



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 Third Sunday of Lent

Today's Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Exodus 17:3-7 "Give us water to drink."

Responsorial Psalm (95): O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

Second Reading: Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8 "Love has been poured into our hearts through the Spirit who has been given to us".

Gospel Acclamation: You are the Word of God. Lord you are indeed the Saviour of the world. Give me living Water so that I will not be thirsty.

Gospel: John 4: 5-42 (Shorter Version): "A spring of water welling up to eternal life."

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

Sat	07/03/26	3rd Sunday of Lent (Vigil Masses)	12.00 CTK	Recitation of the Rosary
			12.30 CTK	Kathleen Bridger (RIP) 100 th Birthday
			18.00 OLAM	Kitty Heaney (RIP)
Sun	08/02/26	3rd Sunday of Lent	09:30 CTK	Luke Byrne (RIP)
			11:15 SMM	Dennis Jones
			12.30 SMM	
			16.00 SJC	Lent Talk: "Francis, Man of the Poor."
Mon	09/03/26	Lent Feria	07:30 SMM	Brenden Reilly (RIP)
			08.00 Con	Dominic Ranahan (RIP)
			11.15 SMM	Funeral Service for Janette Margaret Hinsley
			19.00 SMM	SMM Finance Committee
Tue	10/03/26	St John Ogilvie	09.30 MPS	Sheila Reilly
			16.00 CTK	Deacon Gary's Catechism Class (Guild Room)
			18.00 SMM	Stations of the Cross
			19.00 SMM	Youth Club in the Newman Gallery
Wed	11/03/26	Lent Feria	08:00 Con.	John Fitzmaurece (RIP)
			08.15 SMM	Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament
			09.15 SMM	Kathleen Smith (RIP)
			17.30 SMM	Sycamore (in the Newman Gallery): "Vocations"
			19.00 CTK	Minister of the Word Formation CANCELLED
Thu	12/03/26	Lent Feria	11.30 St Jude's Maypole B14 5PE	Requiem Mass for Nora Abbott
			13.00 CTK	Funeral Service for Patrick Duigan
			16.30 OLAM	Reception of Monica Czernay into Church
Fri	13/03/26	Lent Feria	09.00 CTK	Private Intention
			13.00 OLAM	Requiem Mass for Monica Czernay
			19.00 CTK	Stations of the Cross
Sat	14/03/26	4th Sunday of Lent (Vigil Masses)	12.30 CTK	John Butler (RIP)
			18.00 OLAM	James Heaney (RIP) Anni
Sun	15/03/26	4th Sunday of Lent	09.30 CTK	Bridget Cooper & Deceased Members of The Cooper Family
			11.15 SMM	Mary McBride (RIP)

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.

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: 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 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 Patrlcik 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, Christopher Diggle and William Vincent Moloney. **Forthcoming Funeral: Jean McCabe:** Jean's Requiem Mass will be celebrated on 17/03, 12.30 at CTK. May the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace!

Mass Intentions: Following on from previous notices, we can now confirm how we will manage the allocation of Mass Intentions. **Where a specific date has been requested**, we will do our best to allocate the requested Mass to that specific date. However, since there are no regular public Masses on a Thursday and now only four Sunday Masses, we are no longer able to guarantee that we can offer the Mass as a public Mass on the date requested. **This is why we need you always to put your contact number on the Mass envelopes so that we can contact you about it.** Fr. Jude says a private Mass in the Presbytery Chapel every weekday. It is not possible for members of the congregation to be there when he does. However, a Mass intention can be offered. If you are willing to have Fr. Jude say the Mass in order to guarantee the date, then write "Fr. Jude" on the envelope. You will be notified of the date privately. **If no specific date has been requested** then these Mass intentions will be allocated in the following way: if any can be allocated to Fr. Jude, they will be. Otherwise, they will be sent away in batches of 50. We currently have over 200 Masses still to allocate. The first batch of 50 will go to the Vicar-General for him to allocate to retired priests of the Archdiocese who need support. The second batch of 50 will be sent to Fr. The in Taiwan. The final batch of 50 will be sent to Fr. Nazary Njiku, a priest in Tanzania known to Deacon Gary. Fr. Nazary desperately needs support for his mission there. We will repeat this as necessary. In this way, we will be supporting priests both at home and abroad in keeping with the principle of Christian solidarity and at the same time continue to pray for our faithful departed. We will be notified when the Mass has been celebrated. Please see below for details of other services to remember our loved ones.

