	30 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	09:30 SMM	John Glasgow (RIP)
			10:00 CTK	Veronica Briggs (RIP)
			11:30 OLAM†	Eva Green (Anni.)
Mon	28/10/24	Ss Simon and Jude, Apostles, Feast	08:00 Con.†	Maria Phuong (RIP)
			12:00 CTK	Requiem: Carol Timmis
Tue	29/10/24	Feria in Ordinary Time	08:00 Con	Paul Phat (RIP)
			09:15 SMM	Patricia Harvey
Wed	30/10/24	Feria in Ordinary Time	08:00 Con	John Foley (RIP)
			09:15 SMM	Thomas Joseph (bday) Jaisamma Tomy RIP
Thu	31/10/24	Feria in Ordinary Time	11:30 OLAM	Funeral Service: Patrick Ormsby
			18:00 OLAM	Maurice O'Shea
Fri	01/11/24	All Saints, Solemnity <i>Holyday of Obligation</i>	12:00 CTK	Margaret Drewett (RIP)
			19:00 MIns†	Vera Mee (RIP)
Sat	02/11/24	Commemoration of All Souls	12:30 CTK	Paddy Cotter (RIP)
			18:00 OLAM	Janis Erglis (RIP)
Sun	03/11/24	31 st Sunday in Ordinary Time	09:30 SMM	Katherine Russell
			10:00 CTK†	Carol Timmis (RIP)
			11:30 OLAM	Muriel Cowan (RIP)

Rosary Group: meeting **every Wednesday** in Christ the King Church at 1:30pm.

Congratulations to James Philip Guest and Elle Somers who tide the knot this Sunday at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Aston. May their married life reflect God's commitment to his people.

Pray For The Sick: Monique Hunt, Luke Byrne, Jean McCabe, Paul Cowan, Gerald, John, Josephine Brown, Sr Marie, John/Sandra Mageean, Sadie Pulido, Sarah McCallion, Claire/Mark, Carole Smith, Alan Rowan, Niamh O'Reilly, Jo Teece, Mary Ann Gniadkowski, Alberto Bolongaro, Kyle Billing, Nicola Jones, Patricia Nash, Angela Madigan, Teresa Webb, Joanne Fields, Caitlin Hodgetts, Joan/Alan Horton, Peggy O'Donovan, Pauline O'Brien, Annette Molloy, Chris & Eddie Walsh, Elizabeth Teague, George Ferris and Kath Rice.

RIP: Please pray for Patrick Casey, Paul Smith, Muriel Cowan and Bernadette Lee who passed away recently. May they rest in peace. **Funerals:** B Lee: CTK, Tue 05/11/24, 10:00; P Casey: CTK, Thu 07/11/24, 12:00; P. Smith: OLAM, Fri 08/11/24, 11:00; M Cowan: CTK, Mon 11/11/24, 12:00.

THE SANCTUARY LAMP, which is lit to indicate the presence of the Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle, is dedicated throughout October for the **Ubah and Ikwuka Family Circle** at CTK and for the **Inglis/Sliwa/Kilcullen Family Circle** at OLAM

Take action on the two-child cap policy: The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales continues to be seriously concerned about the implications of the current two-child policy on Universal Credit payments for vulnerable, larger families. Introduced in 2017, the policy has been undermining the financial security of families with three or more children. Such families often have no choice but to make claims for Universal Credit as a result of common, but unpredictable, life events, such as job loss or the onset of disability. The majority of families affected by the two-child policy are working families. Use our e-Action form to contact your MP to outline your opposition to the two-child policy on Universal Credit payments for vulnerable, larger families.

Last Weeks' Collection CTK

Loose: £ 339.98
 Envelopes: £ 141.00
 Standing Orders: £ 247.23
Total: £ 728.21

**Thank you for
 your generous support**

Last Weeks' Collection OLAM

Loose: £ 201.74
 Envelopes: £ 146.50
 Standing Orders: £ 94.69
Total: £ 442.93

Second Collection: Next week: Annual Collection and Appeal for the Johnson Association which provides financial help and support to the retired, sick and infirm clergy of the Archdiocese. Last year it supported approx.. 65 priests, giving grants total of over £430,000. The Annual Collection raised almost £40,000. Your support either by donation in church, online or using the QR code would be most appreciated.

Facts and Numbers: There are 126 active Diocesan priests in the Diocese: 11 outside the Diocese, 58 over the age of 65, only 22 under the age of 50. There are 67 retired priests, most of them receiving support from the John Association.

