



The Newman Cluster

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Simon Ellis
 Parish Office for the Cluster
 Email: christ-theking.bham@rcaob.org.uk
 Tel: 0121 373 0988
 Opening Hours: Mon-Fri 8.30am- 3pm

The Newman Cluster is a growing into a united Catholic community comprising the following places of worship

Christ the King ("CTK")
 124 Warren Farm Road
 Kingstanding
 B44 0QN

Our Lady of the Assumption ("OLAM")
 82 Old Oscott
 Maryvale
 B44 9SP

St Margaret Mary ("SMM")
 59 Perry Common Road
 Perry Common
 B23 7AB

Other Clergy in the Cluster

Assistant Priest: Fr Leonard Cox fr.leonard.cox@rcaob.org.uk

Parish Deacons: Rev. Mr. Gary O'Brien dcn.gary.obrien@rcaob.org.uk
 and Rev. Mr. Dominic Fahey dcn.dominic.fahey@rcaob.org.uk

Convent of the Sisters Minor of St Francis
 192 Hawthorn Road Kingstanding B44 8PU
 Phone +44 121 3500 716
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Welcome to Mass on the Fourth Sunday of Advent

Today's Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 7.10-14 *Behold the Virgin shall conceive.*

Responsorial Psalm for Advent IV: Let the LORD enter. He is the king of glory.

Second Reading: Romans 1. 1-7 *Jesus Christ, descended from David, Son of God*

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia! Alleluia! Behold the Virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel -which means, God with us,

Gospel: Matthew 1.18-24 *Jesus was born of Mary, who was betrothed to Joseph, son of David.*

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

Sat	2012/25	Fourth Sunday of Advent (Vigil Masses)	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)
Mon	22/12/25	Advent Feria <i>O Rex Gentium</i>	07:30 SMM	Dolly Turner
			08:00 Con.†	Jane Walsh (Anniv)
Tue	23/12/25	Advent Feria <i>O Emmanuel</i>	09:15 SMM	Patrick Joseph Woulfe (RIP)
Wed	24/12/25	Advent Feria	08:00 Con. †	Kitty Heaney (RIP)
			09:15 SMM	Emmanuel-Thomas + Ann-Clare
		Solemnity Of the Nativity Of <i>The Lord: First Mass of Christmas</i>	16.00 OLAM	Fr. Joseph Carron
Thu	25/12/25	Solemnity Of the Nativity Of <i>The Lord: Mass During the Day</i>	23.30 SMM	Sr. Marie Inglis (RIP)
			09.30 SMM	Anne Cunningham
			10.00 CTK **	Jacqui Caron (RIP)
			11.00 SMM	John Roche (RIP)
Fri	26/12/25	Feast of St Stephen, the first <i>Martyr</i>	11:00 CTK†	Akindipe Family - Thanksgiving
			11:30 OLAM **	Bob & Paul Thompson (RIP)
Sat	27/12/25	Feast of the Holy Family (Vigil Masses)	12.30 CTK	Annie Broth (Anni)
			18.30 OLAM †	Jim Christy Ranahan (RIP)
Sun	28/12/25	Feast of the Holy Family	10:00 CTK	Kathleen Rice (RIP)
			11:30 SMM	Sean + Maureen Dargan (RIP)

The Sacrament of Reconciliation: A priest will be available to Confessions from 11.45 am on Saturdays (CTK) 5.15 pm on Saturdays (OLAM), 08.45 am on Sundays (CTK) and Wednesdays 08.15 (SMM) or by prior appointment.

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 and Anne Cunningham. **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.

A Word of Thanks: Fr. Thé has sent a message thanking everyone for their kindnesses and good wishes shown to him on his departure from the parish, to say nothing of the cards and presents and a very generous collection. The Carol Service beforehand was wonderful and Fr. Thé really appreciated it – as did we all. A huge thank you to the organisers.

