



## 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: 198; O: 329; C: 49; R: 222

#### MASSES THIS WEEK

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

<b>Sat</b>	15/03/25	Saturday after Ash Wednesday	12:30 CTK	Clara Perry (Anni.)
			18:00 OLAM	Kathleen Lysaght (Anni.)
<b>Sun</b>	16/03/25	Second Sunday of Lent	09:30 SMM	Celebrant's Intention
			10:00 CTK†	Luke Byrne (B'day)
			11:30 OLAM	Ray Gregory (RIP)
<b>Mon</b>	17/03/25	St Patrick, Feast	08:00 Con†	Anne and David Middleton
			11:00 SMM	Requiem: Maureen Dargan
<b>Tue</b>	18/02/25	Lent Feria	09:15 SMM	Maureen Dargan (RIP)
			09:30 MPS	PEOPLE OF THE PARISHES
<b>Wed</b>	19/03/25	St Joseph, Spouse of Our Lady, Solemnity	08:00 Con.†	Shiela, John McLoughlin & family
			09.15 SMM	All fathers
<b>Thu</b>	20/03/25	Lent Feria	12:00 CTK†	Chris & Eddie Walsh
<b>Fri</b>	21/03/25	Lent Feria	09:00 CTK	Marie McNee & family
			11:00 CTK	Requiem: Noreen Kenny
<b>Sat</b>	22/03/25	Lent Feria	12:30 CTK	Dora McKeown (Anni.)
			18:00 OLAM†	Michael Foley (RIP)
<b>Sun</b>	23/03/25	Third Sunday of Lent	09:30 SMM	Maureen Dargan (RIP)
			10:00 CTK	Noreen Kenny (RIP)
			11:30 OLAM	Jim Heaney (Anni.)

**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 Steven Ferns, Noreen Kenny, Alfonsa Liberato, Peggy McCallion who passed away recently. May they rest in peace. **Funerals:** S Ferns: Fri 14/03/25, 12:30, CTK; N Kenny: Fri 21/03/25, 11:00, CTK; A Liberato: Mon 24/03/25, 10:30, OLAM.

**SANCTUARY LAMP** is dedicated throughout March for Ikwuka & Ubah Families at CTK and for Michael Foley at OLAM.  
**Stations of the Cross:** during Lent on every Friday at 7:00pm at CTK.

**Formation for Ministers of the Word:** Deacon Gary will be offering some formation to the current Ministers of the Word in St Margaret Mary in four sessions on **19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> April**, each session beginning at 7pm. Details of the programme are at the back of Church in both CTK and OLAM. Any current Minister of the Word is welcome to attend for a refresher and to offer the benefit of their experience during Q & A. Anyone who feels called to offer themselves for this important ministry is encouraged to attend these sessions.

**Jubilee Year Pilgrimage to St John Henry Newman's Littlemore College** and Chapel is on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> May. Details to follow.

**Parish Annual General Meeting:** The Parish AGM is an opportunity for everyone at CTK and OLAM to come together as a single united parish, to review the past year and to discuss important matters affecting our future. The full agenda is still being finalised but at the very least we shall need to consider the future of our parish buildings and finance. The AGM will be held on **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025 in the St John's Centre and will begin at 6.30 pm.**

Christ the King		8 <sup>th</sup> /9 <sup>th</sup> Mar	15 <sup>th</sup> /16 <sup>th</sup> Mar
Sat 12:30	Minister of the Word	Aoife	Kathleen
	Minister of Holy Communion	Sue	Theresa
Sun 10.00	Minister of the Word	Theresa	Angela
	Minister of Holy Communion	Joyce	Marian



**Big Raffle:** First of all thank you to everyone who has donated unwanted Christmas gifts, there is so much to donate so any chocolates, biscuits, wines, spirits or toiletries would be gratefully received. The raffle where everyone who buys a ticket wins a prize will take place after 10am Mass on Sun 16/03/25. Raffle tickets will go on sale on **Sun 23/02/25**. Tickets are £5 each and remember you are guaranteed a prize. The funds raised from this will go towards repairing the church roof.

