



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: 401 (Gonfalon Royal); O: 467 (Nottingham); C: 593 (Taize); R: 205

MASSES THIS WEEK

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

Sat	14/12/24	St John of the Cross (Mem)	12:30 CTK†	Debbie Morris (RIP)
			18:00 OLAM	Dipiro family (RIP)
Sun	15/12/24	Third Sunday of Advent <i>Gaudete Sunday</i>	09:30 SMM	Eamon McGuire (RIP)
			10:00 CTK	Etta family
			11:30 OLAM†	Daniel Mooney (RIP)
Mon	16/12/24	Advent Feria	07:30 SMM	Philomena McCann (RIP)
			08:00 Con†	Muriel Cowan (RIP)
Tue	17/12/24	Advent Feria <i>O Wisdom</i>	09:15 SMM	Virginia Sandall (RIP)
			11:00 OLAM	Requiem Mary Keogh
Wed	18/12/24	Advent Feria <i>O Adonai</i>	08:00 Con†	Patrick Hughes (RIP)
			09:15 SMM	Maria Nkengfae Agendia (RIP)
			10:00 CTK	Funeral Service: Patricia MaGuire
Thu	19/12/24	Advent Feria <i>O Stock of Jesse</i>	09:30 MPS	PEOPLE OF THE PARISHES
			11:30 CTK	Henry Byrne (RIP)
Fri	20/12/24	Advent Feria <i>O Key of David</i>	09:00 CTK	Patricia Hall (RIP)
			19:00 CTK	Cluster Penance Service
Sat	21/12/24	Advent Feria <i>O Rising Sun</i>	12:30 CTK	Margaret Drewett (RIP)
			18:00 OLAM†	Frank & Delia Murphy (Get Well)
Sun	22/12/24	Fourth Sunday of Advent <i>O King</i>	09:30 SMM	Jonathan Bodenham (RIP)
			10:00 CTK	James Fisher (RIP)
			11:30 OLAM	Maria Goodwin (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, 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:** 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.

CLUSTER PENITENTIAL SERVICE: There will be an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for Christmas on Friday 20th December at 7 pm,

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.

Last Week's Collection CTK

Loose: £ 247.47
 Envelopes: £ 86.00
 Standing Orders £ 247.23
Total: £ 580.70

Last Week's Collection OLAM

Loose: £ 185.93
 Envelopes: £ 128.00
 Standing Orders £ 94.69
Total: £ 408.62

**Thank you for
your generous support**

Christ the King		14 th / 15 th Dec	21 st /22 nd Dec
Sat 12:30	Minister of the Word	Aoife	Kathleen
	Minister of Holy Communion	Theresa	Sue
Sun 10.00	Minister of the Word	Patience	John
	Minister of Holy Communion	Jean de Dieu	Marian

DIOCESAN DIRECTORY (£4) and SUNDAY MISSAL with the same translation as the Lectionary (£15) are available from Piety Stall.

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 27/12/24, 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.

SYCAMORE COURSE - AUTUMN MEETINGS AT ST MARGARET MARY'S CHURCH (in the upstairs Newman Gallery on Wednesdays from 5.30pm – 6.30pm. Remaining theme is 18th Dec – “The Mass”).

LAY MINISTERS at CTK: Could Lay Ministers at CTK who are attend the Christmas Eve and/or Christmas Day Masses please make their availability known as follows: Ministers of the Word -contact Patience; Altar Servers- contact Sam; Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion – contact Deacon Gary.

2025 JUBILEE YEAR: The Jubilee Year will run from the opening of the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica in Rome, on Tuesday 24/12/24 to the Feast of Epiphany 2026. Archbishop Bernard is set to celebrate Mass for the Solemn Opening of the Year, at St Chad's Cathedral on Sunday 29/12/24.

The Jubilee Years, also known as Holy Years, started in 1300AD and recall the great jubilee of Israel: a time for land to be rested and debts to be cancelled, when God called people to be reconciled with one another and with Him. They now occur every 25 years, although the next will be 2033 – the anniversary of Christ's death and resurrection and the descent of the Holy Spirit. These Years, the Church explains, are years “of reconciliation between adversaries, of conversion and receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation, ‘...and consequently of solidarity, hope, justice, commitment to serve God with joy and in peace with our brothers and sisters’”

To help us to respond to this high calling during the Year, a plenary indulgence can be gained not only by making a pilgrimage to a Jubilee church, but by devotedly performing one of the acts prescribed by the Church.

Jubilee Churches in our Archdiocese

The following Jubilee churches and sites have been chosen by His Grace as particular places of pilgrimage, and for the granting of the indulgence: St Chad's Cathedral – Shrine of St Chad; St Anne's Church, Caversham – Shrine of Our Lady of Caversham; Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Hednesford – Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes; St Michael's Church, Penn, Wolverhampton – Shrine of Blessed Carlo Acutis; The Immaculate Conception & St Egwin Church – Shrine of Our Lady of Evesham; Harvington Hall, near Kidderminster; Bl. Dominic Barberi Church & St John Henry Newman College, Littlemore, Oxford.

A REMINDER OF THE CHANGES TO MASS TIMES ON 28TH AND 29TH DECEMBER: As discussed at our General Cluster Meeting in July and notified in the Christmas Card, on the Feast of the Holy Family we are reducing our usual 7 Masses in the Cluster to 4. **Mass at OLAM on 28/12/24 will be at 6.30 pm NOT 6 pm.** On **Sun 29/12/24**, the **11.30 Mass will NOT be at OLAM** but will be celebrated at St Margaret Mary in the Ordinariate Divine Worship Rite. The parishioners at St Margaret Mary are giving up two of their usual Masses to accommodate these changes. If you have any questions about this, please speak to Deacon Gary, the Cluster Clergy Coordinator.

GOSPEL COMMENTARY: Fr Donagh O'Shea

There is a kind of frenzy about John the Baptist. He is rough and violent in his speech. And his diet is revolting. Yet for all his vehemence (or because of it), his message is rather conventional: “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.... Be content with your pay.” He has none of the depth or the stillness of Jesus. He is not a man to give you time or space. You feel he doesn't see anything in you. Most people are “chaff” to him (as they were to the scribes and Pharisees), but for Jesus they are “harvest” (Luke 10:2). Harvest is something you have to wait for, but you can make chaff of anything right away.

We have to learn to wait for the harvest: not a harvest of our own devising, but God's gift. Advent is a time of waiting. This is a difficult art to learn in a world that moves with ever-increasing speed. You would think that all our time-saving devices would have left us by now with a vast capital of spare time. But the opposite is the case. We have less time than ever before. Blaise Pascal famously said that all our troubles come from our being unable to sit still in a room for five minutes. He lived in the 17th century; what would he say to us now, when computers have increased the speed of life a thousand-fold? (But he should take some of the blame: it was he who invented the first mechanical adding-machine; and a computer programming language is named after him.) Learning to stop and be still and wait is not a luxury; it is now a matter of survival.

John the Baptist has had many imitators – preachers and teachers who try to coerce you into virtue by playing on your fears and vulnerabilities. His message essentially was ‘Repent and believe the bad news.’ But his greatness was that he knew that he was not “the one who is to come.” We have to wait longer before we can hear the good news.