**Last Week's Collection CTK**

Loose:	Loose:	£343.27
Envelopes:	Envelopes:	£96.00
S/O	S/O	£247.23
Total:	Total:	£686.50

Last Week's Collection SMM

Loose:	£283.70
Envelopes:	£284
Building Fund:	£20.00
Total	£587.70

Last Week's Collection OLAM

Loose:	£	156.30
Envelopes:	£	187.70
S/O	£	94.69
Total:	£	438.69

Fr. Simon writes: We said farewell to Fr. The last week with sadness at his departure, gratitude for his ministry amongst us and admiration for his courage in following the Lord's call. Our prayers are for his future ministry as he travels East to Taiwan. The truth is, of course, that we all look to the East. In fact churches are oriented to the East – to the rising sun and to the rising Son! The Antiphons in Vespers for this last week of Advent address Christ by one of the titles for him found in the Prophets. Today's Antiphon reads: "O Rising Sun (*Oriens*)". "You are the splendour of eternal light and the Sun of justice. O come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death". Happy Advent IV as we look East for the dawn from on high (Luke 1:79) to break in upon us at Christmas.

Your Christmas Offerings: By ancient tradition, your offerings in the collections at any of the Christmas Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are your personal offerings to the priests of the Cluster. Crib Offerings will be sent to Friends of the Holy Land.

Cluster Celebrations in the Christmas Octave: We are marking the Christmas Octave(Christmas Eve to New Year's Day inclusive) with three Cluster Masses. The 1st will be our Children's Mass at 4 pm on Christmas Eve at OLAM; the 2nd will be our celebration of the ministry of our Altar Servers on 26th December followed by a reception in the St John's Centre; and the 3rd is our celebration of the Motherhood of Mary – both of Our Lord and of the Church on New year's Day at 10.00 at SMM. All parishioners from each of our three parishes are warmly invited and encouraged to attend.

Parish Office News: The parish office will be closed for Christmas from 22/12/2025 and will reopen 05/01/2026 at 8.30am. Please speak to Fr Simon, Deacon Gary or Deacon Dominic after any mass should you need anything in an emergency. Should you require any **out of hours** help please call Fr Simon on 0121 373 0069 or email on fr.simon.ellis@rcaob.org.uk

Change of Sunday Mass times from 3rd/4th January: Please note that the times of Sunday Masses with effect from and including the weekend of 3rd/4th January – the Second Sunday after Christmas- will be as follows:

Saturday Vigil Masses:	12.30 CTK
	18.00 OLAM
Sunday Masses	09.30 CTK
	11.15 SMM (Divine Worship except for the 1 st Sunday of the month)

Ministers of the Word, Ministers of Music and Altar Servers who have been generously supporting Masses which will no longer take place are very strongly encouraged to transfer their ministry to one of the four which will be celebrated from the New Year onwards. In particular, the 18.00 OLAM Mass would benefit from an influx of new lay liturgical ministers. As a result of new Ministers of the Word now joining what will become the 09.30 Mass at CTK, it will be possible for us to do something strongly encouraged by the Church and that is have separate Ministers of the Word for the First and Second Reading. The new rotas will reflect that welcome development. Altar servers from what was the 09.30 Mass at SMM are warmly invited to offer themselves for incorporation into the Atar Servers' Rota at the 09.30 Mass at CTK.

Parish Christmas Party: In response to one of the points made at our recent parish meeting, there will be a social gathering after the 6 pm Mass on Saturday 3rd January. This will be an excellent opportunity for us to meet Fr. Simon informally. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

Reorganisation of our ministry of Holy Communion to the sick and housebound: we will need to integrate this absolutely vital ministry across the Cluster and this will inevitably require new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) to be commissioned. Please pray about whether this is a ministry you could undertake or if you have already been undertaking it, please pray about whether you are able to continue. In the New Year we will call a meeting of all existing EMHC along with any parishioners willing to offer themselves for this ministry.

Congratulations: Angela Hooker has now been appointed as Parish Safeguarding Representative for OLAM. **The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and National and Archdiocesan policies and procedures at all times.** Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives in the Cluster are Caroline Gorman (CTK) and our Angela Hooker (OLAM) and Renata Oikowska (SMM). To report concerns or issues email Caroline on sg.christ-theking.bham@rcaob.org.uk; Angela on sg.ol-assumption.bham@rcaob.org.uk and Renata on sg.margaret.mary.bham@rcaob.org.uk Alternatively concerns or issues can be reported to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team on **0121 230 6240** or safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk