



## 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 Parish Safeguarding Representative for CTK is Caroline Gorman and our acting rep for OLAM is Angela Hooker. To report concerns or issues at CTK email Caroline on [sg.christ-theking.bham@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.christ-theking.bham@rcaob.org.uk). Until the paperwork has been completed, any concerns or issues at OLAM should be reported to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team on **0121 230 6240** or [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk)

Hymns: E: 94; O: 194; C: 364; R: 312

#### MASSES THIS WEEK

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

<b>Sat</b>	29/11/2025	Feria in Ordinary Time	12:30 CTK	Mary Hall (Anni.)
			18:00 OLAM	Mary Keogh (Anni.)
<b>Sun</b>	30/11/2025	First Sunday of Advent	09:30 SMM	Celebrant's Intention
			10:00 CTK	Kathleen Vincent (Anni.)
			11:00 SMM	Celebrant's Intention
			11:30 OLAM†	Bishop David Oakley (Birthday)
<b>Mon</b>	01/12/25	St Edmund Campion, Priest and Martyr, Feast	07:30 SMM	Irene Fitzgerald (RIP)
			08:00 Con.†	James Fisher (RIP)
<b>Tue</b>	02/12/25	Advent Feria	09:15 SMM	Holy Souls
			09:30 MPS	John Jealous (RIP)
<b>Wed</b>	03/12/25	Advent Feria	08:00 Con.†	Bridie Farragher (RIP)
			09:15 SMM	Deacon Tenny Anthony
			<b>11:00 CTK</b>	<b>Funeral Mass: Mary McKeown</b>
<b>Thu</b>	04/12/25	Advent Feria	12:00 CTK	Danny "Darren" Field (RIP)
<b>Fri</b>	05/12/25	St Birinus, Bishop Feast	09:00 CTK	John & Karen Jemson (RIP)
			<b>11:00 CTK</b>	<b>Funeral Mass: Jennifer Harrison</b>
<b>Sat</b>	06/12/25	Advent Feria	12:30 CTK	Pauline Biffin (Anni.)
			18:00 OLAM	Margaret & Peter Harvey (RIP)
<b>Sun</b>	07/12/2025	Second Sunday of Advent	09:30 SMM	Celebrant's Intention
			10:00 CTK	Eileen Gilsenan (RIP)
			11:00 SMM	Celebrant's Intention
			11:30 OLAM†	Philip Barnes (RIP)

**A Token of Appreciation:** At Mass on 6<sup>th</sup> December, we shall be recognising Kathleen McCarty's many decades of loyal service to the Parish. The congregation is invited to enjoy light refreshments afterwards in the St. John's Centre.

**Pray For The Sick:** Jean McCabe, Paul Cowan, Gerald, John, Josephine Brown, John/Sandra Mageean, Sadie Pulido, Sarah McCallion, Claire/Mark, Carole Smith, 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, Elizabeth Teague, Christine Stephens, Margaret Coogan, Sadie Kennelly, Michael and Sarah Deane, Peter Hadland, Margaret Head.

**RIP:** Please pray for Jennifer Harrison, Mary McKeown who died recently. May they rest in peace.

**Funerals:** M McKeown: Wed 03/12/25, 11:00 at CTK; J Harrison: Fri 05/12/25, 11:00 at CTK.

**Sanctuary Lamp Dedication** throughout December at CTK is dedicated to the McCarthy family, and at OLAM to Neil Shaughnessy.

**International Carol Service :** The celebration will feature carols from the English, Polish and African community. Children are invited to dress as Nativity Characters. Everyone from all nationalities is welcome. Please bring simple instruments and join in with the music group. Let's help make this a vibrant and festive occasion.

**Christmas Masses:** The schedule of Christmas Masses from 24<sup>th</sup> December to 1<sup>st</sup> January inclusive is on a poster at the back of Church. Additional copies are available for you to take home. The schedule takes account of the fact that we shall not have Fr. Thé with us. **So, the only Masses on Christmas Eve are the 4 pm Children's Mass at OLAM and the 11.30 Mass at SMM.** Those looking for a mid-evening Mass on Christmas Eve are invited to attend St Nicholas, Boldmere at 9 pm. **Please also note that there are only four Masses on 27/28 December NOT seven.** Please note also the other special Cluster Celebrations over the Christmas Octave.

**Last Week's Collection CTK**

Loose: £ 121.00  
 Envelopes: £ 341.65  
 Standing Orders £ 247.23  
**Total: £ 709.88**

**Last Week's Collection OLAM**

Loose: £ 200.00  
 Envelopes: £ 220.78  
 Standing Orders £ 94.69  
**Total: £ 515.47**

Christ the King		29 <sup>th</sup> /30 <sup>th</sup> Nov	6 <sup>th</sup> /7 <sup>th</sup> Dec
Sat 12:30	Minister of the Word	Kathleen	Theresa
	Minister of Holy Communion	Theresa	Sue
Sun 10.00	Minister of the Word	Theresa	Oscottian
	Minister of Holy Communion		Marian



**Time to say goodbye (1):** Further to the announcement made at last week's Masses (a copy is on our websites if you missed it), Fr. Thé's last official engagement as Parish Priest will be the Cluster International Carol Service (see below for details). The reception afterwards will be our opportunity to make a presentation to Fr. Thé.

