



The Newman Cluster

Christ the King, Kingstanding and Our Lady of the Assumption, Maryvale

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. The-Quang Nguyen
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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. 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

Hymns: E: 123; O: 56; C: 139; R: 400

MASSES THIS WEEK

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

Sat	01/11/25	Feria in Ordinary Time	12:30 CTK	Sean McBirney (RIP)
			18:00 OLAM	Fred & Joyce Oakley (RIP)
Sun	02/11/25	Solemnity of All Saints	09:30 SMM	Esa Susan Morton (RIP)
			10:00 CTK	George (RIP) & Sheila Ferris (Get well)
			11:00 SMM	John Riordan (RIP)
			11:30 OLAM	Eva Green (Anni)
Mon	03/11/25	Commemoration of all the faithful departed	08:00 Con.†	Holy Souls
			12:00 CTK	Holy Souls
			19:00 SMM	Celebrant's Intention
Tue	04/11/25	St Charles Borromeo, Mem.	09:15 SMM	Gina and Steve Rudd and family
			09:30 CTK	Brendan Rodgers (RIP)
Wed	05/11/25	Feria in OT (Yr1, Wk 31)	08:00 Con.	Joseph, Matta and Vincent (RIP)
			09:15 SMM	John Riordan (RIP)
Thu	06/11/25	Feria in Ordinary Time	12:00 CTK	Terance Stevens (RIP)
Fri	07/11/2025	Feria in Ordinary Time	09:00 CTK	Ron and Noreen
			09:15 SMM	Kevin Duffy and family
Sat	08/11/2025	Feria in Ordinary Time	12:30 CTK	Alan Broth (Anni.)
			18:00 OLAM†	Helena Trapzo (RIP)
Sun	09/11/2025	Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, Feast	09:30 SMM	Eileen McDermott (RIP)
			10:00 CTK	Frank King (RIP)
			11:00 SMM	Requiem Mass for the fallen
			11:30 OLAM	Alun Richards (RIP)

Safeguarding Notice: When there are altar servers under the age of 18 in the Servers' Sacristy at CTK only parishioners such as Sacristans, Stewards and others with necessary and legitimate business should go into the Servers' Sacristy. Parishioners should not gather in there for conversation.. If you need to speak to Fr. Thé or Deacon Gary before Mass, please catch them whilst they are out in the main body of the Church or at the door after Mass. Please bear in mind that responsibility for Safeguarding is shared by us all.

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 Walsh, Elizabeth Teague, Christine Stephens, Margaret Coogan, Sadie Kennelly, Michael and Sarah Deane, Peter Hadland, Margaret Head.

RIP: Please pray for Eddie Walsh who died recently. May he rest in peace.

November Grave Blessings: Oscott Cemetery: 1 November, 3pm; Erdington Abbey: 2 November, 2pm; New Hall Cemetery: 2 November, 2pm; Witton Cemetery: 9 November, 2 pm; Rectory Rd Cemetery: 9 November, 2pm

Formation for the Ministry of the Word: the Cluster is very fortunate to have a number of new people coming forward to offer themselves as Ministers of the Word. Formation for this ministry in the Church will take place both on **16th November and on 23rd November** in each case starting at 3 pm in the St John's Centre. Anyone who has not yet made themselves known to Deacon Gary but would wish to be considered for this ministry is very welcome to attend these sessions and get a taste of what the ministry involves both in terms of preparation before Mass and the exercise of the ministry during it. The intention is to commission new ministers for service on the 1st Sunday of Advent (29th/30th November).

Sanctuary Lamp Dedication throughout November at CTK is dedicated to the McBride family, and at OLAM to the Holland & McCormack families.

