



## The Newman Cluster

### Christ the King, Kingstanding and Our Lady of the Assumption, Maryvale

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. The-Quang Nguyen  
124 Warren Farm Road, Kingstanding, Birmingham B44 0QN  
Parish Deacons: Rev. Mr. Gary O'Brien ([dcn.gary.obrien@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:dcn.gary.obrien@rcaob.org.uk)) and  
Rev. Mr. Dominic Fahey ([dcn.dominic.fahey@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:dcn.dominic.fahey@rcaob.org.uk))

Fr Simon Ellis Tel: 0121 373 0069  
[fr.simon.ellis@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:fr.simon.ellis@rcaob.org.uk)  
Assistant Priest: Fr Leonard Cox  
[fr.leonard.cox@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:fr.leonard.cox@rcaob.org.uk)

Fr. The-Quang Nguyen  
[fr.the.quang.nguyen@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:fr.the.quang.nguyen@rcaob.org.uk)  
Tel: 0121 373 0988. Email: Admin:  
[christ-theking.bham@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:christ-theking.bham@rcaob.org.uk)

Convent: 192 Hawthorn Road  
Kingstanding B44 8PU  
Phone +44 121 3500 716  
Email: [smsfbirmingham@gmail.com](mailto:smsfbirmingham@gmail.com)

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: 230; O: 160; C: 345; R: 130

#### MASSES THIS WEEK

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

<b>Sat</b>	25/01/25	Conversion of St Paul, Feast	12:30 CTK	Karen Jemson (RIP)
			18:00 OLAM†	Patricia Whelan (RIP)
<b>Sun</b>	26/01/25	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	09:30 SMM	Barnabas Agendia (RIP)
			10:00 CTK	Tommy Judge (RIP)
			11:30 OLAM	Mary Finn
<b>Mon</b>	27/01/25	Feria in Ordinary Time	08:00 Con†	Jim & Madge Ranahan & family (RIP)
<b>Tue</b>	28/01/25	St Thomas Aquinas, Mem.	09:15 SMM	Ann Rogers and family
<b>Wed</b>	29/01/25	Feria in Ordinary Time	08:00 Con.†	James & Margaret Head
			09:15 SMM	Celebrant's Intention
<b>Thu</b>	30/01/25	Feria in Ordinary Time	12:00 CTK	Eileen Harte (RIP)
<b>Fri</b>	31/01/25	St John Bosco, Mem.	09:00 CTK	The Allen family
			10:30 SMM	Requiem: Sinead Sullivan
<b>Sat</b>	01/02/25	Feria in Ordinary Time	12:30 CTK	Eddie McKeown (Anni.)
			18:00 OLAM	Bernie & Paddy
<b>Sun</b>	02/02/25	Presentation of the Lord, Feast	09:30 SMM	Teresa Murphy (RIP)
			10:00 CTK	Ellen Crann (RIP)
			11:30 OLAM	Sarah Margaret Wingfield (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 James Finbar O'Regan and Daisy Glenn who passed away recently. May they rest in peace.  
**Funerals:** J O'Regan: 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.

**Special Meeting of the Youth Group:** In honour of the Jubilee Year the Youth Group will meet on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January at 6.30 pm in the Guild Room. On this occasion, the meeting is open to everyone from Y7 upwards. In the future, all Youth Group meetings will begin at 6.30 pm rather than 7 pm.

**Fr. Peter Ross:** On Mon 10/02/25 at 18:00, Fr. Peter Ross will preside and preach at a Mass of Thanksgiving for his priesthood and for his time among us as Deacon. There will be a Reception afterwards in the Maryvale Community Centre. All are welcome.

**Parental Support Programme – Session Two** will be on Thu 30/01/25 at 19:00 and repeated on Sat 01/02/25 at 15:00.

**Cluster Celebration of Pentecost:** On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 6 pm there will be a Solemn Pentecost Vigil and Mass at OLAM followed by a Reception in the Maryvale Community Centre at approximately 7.30 pm. Pentecost is the birthday of the Church. Our Solemn Vigil Mass and Reception provide an opportunity for us to thank God for the Church and for the progress the Cluster has made so far. All are welcome.

