



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- 4pm

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

Also in the Parish: Fr. Jude Mbonu fr.jude.mbonu@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

Email: smsfbirmingham@gmail.com

Welcome to Mass on the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: *Sirach 15: 15-20 He has not commanded anyone to be ungodly..*

Responsorial Psalm 119 (118) 1-34: Blessed are those who walk in the law of the LORD.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2: 6-19 *A wisdom God decreed before the ages for our glory.*

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia! Alleluia! I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth. You have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 5: 17-37 *It was said to those of old; but I say to you.*

LITURGIES AND EVENTS THIS WEEK: Con: Convent; CTK: Christ the King; OLAM: Maryvale; SMM: St Margaret Mary's; SJC: St John's Centre at CTK.

Sat	14/02/26	Feast of St Cyril and St Methodius	10.30 CTK	Meeting for all parents wishing to present their children for Baptism during 2026.
Sat	14/02/26	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Vigil Masses)	12.00 CTK	Recitation of the Rosary
			12.30 CTK	Jozef Gniadkowski (Anni)
			18.00 OLAM	Kath Reid
Sun	15/02/26	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	09:30 CTK	Ann Purcell (RIP)
			11:15 SMM	Liam Curren
Mon	16/02/26	Feria in Ordinary Time	07:30 SMM	The McDermott Family
			08.00 Con.	The Buckley Family
Tue	17/02/26	Feria in Ordinary Time	09.30 SMM	Jacqui Carron (RIP)
			19.00 SMM	John Roche & Family (RIP)
Wed	18/02/26	Ash Wednesday	08:00 Con.	Muriel Cowan (RIP)
			08.15 SMM	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
			09.15 SMM	Maria Nkenglefac Agendia
			19.00 CTK	Fr Simon, Fr Jude, Fr Leonard, Deacon Gary & Deacon Dominic (Prayers)
Thu	19/02/26	Thursday after Ash Wednesday	NO LITURGY TODAY	
Fri	20/02/26	Friday after Ash Wednesday	09.00 CTK	Bridie & Pat Clarke (RIP)
Sat	21/02/26	Saturday after Ash Wednesday	10.00 SMM (Newman Gallery)	Meeting for Catechists and other interested parties regarding the programmes for First Holy Communion and Confirmation with Fr. Sean Gough as guest speaker..
Sat	21/02/2026	First Sunday of Lent (Vigil Masses)	12.30 CTK	J.F.S In Thanksgiving
			15.00 Con	Half Day of Recollection with the Sisters Minor of St Francis
			18.00 OLAM	James Heaney (RIP)
Sun	22/02/2026	First Sunday of Lent	09.30 CTK	Patricia & Lawrence Tamms (Anni)
			11.15 SMM	Jack Scully RIP
			16.00 SJC	Community Meal: see the Notices page for more detail

Merger News No.5

Thank you to all those who came to our Merger Consultation meeting last Saturday. We had a full discussion on a number of important matters. Thank you also Graham Green for chairing the meeting and to Wendy Gasson for taking the Minutes. At the Parish Pastoral Council meeting last Tuesday, Jackie Scott, who chairs the Merger Advisory Group presented a report to the Parish Pastoral Council who in turn gave their approval to the following further steps:

(1) Further Consultation on a new name for our new parish when the merger by fusion of CTK and OLAM takes place

On the weekend of **6th/7th March** there will be a second and final consultation on the new name for our newly merged parish. To reemphasise: this has no impact on the names of the actual buildings we use for our places of worship in CTK, OLAM or SMM. It is a new name for the new united community that gathers across those places of worship. This is the new united community which the merger will form. Having looked at the feedback from the September consultation, we realise that a second consultative vote is needed. The aim is to draw up a shortlist which we can present to Archbishop Bernard who alone has the power to decide which one we ought to have. The current long list is:

St John Henry Newman and the Sacred Heart - Blessed Dominic Barberi - St. Augustine of Hippo - St. John of the Cross - St. Francis of Assis - St. Frances de Sales - St Thérèse of Lisieux - St. Pier Georgio Frassati - St. Padre Pio - St. Alban

In the footnotes below you can see the thinking behind each suggestion. **If you wish to add another name to the long list, please email it into the parish office before 4th March so that it can be included in the consultative vote.**

(2) Opportunities to review the Petition

The Petition is the formal document which has to go to Archbishop Bernard to set the formal wheels in motion. It is a request for him to pray, reflect and come to a decision regarding these matters. We, in fact, need two: the first for the merger by fusion and the new name; the second for our proposal regarding the future of our parish buildings. Each petition sets out the rationale for the request. The draft petition relating to merger will be available for inspection after all Masses on the weekend of 21st/22nd March and before the evening Mass on 2th March. The aim is to present the final version to Fr. Simon so that he can sign it and send it to the Archbishop and other relevant parties very shortly after Easter Sunday.

