



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-the-king.bham@rcaob.org.uk
Alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk

Hymns: E: 372; O: 414; C: 115; R: 532

MASSES THIS WEEK

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

Sat	11/01/25		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)
Mon	13/01/25	Feria in Ordinary Time	08:00 Con†	Carol Timmis (RIP)
Tue	14/01/25	Feria in Ordinary Time	09:15 SMM	Jo Brough (RIP)
			09:30 MPS	Sr Marie Inglis (SI)
Wed	15/01/25	Feria in Ordinary Time	08:00 Con.†	Maurice Kelleher (RIP)
Thu	16/01/25	Feria in Ordinary Time	11.30 CTK	Requiem: Jerri Jade Johnson
Fri	17/01/25	St Anthony, Abbot, Mem.	09:00 CTK	Elizabeth Cahill (RIP)
			11:00 CTK	Funeral S: Mary Teresa Fitzgerald
Sat	18/01/25	Feria in Ordinary Time	12:30 CTK†	Marie Roy Owens & family
			18:00 OLAM	Margaret Boylan (RIP)
Sun	19/01/25	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	09:30 SMM	Celebrant's Intention
			10:00 CTK	Bill & Kath Rice (RIP)
			11:30 OLAM	Ian Frank Bartlett (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, George Ferris, and Christine Stephens.

RIP: Please pray for Mary Teresa Fitzgerald, Jerri Johnson, James Finbar Oregan and Daisy Glenn 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: Thu 06/02/25, 11:30, OLAM; D Glenn: Thu 27/02/25, 10:30, CTK.

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).

Deacon Gary's Duties in 2025: We shall be seeing a little less of Gary at our Sunday 10.00 Masses in 2025. He will be attending Sunday Mass at St Augustine's Handsworth once a month, (usually the second Sunday) to mentor three potential candidates for the Permanent Diaconate. Once a month, (usually the fourth Sunday) he will be going down to Wales to visit his mother and assisting as Deacon in her parish in the Archdiocese of Cardiff-Menevia to which he has been accredited.

Preparation for FHC and Confirmation at Cardinal Wiseman: Could those who go to Cardinal Wiseman and would like to be prepared for the Sacraments of FHC and Confirmation please give your names to me after mass this weekend.

Parental Support Programme – Session One will begin on Thursday 16th January at 19:00 at CTK. This is for the parents of those children who have been enrolled onto the First Holy Communion and Confirmation programmes.

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.

Last Week's Collection CTK

Loose: £ 259.28
 Envelopes: £ 101.00
 Standing Orders £ 247.23
Total: £ 607.51
 Donation to CTK using QR on trial

**Last Week's Collection OLAM**

Loose: £ 204.83
 Envelopes: £ 139.50
 Standing Orders £ 94.69
Total: £ 439.02

Second Collection: Next Weekend for Pax Christi

Two card readers are available in CTK Church for donations or payment for votive candles to be made by those who carry cards but no cash. Please feel free to explore.

Christ the King		11 th /12 th Jan	18 th /19 th Jan
Sat 12:30	Minister of the Word	Aoife	Theresa
	Minister of Holy Communion	Theresa	Sue
Sun 10.00	Minister of the Word	Patience	John
	Minister of Holy Communion	Joyce	Marian

Redundant Christmas Presents

After Christmas and New Year some people find they have presents, boxes of biscuits, chocolates, wine and spirits that are surplus to requirements. We wondered whether you could donate these to the Parish so we can raise funds to contribute to pay to fix the leak in the church roof. Our idea is that you bring your unused 'spare' items to church over the next three weeks. Please hand them in to the tea and coffee team after 10 am Mass or to Father The during the week. We will then hold a raffle in February where everyone gets a prize so there will only be the number of raffle tickets for the number of donations, tickets will be £5 each and you could win a bottle of whiskey, a box of chocolates, some very nice toiletries etc. We hope you will join this fun activity by donating and buying tickets. If this is a success we hope to run a similar raffle with unused toys, books and games later in the year so please save these for us. If you need more information please contact Noran 07552238852

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

Jesus is there anonymously in the crowd, coming forward with the rest to meet the famous John the Baptist. It is impossible for us to see him as an anonymous person; to us he stands out from every crowd and from the whole human race: above them, beyond them; we can't imagine him not yet majestic. But there he is, the village man, Jesus, known only to his family and neighbours. He is not yet famous.

There is only one famous man there: John the Baptist. When you see a famous person among the crowds you notice that there is nearly always something false about it: he or she is looking for something, votes or applause or some other sort of ego-stroking. But John the Baptist wasn't looking for anything; he was delivering! He was delivering a verbal lashing of extraordinary severity, calling the crowd 'a brood of vipers.' Jesus is there, watching, listening, anonymous. He is indistinguishable from the brood of vipers. He is one of us. This is nothing new for him; this is how he has been all the thirty years of his life.

But this meeting with John the Baptist is a turning point. Something happened. He experienced the Spirit, and it is described in the kind of language that mystics have used throughout the ages to describe their union with God: 'You are my son, the beloved.'

Have you ever known that experience, in your very bones: God speaking to you (in some sense), 'You are my son, my daughter, the beloved?' If you experience God at all how could it be otherwise? -God is love. Even the thundering 19th-century preacher, Charles Spurgeon, became quiet in front of today's gospel passage. He wrote: "The wings of the dove are as soft as they are swift. Quietness seems essential to many spiritual operations; the Lord is in the still small voice, and like the dew, His grace is distilled in silence." The unshakeable intimacy with his Father that Jesus demonstrated throughout the rest of his life bears witness to his experience of God's Spirit.

Was he now somehow 'above' the crowd? Would he no longer queue up with them? On the contrary. He was now more than ever one of them. He spent the rest of his life seeking out "the weak, the sick, the wounded, the strayed, the lost" (see Ezekiel 34). He was for the lost sheep, the outcast, the sinner. This has ever since been the mark of true greatness. Not only in the farmyard, but among us human beings, there is usually a well-enforced pecking order: people who climb up a step are sure to make it visible in some way, and sometimes they will even move into a different circle of friends and abandon the old circle. But Jesus never abandons the abandoned. Again the mighty Spurgeon: "Gentleness is a sure result of the Spirit's transforming power: hearts touched by Him are meek and lowly henceforth and for ever."

Can language convey this? I know a man who conveys it better than words ever could. When he is talking with you (or, much more often, listening) and someone interrupts, he totally ignores the interruption. His attention is unwavering. Nothing else exists for him at that moment, and you know that he would stop at nothing to help you, and there is not the slightest hint of ego in it - he has no agenda of his own. This is a rare quality. People know instinctively that he is a man of God. In case you've never met one, that's what meeting a saint is like.

If meeting a saint is like that, what must it be like to meet Jesus himself?