



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. Pending formal appointment, our acting Parish Safeguarding Representatives are Caroline Gorman and Angela Hooker. Until the paperwork has been completed, any concerns or issues should be reported to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team on 0121 230 6240 or safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk

Hymns: E: 410; O: 413; C: 556; R: 376

MASSES THIS WEEK

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

Sat	13/09/25	St John Chrysostom, Mem	12:30 CTK	Teresa Webb (RIP)
			18:00 OLAM	Kath Smith (RIP)
Sun	14/09/25	24 th Sunday in Ordinary Time Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross	09:30 SMM	Alec Grant & Owen Faulkner (RIP)
			10:00 CTK†	John McLoughlin
			11:00 SMM	Celebrant's Intention
			11:30 OLAM	Joan Allen
Mon	15/09/25	Our Lady of Sorrows, Mem	08:00 Con.†	Bartholomew Pham (RIP)
			11:30 SMM	Funeral Mass: Malita Vickers
Tue	16/09/25	SS Cornelius and Cyprian, Mem	09:15 SMM	Katharine, Duchess of Kent (RIP)
			09:30 CTK	Kathleen Boyle (RIP)
Wed	17/09/25	Feria in Ordinary Time	08:00 Con.	The McDonagh's and the Maughan's
Thu	18/09/25	Feria in Ordinary Time	12:00 CTK	Brendon Reily (RIP)
Fri	19/09/25	Feria in Ordinary Time	09:00 CTK	Birdie Neylon (RIP)
			09:15 SMM	Celebrant's Intention
Sat	20/09/25	St Andrew Kim Taegon and Companions, Martyrs, Mem.	12:30 CTK	John Cowman (RIP)
			18:00 OLAM	Patrich & Kathleen Maguire (RIP)
Sun	21/09/25	25 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	09:30 SMM	Thoman Thomas (RIP)
			10:00 CTK†	Ian Beniston (get well)
			11:00 SMM	Justina Morrin (RIP)
			11:30 OLAM	Bill and Pauline Farrell (62 nd Wedding Anni.)

Pray For The Sick: Jean McCabe, Paul Cowan, Gerald, John, Josephine Brown, 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, Joanne Fields, Caitlin Hodgetts, Joan/Alan Horton, Peggy O'Donovan, Pauline O'Brien, Chris & Eddie Walsh, Elizabeth Teague, Christine Stephens, Margaret Coogan, Sadie Kennelly, Michael and Sarah Deane, and Peter Hadland.

RIP: Please pray for Sean McBirney, Kathleen Bridger, Margaret Dillon, Philip Barnes, Roy Middleton, John Middleton and George Ferris who passed away recently. May they rest in peace.

Funeral: S McBirney: CTK, Mon 22/09/25 at 12:00; M Dillon: CTK, Tue 23/09/25 at 11:00.

Sanctuary Lamp Dedication throughout September at CTK is dedicated to the intentions of McEvoy family. Parishioners worshipping at OLAM can still request a dedication for September and October 2025.

Next Meeting of the Youth Group: The Youth Group has returned from its summer break and will hold its next meeting on Friday 26th September 2025 at 6.30 pm in the St. John's Centre.

Parish Pastoral Council: The first meeting of our new Parish Pastoral Council takes place on Wednesday 17th September at 7 pm in St John's Centre. Parishioners are always welcome to add things to the agenda. Please speak to any Parish Councillor.

Parish Consultation on the Merger: A massive thank you to everyone who took part in the consultation last weekend. We received 275 responses and 39 questions and comments. There will be a further opportunity this weekend for those who were away last week to express their opinion on the issues raised. Please read Merger News No.3 for vital background and then take a questionnaire and hand it in after Mass. Both documents are at the back of Church.

Marriage Support: Does your relationship need some TLC? Need help with deeper issues? Retrouvaille, a Catholic counselling service, can help. Next programme starts 17th October. More information is available on www.retrouvaille.org.uk. Telephone: +44 7887 296 983.

Last Week's Collection CTK

Loose: £ 353.60
 Envelopes: £ 111.00
 Standing Orders £ 247.23
Total: £ 711.93

Last Week's Collection OLAM

Loose: £ 244.30
 Envelopes: £ 141.50
 Standing Orders £ 94.69
Total: £ 480.49

Christ the King		13 th /14 th Sep	20 th /21 st Sep
Sat 12:30	Minister of the Word	Maxine	Kathleen
	Minister of Holy Communion	Sue	Theresa
Sun 10.00	Minister of the Word	Angela	Patience
	Minister of Holy Communion	Marian	Angela



General Meeting of the Cluster: The 5th General Meeting of our Cluster, the Newman Cluster, will take place on 21st Sep 2025 at 3 pm in the St John's Centre. Every General Meeting is an opportunity for all parishioners within the three parishes in the Cluster to come together to discuss matters relating to the growth and development of the Cluster. **Next Sunday's meeting will focus on the merger with the following agenda: small group discussion on the responses received – including all the comments and questions; more explanation to clarify the name change; and further discussion about what the merger means for Mass times and locations.** All are welcome.