**Young Discerners Group:** Are you a young man in School Years 9 - 13, who wants to explore a vocation to the Catholic priesthood? Why not come to St. Mary's College, Oscott for a chance to meet Fr. Craig Szmidt (the Vocation Director) and spend time in discussion and prayer with others who are thinking about a vocation to the priesthood? The day will include a tour of Oscott and an opportunity to speak with seminarians, joining them for the celebration of Holy Mass and lunch. The first meeting is on **Sat 05/04/25**, 10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. To find out more, contact Deacon Owen Gresty 0121 321 5135 or [deacon.owen@vocations.org.uk](mailto:deacon.owen@vocations.org.uk) **FREE OF CHARGE - BUT BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL!**

**Intercultural Mass:** On **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June at 12 noon**, Bishop David Evans will preside at an Intercultural Mass facilitated by the Ethnic Chaplaincies and the Eastern Catholic Churches of the Archdiocese. The venue is Our Lady and St Brigid's B31 5AB. More details are on the poster at the back of Church. **The Mass intention is Priestly Vocations.**

**African Mass at Pentecost:** Our Catholic African Community will be facilitating another Mass in the African style on the Solemnity of Pentecost on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 2 pm. Refreshments will be served afterwards. All are welcome.

**Choice of Masses for the conferral of Sacraments of Initiation 2025:** The Sacrament of Baptism is being celebrated on Easter Day (20<sup>th</sup> April) and on the Vigil of Pentecost (7<sup>th</sup> June in the 12.30 pm Mass). All other Sunday Masses in the Easter Season (21<sup>st</sup> April to 8<sup>th</sup> June inclusive) as well as the evening Mass on Ascension Thursday (29<sup>th</sup> May) will be available for the celebration of First Holy Communion. The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on Trinity Sunday at the 12.30 pm Mass at CTK (14<sup>th</sup> June) and the 11.30 am Mass at OLAM (15<sup>th</sup> June). **To book into any of these dates, please email the Parish Secretary with your preferred date. Father Thé or Deacon Gary will then have a word with you and assuming all is in order confirm your choice and give you details of the rehearsal.**

**Lourdes Pilgrimage 2025 in the Year of Jubilee:** Archbishop Bernard invites you to come on this very special occasion in the life of the Archdiocese: **Saturday 24 – Friday 30 May 2025** [www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes).

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

In all three liturgical cycles we have the strange story of the Transfiguration on the second Sunday of Lent. What does it mean? The second reading is a kind of echo of this gospel reading, and perhaps it gives us a key to open up its meaning for us. The Lord, St Paul writes, "will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body." The Transfiguration, then – whatever we discover it to mean – is not only about Jesus but about us. It is to make some discernible difference to us today.

There was the everyday Jesus who was well known to his friends; and then there was the moment when they scarcely recognised him, so transformed – transfigured – was he. Divinity shone through him, revealing depths that they had never imagined. Can this happen only to Jesus? When the little girl was asked what a saint was, she replied (thinking of the stained glass windows in the church), "A person who lets the light through." Lovely – but is it only an image? Can it also be a reality? Could you and I let the light through? We are probably far too aware of our wretchedness to think thoughts like that. But it is just these "wretched bodies of ours" that are the material of transfiguration, according to St Paul.

In a beautiful poem called The sunrise ruby, Jelaluddin Rumi (1207-1273) the Sufi mystic, imagines a girl asking her beloved, 'Do you love me or yourself more? Really, tell the absolute truth.' He says, 'There's nothing left of me. I'm like a ruby held up to the sunrise. Is it still a stone, or a world made of redness? It has no resistance to sunlight.'

There it is: in one way it is a stone, but in another it is a world of redness. This gives some impression of what transfiguration might mean. When you are completely absorbed and self-forgetful as you look at the sea, or at a sunset, or the night sky, or a tree, you are still yourself, of course; but you are also more than yourself. At any rate you are a kind of larger self, and not the small self that thinks before speaking, and counts money, and always looks after his or her own interests.

But we would like to hear what Christian mystics have to say about it. Johann Tauler (1300-1361) wrote the following: "God fires the spirit with a spark from the divine abyss. By the strength of this supernatural help the soul, enlightened and purified, is drawn out of itself into a unique and ineffable state of pure intent toward God....This complete turning of the soul toward God is beyond all understanding and feeling; it is a thing of wonder and defies imagination....In this state the soul, purified and enlightened, sinks into the divine darkness, into a tranquil silence and inconceivable union. It is absorbed in God, and now all equality and inequality disappear. In this abyss the soul loses itself, and knows nothing of God or of itself, of likeness to Him or of difference from Him, or of anything whatsoever. It is immersed in the unity of God and has lost all sense of distinctions."

Sadly, this aspect of the Christian faith is not as familiar to many as it could be. We have learnt to settle for less. Most people believe that the best things are not for them. But we are all called to deep enlightenment and union with God. Does this mean that we are to be somehow unreal and up-in-the-air? Hardly. Tauler and the people of his time had to be intensely practical. But his words live for centuries beyond the time he uttered them, because he was in touch with the living heart of our Faith. It is he, and the likes of him, who will lead us to the heart of God.