



## 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. 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: 382; O: 179; C: 49; R: 100

#### MASSES THIS WEEK

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

<b>Sat</b>	06/12/2025	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)
<b>Mon</b>	08/12/25	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the BVM	07:30 SMM	Garth Redvers Harris
			08:00 Con.†	Andy Deane (RIP)
			19:00 CTK	Colin Jones (RIP)
<b>Tue</b>	09/12/25	Advent Feria	09:15 SMM	Patrick Parkes (B'day)
<b>Wed</b>	10/12/25	Advent Feria	08:00 Con.	Clara Brennan
			09:15 SMM	Deacon Tenny Anthony
<b>Thu</b>	11/12/25	Advent Feria	12:00 CTK	Eddie (RIP) and Chris Walsh
<b>Fri</b>	12/12/25	Advent Feria	09:00 CTK	Maireda McDermott (RIP)
			09:15 SMM	Michael Maughan (RIP)
			<b>10:30 SMM</b>	<b>Funeral Service: Hughie Patrick Underwood</b>
<b>Sat</b>	13/12/25	Memorial of St Lucy, V, M	12.30 CTK	Paddy & Maggie Holland (RIP)
			18.00 OLAM	Alan Maxwell (RIP)
<b>Sun</b>	14/12/2025	Third Sunday of Advent	09:30 SMM	Celebrant's Intention
			10:00 CTK	Fr The & Deacon Gary
			11:00 SMM	Celebrant's Intention
			11:30 OLAM	David Cotton & family (RIP)

**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 Eddie McGuire who died recently. May he rest in peace. His body will be received into Church on 29<sup>th</sup> December at and his Requiem Mass will be on 30<sup>th</sup> December at 11 am 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. See the notice on p.2 for further details.

**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. These include the **Cluster Celebration of the ministry of our altar servers on 26<sup>th</sup> December at 11 am at CTK.** All servers in the Cluster are invited to attend and be vested. There will be refreshments afterwards in the St. John's Centre. All altar servers are requested to confirm their attendance via their respective Head Altar Server so that cater for the right number of people. **All Parishioners are warmly encouraged and invited to attend.**

**Last Week's Collection CTK**

Loose: £ 304.24  
 Envelopes: £ 98.00  
 Standing Orders £ 247.23  
**Total: £ 649.47**

**Last Week's Collection OLAM**

Loose: £ 194.25  
 Envelopes: £ 210.70  
 Standing Orders £ 94.69  
**Total: £ 499.64**

	Christ the King	6 <sup>th</sup> /7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	13 <sup>th</sup> /14 <sup>th</sup> Dec
<b>Sat 12:30</b>	<b>Minister of the Word</b>	Theresa	Maxine
	<b>Minister of Holy Communion</b>	Sue	Theresa
<b>Sun 10.00</b>	<b>Minister of the Word</b>	Oscottian	P/T/S
	<b>Minister of Holy Communion</b>	Marian	John



**Time to say goodbye (1):** Further to the announcement made recently (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 which takes place on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 4 pm followed by light refreshments in the St. John's Centre.

**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.

**Diocesan Mass of Thanksgiving for the Jubilee Year :** The Cathedral Chapter Mass on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Monday 8 December at 12.15pm at St Chad's Cathedral, will also be a Diocesan Thanksgiving Mass for the Jubilee Year, to be celebrated by Archbishop Bernard Longley. His Grace is inviting representatives to attend from across the Archdiocese to give thanks for the fruits of the Jubilee Year...

If you would like to be part of the Thanksgiving Mass please let Paul Northam, Diocesan Co-ordinator for the Jubilee Year 2025 "Pilgrims of Hope", know via email [paul.northam@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:paul.northam@rcaob.org.uk) or call 0121 321 5148. If you are unable to make the Thanksgiving Mass please consider attending the Diocesan Closing Mass for the Jubilee Year on Sunday 28 December at 11.30am at the cathedral, to be celebrated by Bishop David Evans. The Jubilee ends on the Feast of the Epiphany, January 2026, with the Closing of the Holy Door at Saint Peter's Basilica, Rome.

**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 this weekend so that we can fulfil this legal requirement.

**Christmas Fête:** Many thanks indeed to everyone who stepped up to make this year's Christmas Fête happen. It was a huge team effort. Thank you also to those who supported it. The amount raised was £2,222.57.

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

The voice of prophecy had been silent for four hundred years. John the Baptist spoke with such fire that people believed God had now broken the long silence. Even many of the Pharisees and Sadducees were convinced, or at least willing to consider it. We are more aware of the Pharisees - they get such a bad press in the New Testament. It must have taken an immense force to lift their heads from their study of the Torah, the Law. The Torah was God's definitive word, according to their belief. But here they were, listening for a new word from God.

God's new prophet did not flatter them. "Brood of vipers!" Pit of snakes! Don't rely on your Scriptures, your past (he told them); God is able to do a new thing.

But in fairness to them, they had put aside their commentaries and come to listen. St Paul had been a Pharisee, and it took the power of God to cast out his old certainties. The Pharisees in today's reading seem more amenable. John could have thanked them for coming! But he didn't begin, 'We are gathered here....' or 'Welcome to our celebration.' John is a rough diamond, an uncut diamond. He has the hardness, but there is little beauty, and not much light coming through. Take away the rhetoric and his message is conventional: "Tax collectors came to be baptised, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'" (Luke 3:12-14).

But there would be another diamond, an Immortal Diamond, and John's greatness was that he pointed to him. "He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire" - he, the Immortal Diamond formed in the crucible of earth's suffering. He did not insult or berate us; he joined himself to us. With him every mortal sufferer can be immortal diamond, can say with G.M. Hopkins: "I am all at once what Christ is, since he was what I am."