Sacramental Preparation 2025-2026: The **12.30 pm Mass on Saturday 20th September will be an Enrolment Mass** for those pupils in Y3 and Y6 at Christ the King Primary School whose parents have completed application forms for First Holy Communion and Confirmation respectively. These forms and other key information have been emailed out to all parents in those year groups via the School and by the Parish Office to those who have already registered their interest with the parish. **If anyone needs a further set, please contact the Parish Office. Separate arrangements will be made for pupils in Maryvale Primary School. There will, in addition, be two further Enrolment Masses to come: one for those First Holy Communion candidates not in either of our Catholic schools (see the next notice) and the other for those young adults who are preparing for Confirmation and are participating in Fr. Thé's midweek catechesis sessions. The dates will be advertised later this month.**

First Holy Communion Preparation for children attending Non-Catholic Schools: Parents of Catholic children from either the CTK or the OLAM congregation attending non-Catholic schools who would like their children to make their First Holy Communion are invited to the Enrolment meeting on Sun 21/09/25 at 11:15 in the CTK Guild room. The course is from Sun 05/10/25 until mid-June 2026. Enquiries can be made of Claire in the parish office on 0121 3730988 Monday-Friday 9am-1pm.

Christmas Fayre: It's never too early to get ready for Christmas! There will be a meeting on Saturday 27th September for all those volunteering with this important event in the Parish Calendar. The meeting will begin at 10.30 am in the St John's Centre. Volunteers old and new are warmly encouraged to attend.

Reserving dedications for the Sanctuary Lamp: To be fair to everyone across our two parishes, requests for dedications of the Sanctuary Lamp which come into the Parish Office by phone or email, **can only be regarded as provisional** until the recommended donation has been made. Once a donation has been made, Claire will confirm to the donor that the booking is complete and the usual notice will follow in the Newsletter.

Proper procedure for reserving Mass intentions: The Mass stipend which goes to the priest who celebrates the mass must be kept separate from the Sunday Offering which is the income of the parish. Please do not put Mass offerings in the Sunday collection. Please use the brown envelopes to request a Mass for your intentions **and, in addition, please sign the book in each Sacristy to confirm that your Mass request has been made.**

New Heights Befriending Service: The New Heights Telephone Befriending Service offers a weekly call from one of its lovely volunteers, providing a friendly conversation and a listening ear to anyone who may feel isolated. If you know of anyone who might benefit from this service, please call New Heights direct on 0121 386 4345.

Gospel Commentary: Fr Donagh O'Shea: Nicodemus cannot have been a very great teacher – and Jesus hinted it – because Jews at that time spoke of converts to Judaism as people who were “born again.” He didn't seem quite to understand this expression.

The Varieties of Religious Experience by William James, first published in 1902, is considered by many to be a classic. There he illustrated the contrast between the “once-born” and the “twice-born” (or “born again”) Christian. The soul of the once-born (or “healthy-minded,” as he calls them) “is of a sky-blue tint... their affinities are rather with flowers and birds and all enchanting innocencies than with dark human passions.... [They] can think no ill of man or God.... They have a certain complacency and perhaps romantic sense of excitement.” In contrast to these, the “twice-born” (or “morbid-minded,” as he called them) are more likely to feel that “from the bottom of every fountain of pleasure, as the old poet said, something bitter rises up.” All natural happiness is infected; there is a deep sense of sin and failure. To people of this stamp, the attitude of the once-born seems “unspeakably blind and shallow,” while to the once-born the attitude of these “seems unmanly and diseased.”

What if we don't care for either? We would prefer to be neither starry-eyed nor morbid-minded. Are there any other possibilities? Of course there are! There are countless possibilities in between these extremes. These expressions ‘once-born’ and ‘twice-born’ are labels: they don't describe anyone in fact. “If all the good people were green and all the bad people were red, what colour would you be?” someone asked the little girl. “Stripey,” she replied. Nobody is just once-born and nobody is just twice-born. Anyway, how could you be twice-born unless you were first once-born? But people still fight about these labels, mostly under new names: ‘creation-centred spirituality’ versus ‘sin/redemption spirituality’, original blessing versus original sin....

Labels encourage us to think that there are only two possibilities: ‘good’ and ‘bad’, for example. But we are both once- and twice-born. We need to remember that it was the same Jesus who said, “Behold the lilies of the field...” and who sacrificed his life. The cross of Christ is everyone's portion.