



The Newman Cluster

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

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. The-Quang Nguyen
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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: 530; O: 86; C: 94 (tune Hyfrydol); R: 179

MASSES THIS WEEK

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

Sat	30/11/24	Feria in Ordinary Time	12:30 CTK	Mary Hall (Anni.)
			18:00 OLAM	Maura Ranahan (RIP)
Sun	01/12/24	First Sunday of Advent, Year C	09:30 SMM	Mary Keogh (RIP)
			10:00 CTK†	Tony Levell (RIP)
			11:30 OLAM	Eileen Harte (RIP)
Mon	02/12/24	Advent Feria	08:00 Con.†	Private Intention
Tue	03/12/24	St Francis Xavier, Mem.	08:00 Con.	Liam McGrath
			09:15 SMM	Private Intention
Wed	04/12/24	Advent Feria	08:00 Con	Jang Kaypee
			09:15 SMM	Joan Hargan (RIP)
			11:30 OLAM	Requiem: Elizabeth Guest
Thu	05/12/24	St Birinus, Feast	12:00 CTK†	John Foley (RIP)
Fri	06/12/24	Advent Feria	09:00 CTK†	Gary and Clare O'Brien
Sat	07/12/24	St Ambrose, Mem.	12:30 CTK	Paulin Biffin (Anni.)
			18:00 OLAM	Henry Jarteth Melody (RIP)
Sun	08/12/24	Second Sunday of Advent, Year C	09:30 SMM	Family Mass
			10:00 CTK	Carol Timmis (RIP)
			11:30 OLAM†	Teresa Mary Watts (Anni.)

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, and George Ferris.

RIP: Please pray for Joseph Michael O'Leary and Elizabeth (Betty) Guest, Patricia McGuire, Elaine Douglas, Terrence McGuire, Mary Keogh who passed away recently. May they rest in peace.

Funerals: B Guest: Wed 04/12/24, 11:30, OLAM; J O'Leary: Thu 12/12/24, 10:45, OLAM; M Keogh: Tue 17/12/24, 11:00, OLAM; P McGuire: Wed 18/12/24, 10:00, CTK.

THE SANCTUARY LAMP is dedicated throughout December for the **McCarthy family** at CTK and for the **Roche family** at OLAM.

CLUSTER ADVENT SERVICE: There will be a service in preparation for the Christmas Season at St Margaret Mary on **Sunday 15th December 2024 at 4 pm**. Fr. Leonard will preside. Frs. Simon and Thé and Deacons Dominic and Gary will all lead short reflections on the Psalms we will have been using in Advent. This is followed by refreshment in the Presbytery.

PARISH CAROL SERVICE: The parish carol service will be on Sunday 22nd December at 6 pm at Christ the King. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served afterwards.

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: 4th Dec – "The Sacraments"; 11th & 12th Dec – "Forgiveness" and 18th Dec – "The Mass".

ENROLMENT FOR THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION FOLLOWING BAPTISM: Please pray for the children from non-Catholic Schools and other members of our community who will be enrolled on Sunday 15th December at the 10.00 Mass.

Last Week's Collection CTK

Loose: £ 346.59
 Envelopes: £ 108.00
 Standing Orders £ 247.23
Total: £ 701.82

Last Week's Collection OLAM

Loose: £ 199.54
 Envelopes: £ 177.00
 Standing Orders £ 94.69
Total: £ 471.23

**Thank you for
your generous support**

Christ the King		30 th Nov/01 st Dec	07/08 Dec
Sat 12:30	Minister of the Word	Kathleen	Maxine
	Minister of Holy Communion	Theresa	Sue
Sun 10.00	Minister of the Word	Angela	Oscottian
	Minister of Holy Communion	Marian	Sister

RECYCLING OF OUT OF DATE LITURGICAL BOOKS: "Care of Creation" – AND Agency of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, is seeking to arrange the recycling of our liturgical books to those parts of the world which are still using the old Lectionary translation. The project is still in early stages of planning. If you would, in principle, be willing to **recycle** your Missal as well, please let Deacon Gary know.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES: The times of our Advent and Christmas services are set out in the Christmas Card available at the back of Church. **Please note, in particular, that there are changes to the times of Masses on Christmas Eve and again on 29th December,**

CATHOLIC AFRICAN COMMUNITY IN CHRIST THE KING AND ACROSS THE CLUSTER: Our African brothers and sisters have discerned that there is a need for an association within the parish community specifically in which all the members contribute to each other's spiritual support. Patience Ikwuka has taken up the role of acting Chair until there can be a general meeting and officers elected. Please speak to her after Sunday mass or text her on 07424 162754 for further information.

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE: According to the Diocesan guidance for clergy, 'for the purposes of the Certificate of Catholic Practice, a person is a practising Catholic if they observe the Church's precept of attending Mass on Sundays and holidays of obligation. It is also clear that fortnightly or monthly attendance does not constitute the practice required by the canons.' In order to make the signing of this certificate transparent, all children need to have their school planner signed by the parish clergy every weekend during the time they are in primary school.

COMMUNITY MEAL: Sunday 8th Dec. If you would like to attend, please book a place with Sandra (M: 07985 607091).

PARENTAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR PARENTS OF YEAR 2, 3, 5 AND YEAR 6 is available at the back of the Church after mass this weekend.

STATEMENT ON SECOND READING OF ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL: Following the decision of MPs to vote in favour of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill at the Second Reading today (29 November), Bishop John Sherrington, Lead Bishop for Life Issues, said: "We are disappointed that MPs have voted in favour of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill progressing through parliament. We believe that this bill is flawed in principle and also contains particular clauses that are of concern. We ask the Catholic community to pray that members of parliament will have the wisdom to reject this bill at a later stage in its progress."

GOSPEL COMMENTARY: Fr Donagh O'Shea

The Advent liturgy is shot through with a great longing for Christ. But John the Baptist is constantly putting in an appearance – almost to the point of irritation. What is the meaning of this?

We have to experience the absence of Christ in order later to experience his presence. We need to learn how to wait. Waiting is one of the hardest things for us nowadays. Intense urgency is stirred up about even the smallest things in our modern world, and this of course is greatly aggravated by commercial advertising. But Advent is a four-week course on waiting.

"Zero wait state" is the goal, according to the computer manual. It means no waiting at all: you press the key, and the programme (or whatever) is instantly on the screen. Computers are the great accelerators of all sorts of processes (banking, accounting, shopping, etc.) and they themselves are becoming faster and faster. But for the ordinary user, such high speed is required only to run games – which are themselves the greatest time-wasters in the world. The speed of our world today is full of contradictions. We rush to save time in order to be able to waste it.

Time is money, we say. And sure enough, we do with money what we do with time: many rush to save more and more of it in order to waste it on things they don't need or even want.

Can the equation be carried even farther? Time is money; but what is time? What is your time? It is you, it is yourself, your life. Time is life. Do we save our life in order to waste it? It seems we do. "Whoever tries to save his life will lose it," said Jesus (Luke 17:37).

We rush headlong into the future: it is a kind of greed for more and more life, or at least for more and more experience. The future, we feel, will fulfil us, where the past and present have failed. But we rush at it so fast that it gets no chance to fulfil us! We rush past it in the same instant that it becomes the present: because we are forever hurtling ourselves into the future. We badly need to study waiting.

No one knows with certainty what the reason is (or the cluster of reasons) for the high incidence of suicide in modern western societies. People have made various suggestions. One suggestion is that we no longer know how to wait for anything. In older times, struggle and working for something and waiting for it to be realised, were the normal experience. It may be that 'zero wait state' has really got into us. Advent, the season of waiting, has something to teach us.