(3) The future of our Church on Old Oscott Hill

It is now accepted that the current building no longer serves our purposes and that a move to a smaller, warmer one is what we need. The hope is that by retrenching, we will end up with a better platform from which to offer pastoral care in the Maryvale area of the Cluster. The Merger Advisory Group and the Parish Pastoral Council have offered various suggestions to Fr. Simon. He is reflecting on these and will make further announcements about this specific point next week.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL AND FORMATION FOR CATHOLIC LIFE

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.

Please Pray: for Bishop Richard Moth who was installed as Archbishop of Westminster on 14th February.

Sanctuary Lamp Dedication throughout February the Sanctuary Lamp at OLAM is dedicated to the Butler & Maxwell Families. The Sanctuary Lamp at CTK the Bridger family (past and present).

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, Anne Cunningham and Anne O'Brien (Deacon Gary's mother).

RIP: Please pray for Linda Margaret Cookson, Margaret Costello (Peggy), Julie Geraldene Fleming, David Fitzsimmons, Janette Hainsley and Christopher Murray who died recently and for 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 Patrick Underwood, Val Lennon, Danny McCrossan, Peggy Jackman, John Murtagh, Michael Patrick O'Donoghue, Anthony Crear;

Ruth Black, Michael Coffey, Fr. Osmond Abbott, Esther Hill, Margaret Greenleaf, Nola Murray, Edward Oliver Bailey, David Fitzsimons, Takii Mariam and Christopher Diggle.

Forthcoming Funerals: Julie Geraldene Fleming: Funeral will be celebrated on **16th February 11.30am at SMM.** **Edward Oliver Bailey's** Requiem Mass will be celebrated on 23rd February at 11.30 at CTK. **David Fitzsimon's:** Service of Life will be celebrated on **24th February at CTK.** **Christopher Murray:** Christopher will be received into church on **4th March at 5pm** Christopher's Funeral Service will be celebrated on **5th March at 11am CTK,** and **Janette Margaret Hinsley's** Funeral Service will be celebrated on 9th March at 11.15am SMM. May the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace!

Mass Intentions: Please continue to put your envelope and stipend into the parish office so that we can keep a record of all Masses requested, **please also make sure to add a contact number to your intention.** There will need to be a discussion at the next Parish Pastoral Council meeting about the best long-term solution in the circumstances. Following advice from Bishop David, and after discussion with the Parish Pastoral Council, we will continue to put into the parish diary Masses for specific dates, so far as we can. If there is a double booking we shall have to send the conflicting Mass request to the Vicar-General, Canon Jonathan Veasey who will allocate it amongst the retired clergy of the archdiocese. Likewise, Masses requested without a specific date will also be sent to the Vicar-General for distribution to other priests. We currently have in excess of 250 such Masses to allocate. We will be notified when the Mass has been celebrated. Please see below for details of other services to remember our faithful departed.

Remembrance of our faithful departed: Sacred Scripture tells us that praying for our faithful departed is a noble and pious action. Traditionally, this prayer has been offered through the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. However, that is not the only way which the Church offers. Now that Masses are to be sent to other places for celebration, we need to have another service within the Cluster to provide an opportunity for remembrance and prayer. The first such service will be on Thursday 26th March at 7 pm in CTK. It will be based on the Office of the Dead from the official Prayer of the Church and will include the naming and lighting of candles for all those loved ones we are remembering. The hope is that we can make it a monthly event and circulate the venue around all three places of worship in the Cluster.

Ministry of Holy Communion: the Ministry of Holy Communion has two aspects - the distribution of Holy Communion within Mass and the distribution of Holy Communion outside Mass to our sick and housebound parishioners. Following discussion at the Parish Pastoral Council last Tuesday, it has been agreed that with effect from and including Maundy Thursday (2nd April), communion under both kinds (the Sacred Host and the Precious Blood from the chalice) will be offered both on Maundy Thursday and at all Sunday Masses thereafter. We shall be calling upon existing Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to assist us; but we also need new recruits. As regards, Holy Communion outside of Mass, we are VERY short of Ministers. We do not currently have enough people to cover all those who are currently expecting visits. Please do think carefully and consider whether you can help. Any of the parish clergy will be able to let you know specifically what is involved. The time commitment can be adjusted to whatever you have available. Potential new ministers will need to have a training session with Deacon Gary.

New Heights News: Would like to introduce Friendship Fridays. A brand-new session designed to bring people together in a relaxed, friendly, and supportive environment. It's all about connection, conversation, laughter, and reminding ourselves that no one must feel alone. If this is something that would interest you then please make your way to the Community Café every Friday 10am – 11am. It's a warm space to meet new faces, build genuine friendships, and enjoy some quality time together. Please feel free to bring a friend.

Reorganisation of the preparation of our parish children for First Holy Communion and Confirmation: Following on from the entry in the calendar on p.1, to let Fr. Simon know you are coming, please email him on: fr.simon.ellis@rcaob.org.uk.

