



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: 482; O: 548; C: 52; R: 38

MASSES THIS WEEK

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

Sat	04/01/25		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)
Mon	06/01/25	Christmas Feria	08:00 Con	Gerard Byrne (RIP)
Tue	07/01/25	Christmas Feria	08:00 Con.	Maria Christina (Anni.)
			09:15 SMM	Celebrant's Intention
Wed	08/01/25	Christmas Feria	08:00 Con.	Delia Byrne (RIP)
			09:15 SMM	Celebrant's Intention
			11:00 SMM	Requiem: Ann Mitchell
Thu	09/01/25	Christmas Feria	12:00 CTK	Jim McCarthy (RIP)
Fri	10/01/25	Christmas Feria	09:00 CTK	Rosemary Gilligan & family
Sat	11/01/25	Christmas Feria	12:30 CTK	Fr Michael White
			18:00 OLAM	Kitty Heaney (Anni.)
Sun	12/01/25	The Baptism of the Lord	09:30 SMM	Celebrant's Intention
			10:00 CTK	Gerry Gorman (RIP)
			11:30 OLAM	Regina Bailey (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 Gniadjowski, 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, George Ferris, and Christine Stephens.

RIP: Please pray for Mary Teresa Fitzgerald, Jerry Johnson and James Finbar Oregan who passed away recently. May they rest in peace. **Funerals:** J Johnson: Thu 16/01/25, 11:30, CTK; M T Fitzgerald: Fri 17/01/25, 11:00, CTK; J Oregan: Fri 07/02/25, 11:30, OLAM.

THE SANCTUARY LAMP is dedicated throughout January for the Walsh family at CTK and for a Personal Intention 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).

The Jubilee Companion Booklet is available for everyone after mass this weekend.

Appointment of Parish Secretary: Congratulations to Claire Adler who has been appointed as the Parish Secretary. Claire will be at this weekend masses to speak to the parishioners after mass.

Pastoral Placement: This weekend, we welcome Filip Gronkiewicz, a Propaedeutic student from Valladolid Seminary, to Kingstanding on placement for three weeks in January. Please say hello to him after mass.

Parental Support Programme – Session One will begin on Thursday 16th January at 19:00 at CTK.

RCIA Programme for Cluster area and Deanery parishes: will begin on Tuesday 14th January at 19:00 in the Guild Room. This programme is to help those who are discerning the Catholic faith before deciding to join the Catholic Church.

Christ the King		4 th /5 th Jan	11 th /12 th Jan
Sat 12:30	Minister of the Word	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
	Minister of Holy Communion	Sue	Theresa
Sun 10.00	Minister of the Word	Angela	Patience
	Minister of Holy Communion	Jean de Dieu	Joyce

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.

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN UK) has launched an Open Letter campaign calling on Foreign Secretary David Lammy to make persecuted religious communities priority recipients of UK Overseas Development Aid (ODA). They need your help to reach their goal of 10,000 signatures, which will trigger a response from the Government. Please sign their open letter today: <https://acnuk.org/our-campaigns/red-wednesday-advocacy-letter>.

Gospel Reflection: Fr Donagh O'Shea

Ours is not the first age to look east for wisdom; the East has always had a reputation for it. The word 'magi' is translated here as "wise men." 'Magus' meant different things: a magus was a member of the Persian priestly caste; or one who possessed occult knowledge and power (this is the origin of our word 'magic'). If people had the careless habit of throwing around the term 'New Age' in those times as many do now, the Magi would certainly have been called New Agers.

Herod was one of history's great tyrants: he spared no one, not even his own family; to keep his grip on power he murdered his wife, three of his sons, his brother-in-law, an uncle, and his mother-in-law. He had been appointed "King of the Jews" by the Roman Senate in 40 BC and he had already reigned for over thirty years. He was in no mind to hear of a new king, especially one who was no son of his. "He was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him." He was frightened to hear of a rival, and the people were frightened because they knew what he was capable of. But the chief priests and the scribes – the religious authorities of the day – were able to give him directions in locating this rival. They knew in detail about the expected arrival of "the anointed one." They had studied the Scriptures, they knew the prophecies, they knew where to look. And they used all that knowledge to direct a killer to him. Nor was it just a momentary lapse of judgment: Herod would fail to kill him, but later on they would succeed.

The Magi were foreigners, pagans, astrologers: everything that was most base in the eyes of the religious authorities.

Though they had not the benefit of the prophecies the Magi came and did the Child homage. Tradition calls them "kings" – judging, probably, by the wealth of the gifts they brought. At any rate they came looking for a king. Where do you look for a king? In a palace. Who else is likely to be there? A royal family. But the Magi came to a cave or a stable where they found a poor family, with animals and perhaps a few shepherds. All the appearances would have told them they had made a ridiculous mistake, yet "falling to their knees, they did him homage."

We can look at the significance of this story from many angles. Preparation is no guarantee that you will be ready; it may actually blind you, because you prepare according to your own idea. There is no substitute for an open heart; learning sometimes has the effect of closing the heart, and in some cases even the mind. Religious authority is the most perilous of all: the claims are absolute, the deepest things are at stake, and with the years comes the habit of listening to no one. The most chilling feature of this story is the collusion of the religious leaders with Herod.

Later on, when simple people were shouting out their enthusiasm for Jesus, the Pharisees said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out" (Lk 19:40-41). We are not to be surprised at where praise of God can spring up. It is not recorded that any of the authorities went with the Magi to search for the Child; it was the pagan astrologers who sought and found him. Let's not be quick to disqualify people who come from a different tradition.