**Time to say goodbye (2):** There will be a Mass of Thanksgiving for the many years of service Mrs. Breslin has invested in Christ the King Catholic Primary School on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 4.00 pm. Bishop David will preside. Parishioners and former pupils of the school are welcome to attend alongside Mrs Breslin's specifically invited guests. There will be refreshments for all in the School Hall after Mass.

**Preparation for Fr. Simon becoming our Parish Priest**

**Fr. Simon writes:** I am very grateful to Fr. Thé for his suggestion that a parish meeting should be called to enable people to share their concerns, questions and hopes for the future in anticipation of my appointment. This will help me as I prepare to take up the office of Parish Priest for CTK and OLAM. I have asked Deacon Gary to make the necessary arrangements in conjunction with Theresa Byrne and Graham Green, your Parish Pastoral Council Chair and Vice-Chair respectively.

**Deacon Gary writes:** The Parish Meeting to which Fr. Simon refers will take place on **9<sup>th</sup> December at 7 pm** in the St John's Centre. At Fr. Thé's request and with Fr. Simon's agreement, I will open and close the meeting with prayer, but the meeting will otherwise be chaired by Theresa. **This is a public open meeting to which everyone is invited.** However, I appreciate that not everybody will be able to come out to an evening parish meeting and so a number of parishioners have agreed to act as points of contact so that, if you cannot be present, you can share any thoughts with them and they will feed those thoughts into the round table-discussions which will form the core of the meeting. The contacts are: Theresa Byrne, Graham Green, Geraldine Ranahan, Wendy Gasson, Mary Quinn, the Sisters Minor of St. Francis, Anne-Marie Butler, Theresa Wilkin, Jad Inglis, Alex Craney, Jackie Scott, Angela Hooker, Gennaro Romano, Nancy Makombe and Peter Holder.

**Return of Parish keys:** We need to draw up an inventory of who has keys to any part of the Parish properties so that we can hand this over to Fr. Simon. If you have keys to the CTK presbytery or Church or to OLAM Church or Maryvale Community Centre, please hand these into the Parish Office next weekend so that we can fulfil this legal requirement.

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

Years ago a friend of mine in Italy took her elderly computer to be repaired. The man in the shop glanced quickly at it and said, "That is not a computer, signora; it is a domestic appliance! – un elettrodomestico." Today our computers and ipads and mobile phones, though much smaller, are thousands of times more powerful than those early PCs. They have penetrated everywhere; they have found their way into our lives to the point that we can scarcely imagine life without them. This came home to me recently when a 90-year-old lady said to me, "Why don't you google it?" (I had just uttered the words, "I don't know.")

There are many things, however, that we google to no avail. We can find information about every subject, but information is not the only kind of knowledge. There are other kinds of knowledge that do not come at the tapping of a few keys. There is understanding, which no one can do for you; there is wisdom, which doesn't come to order, but comes only when we are ready for it.

Jesus is called the incarnation of the Logos, the Wisdom of God. The theme of Advent is that we have to wait for him to come. Waiting is something we have more and more trouble with, and computers are driving the pace: 'zero wait state' is considered the goal – no waiting at all. Advent is like a four-week course on how to wait.

When we have to wait a long time, we tend to nod off to sleep. Advent is about waiting... but not falling asleep. "Stay awake," Jesus often said (Mt 24:42; 26:40; Mk 13:33; etc.). 'Awake' means attentive to what is happening – attentive to the present, not dreaming about the past or the future. This is the wisdom of the ages.

Let me quote here a few short passages from early Christian writing (3rd, 4th, and 5th centuries) in deliberate contrast to the computer age. No, we won't throw out our computers – I am using one to write this and you are using one to read it – but it may be helpful to dwell on ancient wisdom at the beginning of Advent.

Commenting on today's gospel reading, Origen (3rd century) wrote: "All who listen to the depths of the Gospel and live it completely... care very little about whether the end of the world will come suddenly and all at once, or gradually and little by little.... What is important is to be vigilant."

John Chrysostom (4th century): "If ordinary persons knew when they were going to die, they would surely be striving earnestly at that hour. In order therefore that they may strive, not at that hour only, the Lord does not tell them the hour or day. He wants to keep them on their toes looking for it, that they may be always striving."

And from the 5th century, the Incomplete Commentary on Matthew, a comment on the verse 'If the head of the household had known the hour at which the thief would arrive.' "The head of the household represents the human soul, the thief is the devil, the house is the body, the doors are the mouth and ears, and the windows are the eyes. Like the thief who gains access through the doors and windows to despoil the householder, the devil also finds easy access to the soul through the mouth, ears and eyes to take a person captive. This is why Jeremiah wrote, "For death entered through our windows."