Christ the King		1 st /2 nd Nov	8 th /9 th Nov
Sat 12:30	Minister of the Word	Theresa	Maxine
	Minister of Holy Communion	Sue	Theresa
Sun 10.00	Minister of the Word	Oscotian	Patience
	Minister of Holy Communion	John	Joyce



Second Collection this weekend is the annual collection for the Johnson Clergy Association. The purpose of this Association is to provide financial help to priests of the Archdiocese of Birmingham in retirement, old age and sickness. There are approximately 190 Diocesan Priests, 59 of whom are over the age of 75; 65 of whom are aged between 65 and 75. We have 24 priests under the age of 50. Last year the Association gave grants totalling over £375,000. Last year's annual collection raised £44,191. Please give as generously as you can. If you prefer to give online or via a QR code, this is the link: [Annual Appeal](#). If you can gift aid your donation, please use that link. Please also consider making a gift to the Association in your will.

New Parish Pastoral Council was formally established at its meeting on 23rd October. Those who are automatically members of the new PPC because of the office they hold are: Fr. Thé, Deacons Dominic and Gary, the Sisters Minor of St Francis and Sue Byrne (the Parish Treasurer). The members nominated by you, the parishioners, and whose nomination was approved are: Theresa Byrne, Graham Green, Angela Hooker, Jackie Scott, Sam Dosumu, Geraldine Ranahan, Sandra Gorcynska, Gennaro Romano, Nancy Makombe, Anne-Marie Butler and Mary Quinn. Theresa was elected Chair of the PPC, Graham elected Vice-Chair and Geraldine elected Secretary. We have an unfilled place on the Council for someone from the CTK congregation. If you think you can help fill this vacancy, please speak to either of the Deacons or the Chair or Vice-Chair for more information. Please pray for all the member of the new PPC as they take up their responsibilities.

Next Meeting of the Merger Advisory Group: This will take place on 12th November at 7 pm in the St John's Centre.

Christmas Fete: This year's fete will be on **Saturday 29th November 2025 2pm-5pm**. We are asking for donations of any kind particularly bottles of drinks and chocolates. There is still time to put your name forward to volunteer. For donations drop off please speak to Claire in the parish office Monday-Friday 9am-1pm.

A word of thanks: Deacon Gary is deeply grateful to whoever it was that enrolled him in the Knock Association for a year. It couldn't have come at a better time. Unfortunately, the donor's name on the card wasn't too clear so Gary can't thank whoever it was in person. The kindness is nevertheless much appreciated.

Gospel Commentary: Fr Donagh O'Shea

"After he sat down...." This is a significant detail. Rabbis would assume any posture as they discussed matters with their students; but when it came to teaching officially – expounding the Law – they always sat. In saying that Jesus sat down, Matthew is telling us that what follows is no small-talk but the heart of the matter. The Beatitudes are the heart of the Sermon on the Mount, as the Sermon on the Mount is the heart of the whole Gospel.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit." Another translation, less happily, says "How happy are the poor in spirit." But there are differences between 'blessed' and 'happy'.

You can be blessed without knowing it. I saw this clearly as I watched a young couple almost compete with each other to hold their baby, while the baby slept through it all. You can also be blessed without appreciating it. "You're blessed with good health," someone says to you; but you don't feel blessed at all, you feel just normal. It is only when you fall ill that you appreciate health. "When you have a toothache," said Thich Nhat Hanh, "you realise how wonderful it is not to have a toothache."

Happiness, on the other hand, is just a passing state of feeling. The word 'happiness' is related to 'happen' and 'perhaps': it is about randomness, it is about hit and miss. Feelings, like the weather, come and go and are constantly changing. You can't stake a claim to happiness because it is not firm ground and stakes take no hold there.

Jesus doesn't tell you that you are happy. He tells you that you are blessed. He tells the poor in spirit that whether they know it or not, whether they appreciate it or not, they are blessed. Blessedness comes from beyond the changeable world of feelings and ideas. The mediaeval theologians spoke about 'beatitudo'. The word is normally translated as 'happiness', but 'beatitudo' is not the subjective feeling of happiness, it is the objective state of being rightly aligned in one's life.

As we go through our phases we are to know that there is a loving God who cares for us with the love of a father and mother. It is especially when we are weak and without resources of our own that we come to know it. It is when we ourselves begin to embody some of God's own qualities, made visible in the life of Jesus, that we know it. The Beatitudes are the best portrait we have of Jesus himself, and he honours us by telling us they are our portrait too.