Sacrament of Holy Communion & Confirmation 2026: A third and final enrolment date of Sunday 22/02/2026 9.30am has been arranged. Please contact the parish office on 0121 3730988 or christtheking.bham@rcaob.org.uk to confirm your attendance. Please hand in a completed enrolment form to the parish office before the enrolment date. In preparation for this enrolment, parents are asked, please, to complete and application form from the parish office which is open from 08.30 am to 4 pm Monday to Friday. Telephone and email details are given on p.1. of this Newsletter.

PARISH, COMMUNITY, DEANERY AND DIOCESAN NOTICES

Christ the King/OLAM



St Margaret Mary / POLW



Mass attendance for last weekend
CTK/OLAM-425 - (CTK-372 – and OLAM-53).

SMM: TBC

Last Week's Collection CTK

Loose: £378.29
Envelopes: £106.00

Total: £484.29

Last Week's Collection SMM

No count this week

Last Week's Collection OLAM

Loose: £157.99
Envelopes: £155.96

Total: £313.95

Fr. Simon writes: Fr Simon writes: The journey of Lent, the forty days of preparation for Easter, begins at Ash Wednesday with apparently harsh words from the book of Genesis said by the minister imposing the ashes in your forehead: "remember you are dust and unto dust you shall return". A priest recently said in a meeting that Ash Wednesday is a good time to share parish funeral plan forms! I'm not sure about that! Instead, Ash Wednesday points us to **eternal life**, through the cross. Penance, fasting and alms giving is part of that journey to eternal life. Never forget as the ashes are imposed the minister concludes with Jesus' words (Mark 1.15): "**Repent and believe in the gospel**". Death and sin are not the final word for Ash Wednesday or Lent!

Urgent Appeals for Volunteers:

- (1) We need new volunteers to take charge of the PowerPoint and projection at the 11.15 Mass at SMM. Our thanks go to Christian and Yvonne who previously did this for us and who have relocated out of the Cluster.
- (2) We are also in need of volunteers to help maintain CTK church and grounds. If you could spare any amount of time, please let Claire know in the Presbytery office, all help is greatly received and appreciated. X
- (3) We also need someone who can help with all aspects of preparing for the Saturday Mass in addition to the work our current Saturday sacristan already does. It will involve working in the parish office for a couple of hours each week. Please speak to Deacon Gary if you think you can help with this.

Due to half term: the Tuesday Mass has been transferred to St Margaret Mary at the (now usual) Tuesday time. The Friday Mass will be without the school in attendance. The catechism class for First Holy Communion after the 09.30 Mass on Sundays, Deacon Gary's Tuesday Catechism Class, Sycamore and the Youth Club take a break until after half term.

Community Meal: We are grateful to Dr. Bhomra of the Aylesbury Surgery for sponsoring this and also to the loyal band of volunteers who make sure that it happens. The meal is provided free of charge. To register your intention to come so that the catering will be sufficient and for any further details, please contact Sandra on 07985607091.

Fr. Hudson's Race Night: There will be a fundraising Race Night at Coleshill Town Hall on 10th March 2026 in aid of Fr. Hudson's projects: 7pm to 10.30 pm (First Race 7.15 pm). The entry cost is £20 to include a fish and chip supper.

40 days for Life: This is a focussed period of prayer which officially begins on Ash Wednesday (18th February) and ends on Palm Sunday (29th March). The Launch Event in this Diocese will take place on Sunday 15th February 2026 at 2 pm at St. Joseph and St. Helen's Church Hall, 84 Northfield Road, King's Norton, Birmingham B30 1JG. It is an all-age event entitled: "A New Generation Rising to Defend Life". Young pro-lifers will share their reasons for being involved in this project. No booking is necessary. Contact Isabel on 07773 501721 or izzyvs@gmail.com for more information or to get involved.

SVP: St Vincent de Paul Society Update.

Dear parishioners, we had a very active time over the Christmas and New Year holiday. As a result of your support, we were able to provide 49 families with food and grocery items and made sure each child had a festive treat. We also provided items of furniture to several households. We continue to visit and phone our housebound and elderly parishioners and help with transport on occasion. If you would like to know more about our activities or believe you may have a few hours to spare each week and might consider becoming a member, please contact Fr or any of our members. On behalf of all our members, we would like to sincerely thank you for your continued ongoing support. Please keep us and all our beneficiaries in your prayers. Christian and Theresa.

Minister of the Word: *All current commissioned* Ministers of the Word are earnestly requested to attend a meeting with Deacon Gary on 18th March 2026 at 7 pm in the Guild Room for a review of how the Liturgy of the Word changes during the Sacred Triduum and a discussion on how this impacts their ministry. *Any potential new* Ministers of the Word are invited to attend the necessary formation sessions on the following dates (all in the Guild Room at 7 pm): 25th February, 4th March, 11th March. Current Ministers are also welcome to attend these both for a refresher and also to give those entering the ministry the benefit of their practical experience.

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

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