



## 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](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: 27; O: 80; C: 394; R: 312

#### MASSES THIS WEEK

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

<b>Sat</b>	29/03/25	Feria in Lent	12:30 CTK	Ted McKeown (RIP)
			18:00 OLAM	Thomas Matthews (RIP)
<b>Sun</b>	30/03/25	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday (Clocks go forward)	09:30 SMM	Maureen Dargan (RIP)
			10:00 CTK	Delia Byrne (RIP)
			11:30 OLAM†	Douglas Kennedy (Anni.)
<b>Mon</b>	31/03/25	Lent Feria	08:00 Con†	Gordon Moore (RIP)
<b>Tue</b>	01/04/25	Lent Feria	08:00 Con.	People of the Parishes
			09:15 SMM	Philip Charman (RIP)
<b>Wed</b>	02/04/25	Lent Feria	08:00 Con.†	Stanley James Phipps (RIP)
			09.15 SMM	Maureen Dargan (RIP)
<b>Thu</b>	03/04/25	Lent Feria	12:00 CTK	Maria McNee
<b>Fri</b>	04/04/25	Lent Feria	09:00 CTK	Special Intentions
			19:00 CTK	Stations of the Cross (+ Confession)
<b>Sat</b>	05/04/25	Lent Feria	12:30 CTK	Michale Canavan (RIP)
			18:00 OLAM	Gina Higgins (RIP)
<b>Sun</b>	06/04/25	Fifth Sunday of Lent	09:30 SMM	Katherine Ryan (RIP)
			10:00 CTK	Michael McMahon (RIP)
			11:30 OLAM	Antonia Purcell (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 Peggy McCallion, Kevin Thomas Bridge who passed away recently. May they rest in peace.  
**Funerals:** 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.

**Lent Talk on the Nicene Creed:** 7 pm at SMM – “the Virgin Mary and Christ’s humanity” given by Deacon Dominic.

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

**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 **26<sup>th</sup> March and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> April**, each session beginning at 7pm. 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.

**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.**

**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: Sat 24/05/25 – Fri 30/05/25 [www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes). Please register by 28/03/25, if you wish to go.

**Last Week's Collection CTK**

Loose: £ 436.65  
 Envelopes: £ 128.00  
 Standing Orders £ 247.23  
**Total: £ 811.88**

**Last Week's Collection OLAM**

Loose: £ 226.64  
 Envelopes: £ 124.60  
 Standing Orders £ 94.69  
**Total: £ 445.93**

Christ the King		29 <sup>th</sup> /30 <sup>th</sup> March	5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup> April
Sat 12:30	Minister of the Word	Aoife	Theresa
	Minister of Holy Communion	Theresa	Sue
Sun 10.00	Minister of the Word	Patience	Steve
	Minister of Holy Communion	Joyce	Marian



**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 **Sat 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.**

**WeBelieve, 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> July 2025**, a festival of Catholic Life celebrating the Jubilee Year of Hope, with parishes and families in mind. Four days of music, keynotes, conversation & worship, in the beautiful surroundings of **St Mary's College, Oscott**, Sutton Coldfield. Featuring Dr Gianna Emanuela Molla (daughter of St Gianna Molla), Fr Paul Murray, Mgr Michael Nazir-Ali, AnMari, Fr Toby Lees & many more. Pilgrim-attendees can choose to come for the whole weekend (camping, staying locally or coming from home) at an adult Early Bird rate of £70, or for a day for £40. Early Bird Tickets available now at [www.webelievefestival.com](http://www.webelievefestival.com)

**Free Skills Training at New Heights Project with FareShare Midlands:** Are you looking to boost your career prospects, improve your well-being, or manage your finances more effectively? Join FareShare Midlands for free, informative, and engaging training sessions at St John's Centre. Upcoming Sessions: Achieving Positive Wellbeing and Mental Health – 1<sup>st</sup> March, 12:30 - 2:30 pm; Employment Skills and Work Directions – 21<sup>st</sup> March, 12:30 - 2:30 pm. To find out more, contact Rachel at 07726 486 62 or email [Rachel.Jackson@faresharemidlands.org.uk](mailto:Rachel.Jackson@faresharemidlands.org.uk).

**Gospel Reflection: Fr Donagh O'Shea:** Three things about Luke, the one who recounted this story: he was an outsider, he wrote mainly for outsiders, and he wrote a lot about outsiders. 1. He was a Gentile, in fact the only non-Jewish writer in the New Testament. 2. He wrote mainly for non-Jews. Examples of this: he seldom quotes the Old Testament, and he is not concerned to show that Jesus is the fulfilment of Jewish prophecy; he never uses the Jewish title 'Rabbi' of Jesus (he uses a Greek word that means 'Master'); he traced the descent of Jesus not from Abraham, the founder of the Jewish race, as Matthew does, but from Adam, the 'founder' of the human race. And 3, In Luke's gospel you find many examples of Jesus comparing foreigners favourably with the people facing him: the widow at Zarephath and Naaman (4:25f), the Roman centurion (7:9), the queen of Sheba (11:31), the people of Tyre and Sidon (10:13), the Good Samaritan (10:30-37), the one grateful leper (17:11-19)....

Luke shows a special regard for the lost, for outcasts and sinners. Chapter 15 of his gospel consists of three parables about 'lost and found': the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son – the one we call the 'prodigal' son.

Luke alone of the four gospel writers tells this immortal story of the Prodigal Son (today's reading). But the focus is not so much on the two brothers as on their father. We call the younger son 'the prodigal'. The word comes from Latin 'prodigus', which means 'lavish'. Yes, the son was lavish and reckless. But the father was even more so! The father was lavish with his mercy and forgiveness. And since the story is focused on the father we should call it the story of the 'Prodigal Father' rather than the story of the 'Prodigal Son'.

The people who heard that story from the lips of Jesus were quite aware that they were being cast in the role of the older brother. They had seen that tax-collectors and prostitutes were all seeking the company of Jesus and they said, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them!" He captured them perfectly in the character of the older brother. It is not that he was commending the younger son (because, again, the focus is on the father); but the reality is that the underdog finds out more about the father's mercy than the 'overdog'. It takes a prodigal son to know a prodigal father.

The father was certainly prodigal: "while the son was still a long way off he ran towards his son, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly." He didn't even let him finish his prepared speech of repentance. "Quick," he said, "...put a ring on his finger...." That ring meant that he was a member of the family, not a hired servant. This was warm and whole-hearted forgiveness - which is the only real kind there is.

Jesus could have invented any kind of story he wished to say what God was like. It is overwhelming that this is the story.