



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: 181; O: 27; C: 593; R: 205

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

Sat	13/12/2025	Memorial of St Lucy, V, M	12:30 CTK	Andrew Deane
			18:00 OLAM	Alan Maxwell (RIP)
Sun	14/12/2025	Third Sunday of Advent	09:30 SMM	Paddy & Maggie Holland (RIP)
			10:00 CTK	Fr The & Deacon Gary
			11:00 SMM	Christy Ranahan (RIP)
			11:30 OLAM	David Cotton & family (RIP)
		International Carol Service	16:00 CTK	Followed by a Reception in St John's Centre and presentation to Fr. Thé.
Mon	15/12/25		07:30 SMM	Christopher Calland (RIP)
			08:00 Con.†	Frank King (RIP)
Tue	16/12/25	Advent Feria	09:15 SMM	Carmel Finnegan
Wed	17/12/25	Advent Feria <i>O Sapientia</i>	08:00 Con. †	Bob Thompson (Anni.)
			09:15 SMM	Maureen Norton McClaren (Get well)
			16.00 CTK†	Mrs. Breslin on her retirement followed by a reception in the School Hall.
Thu	18/12/25	Advent Feria <i>O Adonai</i>	12:00 CTK	<i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Fri	19/12/25	Advent Feria <i>O Radix Jesse</i>	09:15 SMM	Maria Agendia (RIP)
			11:00 CTK	Henry Byrne & Tommy Judge (RIP)
Sat	20/12/25	Advent Feria <i>O Clavis David</i>	12.30 CTK	Sheila & Paddy Ferris (RIP)
			18.00 OLAM	Rita Maxwell (Anniv)
Sun	21/12/25	Fourth Sunday of Advent <i>O Oriens</i>	09:30 SMM	Fr. John Warnaby & Derek Warnaby (RIP)
			10:00 CTK	Noel, Edward, Matthew & Kathleen Bridger
			11:00 SMM	John Roche (RIP)
			11:30 OLAM	Jacqui Carron (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, Sarah Deane, Marid Horfe, Maureen Costello and Fr David Keniry who died recently. May they rest in peace. **Funeral:** E McGuire: Reception: 29/12/25, Requiem Mass: 30/12/25 at 11 am at CTK.

Sanctuary Lamp Dedication throughout December at CTK is dedicated to the McCarthy family, and at OLAM to Neil Shaughnessy.

Christmas Masses: The schedule of Christmas Masses 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 pm Mass at SMM. The Children's Mass will be jointly led by our Children's Liturgy Group and their colleagues from St. Margaret Mary.** 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 AND the times are slightly different.** 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 26th 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: £ 343.27
 Envelopes: £ 96.00
 Standing Orders £ 247.23
Total: £ 686.50

Last Week's Collection OLAM

Loose: £ 156.30
 Envelopes: £ 187.70
 Standing Orders £ 94.69
Total: £ 438.69

Christ the King		13 th /14 th Dec	20 th /21 st Dec
Sat 12:30	Minister of the Word	Maxine	Aoife
	Minister of Holy Communion	Theresa	Sue
Sun 10.00	Minister of the Word	P/T/S	John
	Minister of Holy Communion	John	Joyce



Parish Meeting 9th December: Thank you to everyone who attended the Parish Meeting last Tuesday and contributed their thoughts. The Minutes will be circulated to all those who attended and also to the points of contact mentioned in last week's Newsletter. Three key messages need emphasis. First we have to accept that it will not be business as usual when Fr. Simon takes over as our Parish Priest. Business as usual is not possible. There was unanimity at the meeting that Fr. Simon's workload had to remain manageable. Secondly, we are going to have to find a new way of honouring midweek Mass intentions. We will say more about that in the New Year. Finally, changes to Sunday Mass times are inevitable. To be fair, this was first discussed at the General Cluster Meeting on 18th May. We have managed to arrange sufficient cover to honour the Christmas Octave Mass Schedule as previously published. From 3rd/4th January changes to Sunday Mass times will come into effect. Please see the Notice below.

Return of Parish keys: Thank you to our key-holders for returning their keys. Once we have drawn up the full inventory, we shall be re-issuing them as required.

