



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: 63; O: 377; C: 550; R: 182

MASSES THIS WEEK

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

Sat	28/12/24	Feast of the Holy Innocents	12:30 CTK†	Annie Broth (Anni.)
			18:30 OLAM	The Wilkinson's family
Sun	29/12/24	Feast of the Holy Family	10:00 CTK	Thanksgiving (LB)
			11:30 SMM	Fiona & Tom Fadian
Mon	30/12/24	Christmas Feria	08:00 Con†	Thomas Beirne (RIP)
			09:15 SMM	Mary Doody
Tue	31/12/24	Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	23:30 CTK	Justice and Peace
			09:15 SMM	Kitty Byrne
Wed	01/01/25	Solemnity of Mary Mother of God	10:00 CTK†	Luke Crann (RIP)
			10:00 OLAM	John & Annie McDonnell (RIP)
Thu	02/01/25	Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen	12:00 CTK	Danny & Darren Fields (RIP)
Fri	03/01/25	The Holy Name of Jesus	09:15 SMM	Nora Duffy (1 st Anniversary)
			12:00 CTK	Christy Flannery (RIP)
Sat	04/01/25	Christmas Feria	12:30 CTK	Alfie Bourns (RIP)
			18:00 OLAM†	Benny McGinn (RIP)
Sun	05/01/25	The Epiphany of the Lord	09:30 SMM	Michael Woulfe (RIP)
			10:00 CTK	Jozef Gnadjowski (Anni.)
			11:30 OLAM	Noel Finnerty (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 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).

A WORD OF THANKS: a very big thank you to all those who contributed to and attended the Mass for the Feast of St Stephen and the refreshments afterwards. Congratulations to all those young altar servers who were inducted into the Guild of St Stephen and received their medal. Congratulations also to Alex who received his silver medal for 10 years' service at the altar. It was a wonderful celebration.

ANOTHER WORD OF THANKS: Bishop David, Fr. Thé and Deacons Dominic and Gary would like to thank everyone for the many Christmas cards and other seasonal good wishes which they have received. These are all much appreciated.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MARY KELLY: At the St Stephen's day Mass, Mary was presented with the Panis Vitae medal by Bishop David in recognition of her many years of dedicated service to the Music Ministry. Very well deserved – and well done.

Christ the King		28 th /29 th Dec	4 th /5 th Jan
Sat 12:30	Minister of the Word	Maxine	
	Minister of Holy Communion	Theresa	
Sun 10.00	Minister of the Word	Steve	
	Minister of Holy Communion	Sister	

VIGIL MASS FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD: Thank you to the musicians of the Catholic African Community at Christ the King who will be providing the music for the Vigil Mass on 31st December.

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.

Reflection: Start of Jubilee Year - Father Ryan Service (Holy Trinity and Sacred Heart, Sutton Coldfield)

What are your new year traditions? There are certainly some curious ones: in Spain where you eat 12 grapes and spit out the pips, or in the centre of Rome where they throw glass bottles in one of the main squares. Closer to home, we might link arms together to sing a song that none of us really know the words to.

I remember my mom used to open the front door to let the old year out and the new year in, and this memory comes to mind not only as we move into 2025 but also as we begin a jubilee year. There will be holy doors opening in Rome at the main papal basilicas and a holy door will be opened at Rebibbia Prison.

We don't need to travel to Rome to 'enter' through the holy doors of this jubilee year because the biggest pilgrimage of life is moving from head to heart, and we can do that from the comfort of our living room. A doorway is a threshold, a marker of comings and goings, a sign of welcome, and a way through. It is, ultimately, the person of Jesus, who calls himself the way and a gate. What are we releasing as we open the door this year? What are we consigning to the past? What are we hoping to welcome in? What are we expectant of?

Jubilees occur every 25 years and sociologists recognise 25 years being a generation. So, in opening our own holy doors, may 2025 not only be a good, healthy, and happy year, but also an opening to a new generation of hope and grace; of new possibilities, new ways of collaborating in service of the Lord and our neighbour, in such a way that people will see this generation as one that transforms history.

Gospel Reflection (<https://goodnews.ie/calendar.shtml>)

Jesus is now twelve years old, on the threshold of adulthood. Already there is a hint of what is to come: he must be "in his Father's house." The enclosing circle of family opens to the greater world. There is pain in the opening, because life is not idyllic for long; it is tragic, which means it is destined for unimaginable greatness. Just how great, we would never know but for that small Child born so long ago, so far away.

He had caused a delay of five days: his parents had to return to the city, a day's journey, and then spend three days searching for him, before making their way back again to where they were when they first missed him. I have seen one or two mothers whose child went missing for an hour or so, and it is a chilling sight; it must be an unimaginable feeling, save for parents who have experienced it. For four of those five days, Mary and Joseph knew that feeling. There is no explosion of anger or impatience in Luke's description of their meeting: "When his parents saw him they were astonished," and "Child, why have you treated us like this?" Later piety made more of it, commemorating it as the fifth joyful mystery of the Rosary. It could equally well have been a sorrowful mystery, had people concentrated their piety on the other four days: the loss of the child Jesus. Joy and sorrow are often so closely linked as to be inseparable. It must be especially true for parents. Why do we keep the joyful, the sorrowful and the glorious mysteries so separated – even consigning them, in the Rosary, to different days of the week?

Homework: see how many of the mysteries could fit in more than one category!

How did Jesus manage to get lost in the Temple if he was an only child? The fact is that he was part of an oriental family, which is usually about a hundred people! – uncles, aunts, innumerable cousins, their wives, their children, their mothers-in-law... a tribe! But we make such lonely-looking statues of the Holy Family: just three people, a *nuclear* family. The metaphor is chillingly accurate: we reduce the extended family to a little group of three, as scientists see solid objects as atoms. The word 'atom' means 'indivisible', but that became a challenge: how to split it! It was done, as we know, releasing nuclear energy which no one knows how to control ultimately; its waste will still be deadly tens of thousands of years hence. We do something similar with society, splitting it into little nuclear families, which, we used to say, were 'indissoluble'. But, as in the case of the scientists, this seemed to operate only as a challenge, and now in some countries as many as fifty percent of all marriages are dissolved. As we celebrate the Holy Family we must think of ways to strengthen and support the family.