Christ the King		26/27 Oct	02/03 Nov
Sat 12:30	Minister of the Word	Kathleen	Theresa
	Minister of Holy Communion	Theresa	Sue
Sun 10.00	Minister of the Word	Angela	John
	Minister of Holy Communion	Joyce	Marion

Pope: 'Palestine is suffering inhumane attacks': At the end of his Wednesday General Audience, Pope Francis once again made an appeal for peace in the world.

Christmas Fayre: We are on target to have the Christmas Fayre on Saturday the 23rd November at 13:30. As requested last Sunday please help us to make it a success by bringing in Bottles for the Bottle Stall, Gifts for the Tombola, and Prizes including Cash for the Christmas Raffle. We also need lots of Chocolate for the ever popular Chocolate Stall, which we forgot to mention last week. Support the Parish and yourselves by making the Christmas Fayre a joyful and successful occasion again. Bring in donations as soon as you can. Thank you.

PREPARING FOR THE NEW LECTIONARY: All are welcome to come to the in-person briefing that Fr. Allen Morris will be giving to the Cluster on 3rd November 2024 at 3 pm -4.30 pm in the St John's Centre.

SYCAMORE COURSE - AUTUMN MEETINGS AT ST MARGARET MARY'S CHURCH (in the upstairs Newman Gallery on Wednesdays from 5.30pm – 6.30pm. Forthcoming themes are as follows: Half term; 6th Nov – “Power of Prayer”; 27th Nov – “Finding Freedom”; 4th Dec – “The Sacraments”; 11th & 12th Dec – “Forgiveness” and 18th Dec – “The Mass”.

BLESSING OF GRAVES: Oscott Cemetery - 2nd Nov at 3 pm; Erdington Abbey – 3rd Nov at 1.45 pm; Witton Cemetery – 10th Nov at 2.30 pm; New Hall Cemetery – 17th November at 2 pm; Rectory Road Cemetery at 2 pm.

GOSPEL COMMENTARY: FR D. O'SHEA: This is the second of two cures of blind men in Mark's gospel. Opening the eyes of the blind was prophesied as one of the works of the Messiah: “The eyes of the blind will see” (Is 29:18; see also 32:3). In fact, in the very next scene he is being proclaimed by the crowds as Messiah.

They are approaching Jerusalem (15 miles away), where the story will reach its climax with his death and resurrection. In Jerusalem all eyes will be fixed on him, most of them still blind to what he is; or worse, they will be watching him with malevolent intent. In the meantime, Bartimaeus, the blind beggar, having received his sight, followed him to Jerusalem. This gospel passage is a meditation on the different kinds of blindness.

I have a friend who has become blind in her old age, but her mind is as keen as ever. She still gives lectures, but she said that what pains her especially is being unable to see people's faces. Not till we lose our sight do we know how much we depend on it: for getting around objects, yes, but also for interacting with people. The human face speaks by every feature, not only by the mouth; we know how something is meant because we see the other's face: I have a deaf friend who says she “face-reads.”

A blind beggar's misery is compounded: worse than the sum of the misery of a blind person and a beggar. He is totally at our mercy, stretching out his hand into the darkness, unable to gauge our mood, not knowing if we even see him.

Every believer is that man, most of the time. Faith is dark knowledge. Often we lift up our hands in prayer, and we feel no presence of the Other; we hear neither a promise nor a refusal. That is the time to remember Bartimaeus. He is placed here in the gospel story as an encouragement for us.

Let's watch him. When he heard that Jesus was passing by he began to shout, “Have pity on me!” People told him to shut up, he was making too much noise. But he shouted all the more. “Call him,” Jesus said.... “Cheer up!” they told him, “On your feet, he's calling you.” Then, the account continues, “throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.” He came, of course, still in the dark. Did you notice that he threw aside his cloak? It was a strange thing for a blind person to do: would he find it again? Blind people have great trouble finding things, they need the world to stay put. See how carefully they place things, caressing them almost. But sighted people are forever throwing things around. In throwing his cloak aside Bartimaeus acted like a sighted man. While all the sighted people held their cloaks and their possession around them with careful fingers, he alone leaped up, threw aside his cloak and ran to meet the Lord.

It is a very powerful symbol of the life of faith: he walked in the dark. Faith is a kind of knowledge, yes, but it is dark knowledge. Still, this dark knowledge sets us free, somehow, to move with confidence. How good it would be to move without timidity, to travel through our life with freedom and joy! A blind beggar shows us how.

We say seeing is believing. We put great stress on seeing. “Sight is our principal source of knowledge,” said Aristotle, twenty-five centuries ago. And western culture has followed him particularly in this; it has a marked preference for sight over the other senses. Seeing is believing, we say. The meaning of today's gospel reading is best expressed by turning that phrase around. Believing is seeing. There is a kind of seeing that is even more basic than the sight of our eyes. That is the kind of sight that Jesus restores.