



The Newman Cluster

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

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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: 382; O: 573 (tune: Daidemata); C: 50; R: 312

MASSES THIS WEEK

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

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.)
Mon	09/12/24	Immaculate Conception of the BVM	07:30 SMM	Virginia Sandall
			08:00 Con†	Fr Michael White
			10:30 SMM	Requiem: Patrick Murphy
			19:00 SMM	Peter Dodds (operation)
Tue	10/12/24	Advent Feria	08:00 Con.	Private Intention
			09:15 SMM	Joe Dodds (RIP)
Wed	11/12/24	Advent Feria	08:00 Con†	Paul Byrne (get well)
			09:15 SMM	Celebrant's Intention
Thu	12/12/24	Advent Feria	10:45 OLAM	Funeral Service: Joseph Michael O'Leary
Fri	13/12/24	St Lucy, Martyr, Mem	08:00 CWS	People of the parishes
			09:00 CTK	Thanksgiving
Sat	14/12/24	St John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church, Mem	12:30 CTK†	Debbie Morris (RIP)
			18:00 OLAM	Dipiro family (RIP)
Sun	15/12/24	Third Sunday of Advent, Year C	09:30 SMM	Celebrant's Intention
			10:00 CTK	Etta family
			11:30 OLAM	Daniel Mooney (RIP)

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, Patricia McGuire, Mary Keogh, Mary Teresa Fitzgerald who passed away recently. May they rest in peace.

Funerals: 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; M T Fitzgerald: Fri 17/01/25, 11:00, CTK.

THE SANCTUARY LAMP is dedicated throughout December for the **McCarthy family** at CTK and for the **Roche family** at OLAM. The new Sanctuary Lamp Sponsorship rotas for 2025 are available for booking. If you would like to sponsor the Sanctuary Lamp throughout a particular month for a donation of £25, please write your name/contact number and for whom you would wish the lamp to burn (living or deceased relatives) and any preferred month and enclose this in an envelope with your donation and return it to Fr. The).

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.

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: £ 234.79
 Envelopes: £ 134.97
 Standing Orders £ 247.23
Total: £ 616.99

Last Week's Collection OLAM

Loose: £ 295.54
 Envelopes: £ 112.00
 Standing Orders £ 94.69
Total: £ 502.23

**Thank you for
your generous support**

Second Collection: Poor Parishes in the Diocese

Christ the King		7 th /08 th Dec	14 th / 15 th Dec
Sat 12:30	Minister of the Word	Maxine	Aoife
	Minister of Holy Communion	Sue	Theresa
Sun 10.00	Minister of the Word	Oscottian	Patience
	Minister of Holy Communion	Sister	Jean de Dieu

Christmas Fayre

Thank you to everyone who contributed or helped with the Christmas Fayre. It was a successful event and an enjoyable Parish occasion again for all who attended. The final figure is not yet in, but it made over £3,000 which is a great help for the Parish Finances. The list of Raffle Prize-winners is displayed in the Church Porch. Thank you for all the donations and support before, during and after, without which we could not have made it happen on the day. A special thanks to Cath Madden and her team of helpers for bringing it together. Also thank you to the Youth Group who provided help right through to the end and beyond. It is events like this that bring us together as a Parish. Many thanks.

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.

CHRISTMAS NOSTALGIC DISCO

You are invited to a nostalgic disco in the Maryvale Community Centre, beside Our Lady of the Assumption church in Old Oscott Hill, B44 9SP, on Friday 27th December, 7.30 to 10.30/10.45 pm. Music from the 1960s onwards, including appropriate seasonal favourites. Light refreshments will be available, but you are welcome to bring your own. No admittance-charge; donations, please, on departure, of a sum which is proportionate to how much you have enjoyed the show; proceeds will be given to March for Life UK (<https://www.marchforlife.co.uk/>). Please pray that nothing (e.g. illness or hazardous weather) will require cancellation."

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.

ACTS OF WORSHIP LED BY OUR CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS: The children in our parish schools will be leading acts of worship as part of their preparation for the Christmas Season. **OLAM:** Tue 10/12/24 at 6:00pm. **CTK:** Thu 12/12/24 at 5:00 pm (Carol Service led by Years 3 & 6), Fri 13/12/24 at 2:00 pm (Nativity Service). All are welcome.

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

GOSPEL COMMENTARY: Fr Donagh O'Shea: "From shadows and symbols to the truth," (ex umbris et imaginibus in veritatem): This was the personal motto of St John Henry Newman (1801-1890). Since ancient times Christian writers have used this expression, and others like it, to place Jesus in relation to the prophets who went before him. In him there is a coming out into the light after the long night of darkness and half-light; he is "the loving-kindness of the heart of our God who visits us like the dawn from on high" (Lk 1:78).

But the coming of this Light is a more precise event than dawn. The birth of Jesus, though we may not know its precise hour or date or even its year, is an historical event, and so it is precise in principle. Luke seems insistent on pinning it down, in the cumbersome way that people dated events in the ancient world: "In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, etc." This insistence on real history sets our faith in contrast with some other profound faiths. In the Rig-Veda, for example, you read:

*Like a youthful maiden,
 Dawn shines brightly forth,
 Stirring to motion every living creature.
 Divine Fire was kindled for human use;
 Dawn created light, driving away the dark.*

John's gospel says, "The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world" (1:9), but it is Luke's gospel in particular that paints in the humble details of Christ's birth. And it is Luke's gospel that we are reading on the Sundays of Advent this year.

Light can be contemplated for itself, but its practical purpose is to illuminate a path. Ultimately it is "to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." (Lk 1:79). As members of Christ's body, the Church, we are living through a time of great crisis. The road ahead often looks dark and frightening. We don't know what it will be like in another generation, or even in another decade. We need light, which gives us courage to move in dark times. Many seem discouraged. But that light is guaranteed. Christ promised to be always with us. "I will not leave you orphaned" (Jn 14:18). He did not promise that everything would be clear and easy. Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP often notes that the Church was born in crisis (the death of Jesus was a shocking crisis for the disciples); from the earliest times it has known one crisis after another; so in living with crisis, he says, "we are being faithful to tradition!" We use the expression 'losing one's faith'. It would be good if we realised that losing one's hope is just as serious a matter as losing one's faith, or losing one's love.