Change of Sunday Mass times from 3rd/4th January: Please note that the times of Sunday Masses with effect from and including this weekend – the Second Sunday after Christmas will be as follows: Saturday (Vigil) 12.30 pm CTK; Saturday (Vigil) 18.00 (OLAM); **Sunday 09.30 (CTK) and 11.15 (SMM – Divine Worship)**. This will be sustainable regardless of whether cover is available. Fr. Simon will be in Church 45 minutes before the start time of each Mass to hear Confessions.

Diocesan Mass for the close of the Jubilee Year The Diocesan Closing Mass for the Jubilee Year will be celebrated on Sunday 28 December at 11.30am at St. Chad's Cathedral. Bishop David Evans will preside. The Jubilee ends on the Feast of the Epiphany, January 2026, with the Closing of the Holy Door at Saint Peter's Basilica, Rome.

Diocesan French Masses: are celebrated monthly in Birmingham and Coventry.

Birmingham – The first Sunday of the month at 3.30pm in Our Lady & St Brigid, 63 Frankley Beeches Rd, Northfield, B31 5AB. Contact Fr Jeremy Howard – 07868 542268 fr.jeremy.howard@rcaob.org.uk

Coventry – The second Sunday of the month at 1pm in St Patrick's, Deedmore Rd, Wood End, Coventry, CV2 2AA. Contact Fr Andrew Allman – 0121 321 5010 andrew.allman@oscott.org

French Christmastide Masses

Birmingham – Sunday January 4th, The Feast of the Epiphany, 3.30pm in Our Lady & St Brigid, Northfield with Bishop David Evans. Refreshments after Mass.

Coventry – Sunday January 11th, The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, St Patrick's, Wood End, Coventry.

Deacon Mark on Radio Maria England: Deacon Mark Paine of Our Lady and St Rose of Lima, Weoley Castle and St Peter, Bartley Green, is a guest on Radio Maria England for a two-part special: Broadcast Dates: Part 1: Wed 10/12/25, 5–6pm (should be available to 'listen again') - How to make our parish liturgies more inclusive during Advent and Christmas. Part 2: Wed 17/12/25, 5–6pm - How to adapt home, workplace and family traditions to be more inclusive for all brains and ages.

Gospel Commentary: Fr Donagh O'Shea: John the Baptist is almost a New Testament figure; he is a kind of honorary member of the new community. The Church does not refer to Isaiah or Jeremiah or any of the great prophets as 'Saint', but we call John 'Saint John the Baptist'. Yet, as Jesus said to the crowd, "the least in the kingdom ... is greater than he."

Do you feel greater than John the Baptist? Not many in history could equal him for fire and passion. Jesus said of him, equivalently, that he was one of the greatest man who ever lived. But membership of the new community does not depend, it seems, on the qualities that John had to an exceptional degree. What does it depend on, then?

John's 'persona' was 100% adult male; he was the original Iron John, hard and demanding. He lived on the edge of society, not integrated with it and perhaps not integrated in himself. There are many like him, there always have been. It is a straightforward, two-dimensional image, lacking in depth and humour. The essential missing ingredient is paradox. There are Christian preachers (especially on TV) whose persona is exactly John's.

Kierkegaard (1813-1855) identified three stages in the spiritual development of a human being: the aesthetic, the moral, and the spiritual. The first (the stage of beautiful thoughts and feelings) runs aground after a time, and you grow (probably through crisis) into the second, the stage of responsibility and moral awareness. But after struggling here a long time you come to know your own weakness and the ambiguity of your motives; you learn that it is impossible to be a moral person if you are attempting only to be a moral person. You realise that your religion has become self-righteous, judgmental, resentful, even hypocritical. This crisis opens you to deeper spiritual reality. When you can no longer disguise your failure, you learn the wisdom of failure; you learn the meaning of the Cross of Christ. God has to come to you from beyond all your efforts.

Jesus, like John, came from the desert and appeared at the edge of society. But unlike John, he came in and sat down with sinners and outcasts. He created a new kind of society in which the values of the old were inverted: success/failure, first/last, death/life. If John had lived he would probably have embraced the new society and its paradoxes; he would not have run from Calvary as the others did; it was never in his nature to be a reed shaken by the wind. His raging fire would long since have been transformed into intense love, his judgments into compassion.