



## 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 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](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk)

Hymns: E: 53; O: 360; C: 493; R: 365

#### MASSSES THIS WEEK

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

<b>Sat</b>	20/09/25	St John Chrysostom, Mem	12:30 CTK	John Cowman (RIP)
			18:00 OLAM	Patrich & Kathleen Maguire (RIP)
<b>Sun</b>	21/09/25	25 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> Wedding Anni.)
<b>Mon</b>	22/09/25	Feria in Ordinary Time	08:00 Con.†	Teresa Downey (RIP)
			12:00 CTK	<b>Funeral Mass: Sean McBirney</b>
<b>Tue</b>	23/09/25	St Pius of Pietrelcina, Mem.	11:00 CTK	<b>Funeral Mass: Margaret Dillon</b>
<b>Wed</b>	24/09/25	Our Lady of Walsingham	08:00 Con.†	John McDonnell (Anni.)
<b>Thu</b>	25/09/25	Feria in Ordinary Time	12:00 CTK	Fr Michael White
<b>Fri</b>	26/09/25	Feria in Ordinary Time	09:00 CTK	Anna Thi Huong Nguyen (RIP)
<b>Sat</b>	27/09/25	St Vincent de Pau, Mem.	12:30 CTK	Peggy McCallion (RIP)
			18:00 OLAM	Barbara Kellegher (RIP)
<b>Sun</b>	28/09/25	26 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	09:30 SMM	Celebrant's Intention
			10:00 CTK	Clare McEvoy (RIP)
			11:00 SMM	Celebrant's Intention
			11:30 OLAM†	Anthony Watts (RIP)

**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 Patricia O'Neill, Kathleen Bridger, and George Ferris who passed away recently. May they rest in peace. **Funerals:** S McBirney: CTK, Mon 22/09/25 at 12:00; M Dillon: CTK, Tue 23/09/25 at 11:00, K Bridger: CTK Wed 08/10/25 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.

**General Meeting of the Cluster:** The 5<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of our Cluster, the Newman Cluster, will take place on 21<sup>st</sup> Sep 2025 at 3 pm in the St John's Centre. This 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.

**First Meeting of the new Parish Pastoral Council:** The new Parish Pastoral Council will meet for the first time on **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October at 7 pm** -venue to be confirmed nearer the date. Those who have been nominated and have indicated a willingness to be appointed to the new Parish Pastoral Council will be receiving confirmation of their appointment from Fr. Thé during the coming week. In the meantime, nominees are requested to mark the date in their diary.

**Please pray** for the families whose children from Christ the King have been enrolled for sacraments this weekend.

**Cluster Mass in honour of St John Henry Newman:** On 9<sup>th</sup> Oct 2025 at 19:00 at OLAM, there will be a concelebrated Cluster Mass in thanksgiving for the proclamation of St John Henry Newman as a Doctor of the Church. There will be light refreshments in Maryvale Community Centre afterwards.

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

**Last Week's Collection CTK**

Loose: £ 426.69  
 Envelopes: £ 96.00  
 Standing Orders £ 247.23  
**Total: £ 769.92**

**Second Collection:**

This weekend: Catholic Evangelisation  
 Next weekend: Fr Hudson's Society

**Last Week's Collection OLAM**

Loose: £ 226.95  
 Envelopes: £ 147.50  
 Standing Orders £ 94.69  
**Total: £ 469.14**

Christ the King		20 <sup>th</sup> /21 <sup>st</sup> Sep	27 <sup>th</sup> /28 <sup>th</sup> Sep
Sat 12:30	Minister of the Word	Kathleen	Aoife
	Minister of Holy Communion	Theresa	Sue
Sun 10.00	Minister of the Word	Patience	Oscottian
	Minister of Holy Communion	Angela	John



**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.

**Christmas Fayre:** It's never too early to get ready for Christmas! There will be a meeting on Sat 27/09/25 at 10:30 in St John's Centre for all those volunteering with this important event in the Parish Calendar. Volunteers old and new are warmly encouraged to attend. Donations are still being collected, please contact Claire at the Presbytery on 0121 3730988 Monday- Friday 9am-1pm to arrange drop off.

**Together in the Community (TiC):** TiC are looking for volunteers to join their existing team. TiC have been around for over 16 years, and support underprivileged families, the elderly and homeless across Kingstanding. They run a food bank on a fortnightly basis and desperately need more volunteers to continue doing what they do. If anyone is able to support them in their work, please get in touch with the team on 07493943558 or via <https://www.together-in-the-community.org.uk/>

**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.

**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.**

**Gospel Commentary:** Fr Donagh O'Shea: Everyone has trouble with this parable. Depending on their own general outlook, commentators call it 'difficult', or 'puzzling', or 'messy and morally ambiguous'.... The ancient commentators had trouble with it too. They wriggled as best they could. "When the owner praised the unjust steward it wasn't praise in a real sense," said St Augustine, "it was praise in a diminished sense." And by moralising on each verse individually they generally managed to overlook the story as a whole. Even the earliest interpretations of the parable, reflected in the gospel itself, seem strained. There are three or four of them in this passage, not just one as you would expect; and some of them are only loosely attached to the story. It is as if people didn't quite know what to do with this parable.

All the characters in the story are rather shady; there is not a single shining light. In Palestine, debts were often paid in kind, not in money; so this story is more realistic than it sounds to us. The steward is an embezzler, and the debtors were quite happy to co-operate in his embezzlement. Even the owner seems to be a rascal; instead of being shocked, he admired the cleverness of the embezzler and praised him for what he had done.

What are we to make of it? Someone once said that there are two kinds of people in the world: those who think that there are only two kinds of people in the world, and those who don't! He added that many people see the world as a western movie in which all the good guys wear white hats and all the bad guys wear black hats. They always count themselves among the good people, of course, and they think they are cozying up to God and Jesus. Almost any page of the gospels would show them that Jesus was not on the side of the 'good' people of his day. He was not on any side. And I suspect that quite a few of the 'good' people you meet today, had they been contemporaries of Jesus, would have been among the crowd shouting, "Crucify him!" He was not a 'respectable' person.

The unquestioned assumption at the time was that God loved virtuous people and hated sinners. Sinners were God's enemies, and therefore enemies of all virtuous people. The whole religious system, with its hierarchy and its laws, was built around this. By the way he consorted with sinners Jesus was not just introducing new ideas but toppling the system, and he paid the price for it.

"Love your enemies," he said. To the religious authorities this meant, "Love God's enemies." How could you love someone if you saw no redeeming features in them? He saw goodness in foreigners, pagans, sinners of every kind. This was heresy. But he consorted with sinners in real life, so why should he not fill this parable with them? He never implied that a sinner was not a sinner; it was not in his nature to gloss over anything. "Go and sin no more" (John 8:11). But no disciple of his can ever claim that he or she has nothing to learn from sinners and 'non-people'.

A master had hundreds of disciples. All of them prayed at the appropriate time - except one, who was a drunkard. When he was about to die, the master called the drunkard to his side, and passed on to him all of his deepest teaching. The other disciples were dismayed, and complained bitterly. The master said, "I had to pass on my wisdom to a man I knew well. The rest of you appear to be virtuous, but you only conceal your vanity, your pride and your intolerance. So I chose the only disciple whose defects I could see."