



B E R N A R D

ARCHBISHOP OF BIRMINGHAM AND METROPOLITAN

By the grace of God and favour of the Apostolic See

DECREE OF MERGER

CHRIST THE KING, KINGSTANDING AND OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION, MARYVALE

HAVING CONSULTED the Council of Priests in accordance with canon 515 §2, and having given appropriate consideration to the views expressed by the priests of the local deanery and the lay faithful of the parishes concerned,

AND HAVING CONSIDERED the pastoral and sacramental needs of the faithful in the parishes of **CHRIST THE KING, KINGSTANDING** and **OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION, MARYVALE**, within the Archdiocese of Birmingham,

WE HEREBY DECREE, in virtue of the authority vested in us by canon 515 §2, that the said parishes are modified by way of extinctive union in accordance with canon 121 and are now joined as one new parish,

AND THAT THE NEW PARISH SHALL BE KNOWN AS

THE SACRED HEART AND ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN

AND THAT THE PARISH CHURCH SHALL BE

CHRIST THE KING, KINGSTANDING

WITH EACH of the former churches retaining its original dedication and continuing in use as a place of worship within the new parish.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH CANON 121, all ecclesiastical goods, patrimonial rights, and obligations of the former parishes pass in their entirety to the newly constituted parish. FURTHERMORE, in virtue of canon 523, by which the conferral of a parish office belongs to the diocesan bishop, and having satisfied ourselves in accordance with canon 522 that the appointment serves the stable governance of the newly formed parish, WE HEREBY APPOINT the Reverend SIMON ELLIS, as Parish Priest of the parish of the said parish, with effect from the date of this Decree, canonical possession to be taken without delay, dispensing from the formal requirements of canon 527 §2 regarding the manner of taking possession. We also confirm the appointments of the Reverends DOMINIC FAHEY and GARY O'BRIEN, as parish deacons.

THIS DECREE is to be published in the churches of the former parishes by suitable means. Any person who considers themselves aggrieved by this Decree is reminded that, before lodging hierarchical recourse in accordance with canon 1737, they must first submit a petition in writing to the undersigned within ten peremptory days from the date on which this Decree was lawfully notified to them, as required by canon 1734 §§1–2.

All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at Birmingham on 1 July 2026

+ Bernard Longley

✠ Most Reverend Bernard Longley
Archbishop of Birmingham



Raymond Corbett

Reverend Canon Raymond Corbett
Diocesan Chancellor