**Last Week's Collection CTK**

Loose: £ 358.47  
 Envelopes: £ 136.00  
 Standing Orders £ 247.23  
**Total: £ 741.70**

**Last Week's Collection OLAM**

Loose: £ 153.12  
 Envelopes: £ 108.51  
 Standing Orders £ 94.69  
**Total: £ 356.32**

**Second Collection: Next week:** the LIFE charity

Christ the King		25 <sup>th</sup> /26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb
Sat 12:30	Minister of the Word	Kathleen	Maxine
	Minister of Holy Communion	Theresa	Sue
Sun 10.00	Minister of the Word	Steve	Theresa
	Minister of Holy Communion	Sr Catalina	Jean de Dieu

**Redundant Lectionaries and Missals:** We now have an address in the UK to which we can send all reusable Lectionaries and Missals. From there they will be shipped to Nigeria. We already have a collection of Missals building up to go with our Lectionaries. If any parishioner would like to add a Missal to it, please bring them to the Parish Office during the week. Please be aware that only Missals with the **2011** translation can be sent.

**St Vincent de Paul Conference Update**

Dear Parishioners, on behalf of all of our members, I would like to wish you a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year. We received a large number of requests for assistance over the Christmas period and, as a result of your support, were able to provide groceries, presents and food vouchers to 41 families in our community, who were extremely grateful. We will continue to support where the need remains, within our capabilities. Thank you for your generous and ongoing support. Please keep our members and beneficiaries in your prayers. Theresa.

**Congratulations to Mrs Breslin and her staff and children at Christ the King School:** for getting OUTSTANDING from OFSTED for their constant commitment in every aspect.

**Enrolment for FHC and Confirmation in 2026:** The children in Year 2 and Year 5 in both Primary Schools are expected to have their Mass Attendance card signed every weekend and details given on visit from either Deacon Gary or Fr The. The list will close on Palm Sunday of 2025. Those children who have applied will be formally enrolled for the Sacraments at the Sunday masses over the weekend of 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> June 2025. Any later inquiries will be scheduled for next year.

**Parish Council Meeting** on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February at 7 pm in the Guild Room. If there are any matters you think we should add to our agenda, please pass them to a member of the Parish Council.

**General Meetings of the Cluster** will take place on Sunday 18/05/25 and 21/09/25 respectively. Both meetings will be in the St John's Centre and both will start at 3 pm.

**Booking of St John's Centre:** Please note that only the key holder of any private booking of St John's is allowed to let their people in at the time of booking.

**Gospel Reflection: Fr Donagh O'Shea**

"To bring good news to the poor." What is good news for the poor? That they are going to become rich? And then it will be their turn to oppress the poor!

Hurrah for revolution and more cannon-shot!

A beggar on horseback lashes a beggar on foot.

Hurrah for revolution and cannon come again!

The beggars have changed places, but the lash goes on. (W.B. Yeats)

This could not be what Jesus meant. "Blessed are you who are poor," he said (Luke 6:20). Are they blessed in being poor, or because they are poor, or for some other reason that is only materially connected with being poor?

Is poverty a value? It is hard to see how it could be a value in itself, seeing that it is just the lack of something good: an adequate level of wealth. Where is the value in poverty, then?

In the time of Jesus, wealth was seen as a sign of God's favour, and poverty a sign of disfavour. His good news for the poor was his rejection of this view. It was not a promise that the rich would welcome them when they came begging, nor that their poverty would enable them to show how humble they were, but that they had an equal dignity in the eyes of God and an equal right to the earth's goods. The good news was not that they would become rich, but that they could stand in their full dignity before God and the world.

Many have imagined a future Utopia, a perfect place where everything will be as it should be. But the word 'Utopia' does not mean a perfect place; it means a 'non-existent place' (from the Greek, ou = not, and topos = place). Is the Christian vision a Utopia? In a sense yes. The world as we know it is not a place of perfect justice, love, or peace. We have not arrived at that point. But we are "on the way," in via, as the mediaevals put it. The work has started, the seed has been sown. "This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen," Jesus said. We are not invited to dream ineffectually of a Utopia, but to work for the coming of God's Kingdom on earth.

People who practise lectio divina (the slow meditative reading of Scriptures) stress the importance of being aware, when reading any passage, that 'this text is being fulfilled today even as we read.' Something of the word of God is already moving in us. If there were nothing, then we would only be dreaming of Utopia. The word is being fulfilled in us if we are actually caring for the little that is there, rather than dreaming and doing nothing. "Better an acre in Wessex," said Macaulay, "than a principality in Utopia."