



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 Second Sunday of Christmas

Today's Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Sirach 24:1-2, 8-12 *The wisdom of God has dwelt in the chosen people*

Responsorial Psalm: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us

Second Reading: Ephesians 1: 3-6, 1-18 *He predestined us as sons through Jesus.*

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to you, O Christ, proclaimed among the nations. Glory to you, O Christ, believed in throughout the world." Alleluia!

Gospel: John 1: 1-18 *The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.*

LITURGIES THIS WEEK

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

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|-----|----------|---|--------------|--------------------------------|
| Sat | 03/01/26 | Second Sunday of Christmas (Vigil Masses) | 12.00 CTK | Recitation of the Rosary |
| | | | 12.30 CTK | Dave and Sue Byrne |
| | | | 18.00 OLAM | John & Anne McDonnell (RIP) |
| Sun | 04/01/26 | Second Sunday of Christmas | 09.30 CTK | Stephen Burke (RIP) |
| | | | 11.15 SMM | Trish O'Connor |
| Mon | 05/01/26 | Christmas Feria | 07.30 SMM | Michael Woulfe (RIP) |
| | | | 08.00 Con.† | Christy Ranahan (RIP) |
| | | Vigil of the Epiphany Holy Day of Obligation | 19.00 CTK | Alun Richards (RIP) |
| Tue | 06/01/26 | Solemnity of the Epiphany Holy Day of Obligation | 08.45 SMM | Recitation of the Rosary |
| | | | 09.30 SMM | Alun Deane (RIP) |
| Wed | 07/01/26 | Christmas Feria | 08.00 Con. † | Akindipe Family (Thanksgiving) |
| Thu | 08/01/26 | Christmas Feria | No Liturgy | |
| Fri | 09/01/26 | Christmas Feria | 09.00 CTK | Patrick Woulfe (RIP) |
| Sat | 10/01/26 | Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (Vigil Masses) | 12.00 CTK | Recitation of the Rosary |
| | | | 12.30 CTK | Baby Alfie Bourn (RIP) |
| | | | 18.00 OLAM | Maureen & Ken Levell (RIP) |
| Sun | 11/01/26 | Feast of the Baptism of the Lord | 09.30 CTK | Gerry Gorman (Anniv) |
| | | | 11.15 SMM | Martin O'Connor (RIP) |

The Sacrament of Reconciliation: A priest will be available to hear 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 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 and for Mark Coupe, Esa Susan Morton, John Joseph Riordan, Terence Stephens, Alan Collins, Joseph Thomas, Dave Edgington, Jamie Arrowsmith, Jadzia Zarzycka, Averil Cozens, John Driver, Catherine Ivy Byrne, Dom Kevin Taggart OSB, Joyce Holloway, Fr. Simon Hall, Christopher Calland, Eddie Walsh, Jennifer Harrison, Grazyna Grunau, Brenda Jones, Hughie Patrocik Underwood, Val Lennon, Danny McCrossan, Peggy Jackman, Maureen Costello, Julia Geradete Fleming, John Murtagh. Mary Teresa Doyle, Michael Patrick O'Donoghue and Anthony Creer. May they rest in peace.

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

The parishes in the Cluster are part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216



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.

Last Week's Collection CTK

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|------------|
| Loose: | Loose: | TBC |
| Envelopes: | Envelopes: | TBC |
| S/O | S/O | TBC |
| Total: | Total: | TBC |

Last Week's Collection SMM

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| Loose: | TBC |
| Envelopes: | TBC |
| New Building Fund: | TBC |
| Total | TBC |

Last Week's Collection OLAM

| | | |
|---------------|----------|------------|
| Loose: | £ | TBC |
| Envelopes: | £ | TBC |
| S/O | £ | TBC |
| Total: | £ | TBC |

Fr. Simon writes: Many thanks to all who helped organise the party on 3rd January at Our Lady of the Assumption, Maryvale Hall. As we now move towards the celebration of Epiphany, we call to mind the visit of the Magi, together with the baptism of the Lord and the miracle at Cana. There will be an opportunity to attend Epiphany mass in the cluster at Christ the King Church on Monday, 5th January at 7pm (Vigil Sung Mass) or at St Margaret Mary Church on Tuesday 6th January at 9.30am (Said Mass). At both of these celebrations, Epiphany chalk will be blessed for you to take home to bless your homes for 2026! As we celebrate the manifestation of the Lord to the whole Gentile world, this includes you and me and our homes and communities and, of course, the church is the bearer of the light of Christ to the Gentile and Jewish world, so that *'all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him'* (Psalm 72).

I would like to ask for prayer at this time for Fr Jude Mbonu who is to join our Newman Cluster sometime in February. There will be an opportunity to welcome Fr Jude at some informal gathering in February which will be announced in due course. I include below a short biography of Fr Jude who is teaching law at Newman University here in our city. His work at the University will continue to be his main work, but Fr Jude has also graciously agreed to help the Cluster at the weekend and at other key moments in the liturgical and pastoral life of the three Cluster parishes.

Fr. Jude writes: *'My name is Fr. Jude Mbonu, and I was ordained a priest on 8 July 2006 at the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity in Onitsha, Nigeria, in the Catholic Archdiocese of Onitsha. I arrived in the United Kingdom in 2017 to pursue postgraduate studies in Law at Bangor University and Queen Mary University of London, respectively. Alongside my academic journey, I served as Assistant Parish Priest at St. Joseph, Maidenhead, and later as Parish Priest at St. Thomas More, Twyford, and St. Joseph's, Tilehurst, all in the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth. I am currently privileged to serve as a member of staff at Birmingham Newman University. I have been at St Michael and Holy Angels Church in West Bromwich since October last year, supporting pastoral work and parishioners.'*

Mass Intentions over the coming few weeks: All the Mass intentions which have been handed in over the last week have been duly entered on our central record in the parish office. Please bear with us whilst we work out the best system for honouring them. We think we have no choice but to send a number of them to priests outside the Cluster. However, we need to make sure that we can both let you know when and where the relevant Mass will be celebrated and also we want to offer an opportunity to gather in Church for prayer and remembrance here. We will do our best to respect specific dates and requests for particular places of worship, but we cannot absolutely guarantee it.

New Weekday Mass schedule commencing 12/01/26: The early morning Masses on Mondays and Wednesdays (07.30 and 08.00) will continue as before. To enable parishioners in the Cluster to join the school Masses, the times will be: Tuesday OLAM – 09.30; Wednesday SMM – 09.15 and Friday CTK – 09.00. There will be no liturgy on Thursdays.

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.

Deacon Gary's Tuesday Catechism Class: The programme resumes for those students at Cardinal Wiseman school and their siblings who are preparing for First Holy Communion and Confirmation on Tuesday 13th January in the **Guild Room** at 4 pm.

Sycamore Course: This programme will restart on 14th January. Sessions take place in the Newman Room at SMM. They begin at 5.30 pm and end at 6.30 pm. Parents of children preparing for First Holy Communion and Confirmation are especially encouraged to attend. Sessions this half term are (1) The search for happiness (2) the existence of God (3) Who is Jesus (4) Power of Prayer (5) Finding Freedom.

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), Angela Hooker (OLAM) and Renata Olkowska (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