



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: 171; O: 20; C: 298; R: 17

MASSES THIS WEEK

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

Sat	04/10/25	St Francis of Assisi, Mem.	12:30 CTK	June Berns
			18:00 OLAM	Mary Costelloe (RIP)
Sun	05/10/25	27 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	09:30 SMM	Celebrant's Intention
			10:00 CTK†	Muriel and Fabian Cowan (Anni. RIP)
			11:00 SMM	Celebrant's IntentionM@
			11:30 OLAM†	Susan Edwards (RIP)
Mon	06/10/25	Feria in OT	08:00 Con.†	Michael Crane (RIP)
Tue	07/10/25	Our Lady of the Rosary, Mem.	09:30 MPS	Private Intention
Wed	08/10/25	Feria in OT	08:00 Con.†	Church cleaners
			11:00 CTK	Funeral Mass: Kathleen Bridger
Thu	09/10/25	St John Henry Newman	19:00 OLAM	Jacqui Carron (RIP)
Fri	10/10/25	Feria in OT	09:00 CTK	Private Intention
			11:30 CTK	Funeral Service: John Thomas Hines
Sat	11/10/25	Feria in OT	12:30 CTK	John Fitzmaurice (RIP)
			18:00 OLAM	John McDonnell (Anni)
Sun	12/10/25	28 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	09:30 SMM	Celebrant's Intention
			10:00 CTK	Sean Butler (RIP)
			11:00 SMM	Celebrant's Intention
			11:30 OLAM	Teresa Downey (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 Kathleen Bridger, Helena Trapszo, Terence Stevens and John Thomas Hines who passed away recently. May they rest in peace. **Funerals:** K Bridger: CTK Wed 08/10/25 at 11:00; J Hines: CTK Fri 10/10/25 at 11:30; Helena Trapszo: OLAM Tue 14/10/25 at 11:00; T Stevens: OLAM Thu 16/10/25 at 11:00.

Sanctuary Lamp Dedication throughout October at CTK is dedicated to the Moloney family, and at OLAM to the Ikwuka & Ubah Families.

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.**

First Meeting of the new Parish Pastoral Council: The new Parish Pastoral Council will meet for the first time on **Thursday 23rd October at 7 pm** -venue to be confirmed nearer the date.

Cluster Mass in honour of St John Henry Newman: On 9th 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.

Christ the King		4 th /5 th Oct	11 th /12 th Oct
Sat 12:30	Minister of the Word	Theresa	Kathleen
	Minister of Holy Communion	Sue	Theresa
Sun 10.00	Minister of the Word	John	Theresa
	Minister of Holy Communion	Joyce	Angela



SVP update: Dear Parishioners, Below is an update on how the SVP have been spending your donations over the summer months: We had 21 families referred to us by the local schools in need of support over the holidays. We were able to assist with food, grocery vouchers, clothing, household item and toiletries. We also purchased some electrical appliances which were urgently needed. In the month of August alone we completed over 40 visits to families whilst still visiting the housebound and isolated. On behalf of all our members, I want to sincerely thank you for your continued and generous support. If you would like to know more about the SVP or feel you would like to join us please talk to me, Fr., Deacon Gary or any of our members; Please keep our members and those we support in your prayers. Kind regards. Theresa.

Little Vinnies Stay and Play: The Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP) are launching a new Stay and Play session for pre-school children in the parish (Hence "Mini Vinnies"). It begins on **10th October and will on Friday mornings in the school term from 9 am until 11 am.** There is a poster at the back of Church explaining how you can support this initiative.

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/>

5th General Meeting of the Cluster: Thank you to those who met last Sunday to consider the results of the recent parish-wide consultation. In summary, it was agreed that (i) we need to do more work both on explaining what names need to change and why as well as create a longer shortlist to go to the Archbishop; (ii) there needs to be a separate meeting at OLAM with the specific agenda of (a) OLAM's place in the Cluster; (b) how feasible are the two buildings proposals on which we consulted; (c) are these two proposals the only two available/realistic options; (iii) we need to do more work to explain the implications for Mass times specifically arising from the merger, as opposed to any other reason. The Merger Advisory Group will have a good think about all of these things, make a recommendation to the Parish Pastoral Council and then there will have to be another parish-wide consultation. In the meantime, work continues in parallel on the two buildings proposals to get one of them into a position which can actually be implemented

Gospel Commentary: Fr Donagh O'Shea:

'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!' We shouldn't take from this that God is a slave-driver and that the Christian life is just pressed service. Like the father of the prodigal son, God rejoices over us, but we should not be like spoilt children, imagining that we are doing God a favour by living our lives.

I know a few families where the children have to be paid for doing ordinary chores around the house. In one case, the children regularly go on strike for higher pay, and the parents always cave in to their demands. The parents are redefining themselves as employers and the children as employees. The children are learning that the deepest reality in life is profit and that human relationships are about mutual exploitation. Business is easier to teach than love. Money and profit are quantifiable and love isn't.

But we have been equally gross in our relationship to God, expecting pay-offs for everything we do. There was a practice of Indulgences that practically reduced the faith to an economic system: a plenary indulgence for this, under certain conditions; seven years and seven quarantines for that; three hundred days for something else, 50 (small change) for saying 'My Jesus, mercy'.... There was even a book, the *Raccolta*, that gave the exchange rates. In a world dominated by economics, there is a blind urge to quantify everything and to relate to it as owner. The practice of acquiring relics of saints was part of the same picture. The practice of Indulgences is now drastically curtailed, but this will still seem like nothing more than an economic cut-back unless there is reinterpretation, a different way of seeing.

We are not economic units in the life of grace, we are not dependent on our own resources. We have vast common resources available to us, we have the infinite merits of the Mystical Body of Christ, Head and members. But the word 'infinite' puts it beyond economics. It cannot be described in economic terms at all. It is about being part of one another, it is about being one with Christ and in Christ. We don't have to grub for profit, because everything is already ours.

If everything is already ours we don't need pockets. We can be poor. All the New Testament teaching about poverty is really about riches. We are rich in God. The one thing that will obscure this for us is the habit of attempting to be independently rich. Children don't have to be independently rich, because the entire resources of their families are already theirs for free. This sets us free to work for God for nothing, or rather to work for love, for joy. But often we don't! Think of the older brother of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15). He said to his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends.' He became angry and refused to join in the celebration. He was the original begrudger, complaining about his brother who got everything for nothing. His father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.' He had everything, but it wasn't enough. To that kind of mind, nothing is ever enough. If you have no love in you, nothing is ever enough.