



# 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](mailto:sg.christ-theking.bham@rcaob.org.uk)  
Alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk)

Hymns: E: 348; O: 20; C: 269; R: 336

### MASSES THIS WEEK

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

<b>Sat</b>	21/12/24	Advent Feria <i>O Rising Sun</i>	12:30 CTK	Margaret Drewett (RIP)
			18:00 OLAM†	Frank & Delia Murphy (Get Well)
<b>Sun</b>	22/12/24	Fourth Sunday of Advent <i>O King of nations</i>	09:30 SMM	Jonathan Bodenham (RIP)
			10:00 CTK	James Fisher (RIP)
			11:30 OLAM	Maria Goodwin (RIP)
<b>Mon</b>	23/12/24	<i>O Emmanuel (God with us)</i>	08:00 Con†	Jane Walsh (Anni.)
<b>Tue</b>	24/12/24	Christmas Eve	16:00 CTK	All known to Fr The-Quang
			18:00 OLAM†	All known to Bishop David
			<b>21.00</b>	<b>St Nicholas, Boldmere, B73 5US</b>
			23:30 SMM	The Cooper family (RIP)
<b>Wed</b>	25/12/24	Christmas Day	09:30 SMM	Celebrant's Intention
			10:00 CTK	Intentions of the congregation
			11:00 SMM	Divine Worship
			11:30 OLAM	Christy Ranahan (RIP)
<b>Thu</b>	26/12/24	St Stephen, Feast	11:00 CTK†	Bob & Paul Thompson (RIP)
<b>Fri</b>	27/12/24	St John, Apostle, Evangelist, Feast	12:00 CTK†	David Bacchus (RIP)
<b>Sat</b>	28/12/24	Holy Innocents, Feast	12:30 CTK†	Annie Broth (Anni.)
			<b>18:30 OLAM</b>	The Wilkinson's family
<b>Sun</b>	29/12/24	Feast of the Holy Family	10:00 CTK	Bill and Kath Rice (RIP)
			<b>11:30 SMM</b>	People of the parishes

**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 Mary Teresa Fitzgerald, Edith Gifford (Fr Leonard Cox's mother-in-law) who passed away recently. May they rest in peace. **Funerals:** 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).

**PARISH CAROL SERVICE:** The parish carol service will be on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 6 pm at Christ the King. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served afterwards in the St John's Centre.

**MASSES ON CHRISTMAS EVE:** All the Masses on Christmas Eve will be the First Mass of Christmas which in your Missals may be called either "Mass through the Night" or "Midnight Mass". **Please note that there is no 9 pm Mass at CTK this year. There is, however, a Mass at that time in our neighbouring parish.**

Bishop David, Fr. Thé-Quang, Deacons Dominic and Gary wish you all a happy and holy Christmas Season and a joyful New Year.

**Last Week's Collection CTK**

Loose: £ 367.32  
 Envelopes: £ 108.00  
 Standing Orders £ 247.23  
**Total: £ 722.55**

**Last Week's Collection OLAM**

Loose: £ 227.90  
 Envelopes: £ 122.50  
 Standing Orders £ 94.69  
**Total: £ 445.09**

**Thank you for  
your generous support**

Christ the King		21 <sup>st</sup> /22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	28 <sup>th</sup> /29 <sup>th</sup> Dec
Sat 12:30	Minister of the Word	Kathleen	Maxine
	Minister of Holy Communion	Sue	Theresa
Sun 10.00	Minister of the Word	John	Steve
	Minister of Holy Communion	Marian	Sister

**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.

**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'"

**A REMINDER OF THE CHANGES TO MASS TIMES ON 28<sup>th</sup> AND 29<sup>th</sup> 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**

The dramatis personae don't lead us to expect anything revolutionary. They are an old woman and a young girl. Both are to give birth, true, and the birth of a child is always a potential revolution; but the old woman is really beyond the age of child-bearing (Luke 1:7) and the young girl wasn't expected to be there yet (Matthew 1:18).

However, the revolutionary language of Mary's Magnificat takes us by surprise. "He scatters the proud-hearted... he casts the mighty from their thrones and raises the lowly... he fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty...." If we really heard these words (which means hearing them addressed to oneself) we would be part of the revolution. But when we imagine them addressed only to others, we turn them into an ideology and we turn ourselves into an establishment.

Addressed to oneself. Who is 'oneself' in the Church? Our deepest identity is not our personal ego but our identity within the Body of Christ. "We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members of one another" (Romans 12:5). The Magnificat is not only a call to the individual to turn his or her life around; it is a call to the Church to live by the Gospel.

The 'Liberation Theology' movement began in Latin America in the 1960s as a struggle for justice for the poor and oppressed of those countries. It has been criticised for relying on political methods to achieve its goals. It is true that the Gospel is not just a political ideology, and in political struggles one is always in danger of coming to resemble one's opponents. But the oppressive regimes in many instances claim to be Christian and even enjoy the patronage of major Church leaders. It is therefore not a question of 'us' versus 'them'; it is not politics, but a call to conversion within the Church. In the context of the struggle for justice, Mary's Magnificat is a prophetic call to the Church to hear the cry of the poor. Its significance includes but goes beyond personal piety.

We all find ways of extracting the teeth of the Gospel so as to live in comfort with it. We are even capable of transforming it entirely into a source of comfort. The jibe about "pie in the sky when you die" doesn't really touch the nerve; many of us want pie here on earth. It is always the right time to listen to the challenging words of Thomas Merton: "The Churches have created a separate world within the world, a world claiming to be 'sacred', while surreptitiously gaining and retaining for themselves every possible worldly advantage and privilege. This ecclesiastical world identifies itself as 'holier' and 'better' than any other society by virtue of external rites and signs, and presumes to condemn and to vilify all that is real, valid, alive, creative, forward-looking in order to maintain its own traditional advantage."

That would be a good theme for an Advent examination of conscience. We must see if we can catch ourselves using the imagery of the faith as an assurance that nothing changes. In the light of today's gospel passage, let's see if we have sentimentalised Mary, misinterpreting her compliance with the will of God as compliance with everything that we are accustomed to.

At Christmas we will sing about joy and peace and goodwill. Let's pray that we will not cheapen and corrupt these priceless realities. As the great 'liberation theologian' Gustavo Gutierrez said, "Christian joy comes from knowing God and from trying to follow God's will. Joy means rejoicing in God. But we can see from the Magnificat that, when Mary rejoices in God, she is also celebrating the liberating action of God in history. Mary rejoices in a God who is faithful to the poor. Our service of others must be wrapped in this joy."