Remembrance of our faithful departed: 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.

Ministers 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.

Sacraments of Initiation: There will be an enrolment for Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation for those not yet already enrolled but who have been in contact with the Parish Office on Sunday 22nd March at the 09.30 Mass.

Celebrations of the Sacraments of Initiation in the remainder of this academic year: the Cluster will celebrate for those in Maryvale Primary School, First Holy Communion of on 9th May at 11 am and Confirmation on 7th June at 11.30 am in OLAM. The Cluster will celebrate for those in CTK Primary school, First Holy Communion on 20th June at 9.00 am and 11 am and Confirmation on 6th June at 12.30 pm at CTK. The Cluster will celebrate for those in SMM primary school First Holy Communion on 13th June at 11 am and 14th June at 11.15 am at SMM.

PARISH, COMMUNITY, DEANERY AND DIOCESAN NOTICES

Christ the King/OLAM



St Margaret Mary / POLW



Mass attendance for last weekend

CTK 323

OLAM- 62

SMM: 160

Last Week's Collection CTK

Loose: £427.45
Envelopes: £151.00
S/O £171.31
Total: £749.76
CAFOD: (Sat) £102.00

Last Week's Collection SMM

Envelopes: £207.00
Loose: £292.25
Building Fund: £19.00
Total: £518.25
CAFOD £131.82

Last Week's Collection OLAM

Loose: £109.80
Envelopes: £114.50
S/O £73.58
Total: £297.88

Second Collections: **Today:** for Cathedral Maintenance . **Next Sunday:** for CAFOD.(at 09.30 Mass

Date for your Diary: On Tuesday 21st April, our Dean, Fr. Andrew Franklin will formally induct Fr. Simon into his office as parish priest both of CTK and OLAM. This is a wonderful opportunity for the whole of the Cluster to celebrate and to recommit itself to its mission. Mass begins at 6.00 pm and will be followed by a social gathering. More details to follow.

A word of thanks: Many thanks indeed to Mary Dosumu, Sr. Miriam. Sr. Michaela and Andrew Usowicz for enabling our altar servers to have such a great weekend at Alton Castle.

Congratulations: to Cardinal Wiseman who have recently gained the grade of "Outstanding" [Grade 1] on their recent section 48 Inspection (RE Collective Worship and Catholic Life).

New initiative for families: CTK currently has a small group of volunteers who meet with Claire Adler, our Cluster Secretary, to discuss and plan fundraising ideas. We are very grateful to the existing regulars. It is a key strength of this group that it is based on families with connections to Christ the King Primary School. We would like to open this up to families with connections to our other two primary schools in the Cluster to make this a Cluster wide initiative. The intention is that this group will meet once every few months to help with making decisions concerning types of fundraising ideas and future events. Please put your name forward to the parish office if you think you can make a difference to our parish and most importantly our community, meeting dates to follow.

Lost Property Box: There will be a lost property box at the back of church. Please see if any of the items belong to you. If items are not claimed by the end of mass on Sunday 15th March everything will be donated to a worthy cause. The box will only be available at the beginning and end of each mass.

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.

St. Patrick's Day at MPS: Maryvale Primary School have a mass on St Patricks Day in school. Parishioners are welcome to attend at 9.30a.m. followed by coffee/cake and a chat or board game session with Year 6 pupils and the Mini Vinnies at Maryvale. We welcome all from all 3 parishes in the Cluster to join us.

Job Vacancy: The Divine Mercy Partnership which is the Cluster of parishes based around St Anne's Chelmsley Wood under the leadership of Fr. Sean Gough has a vacancy for a Parish Mission & Formation Coordinator. Salary £37,440 pa. The closing date for applications is 20th March 2026. Shortlisting 24th March. Interviews 27th March 2026. Full job specification and person specification can be obtained from the parish office.

.Little Vinnies Stay and Play: The Little Vinnies Stay and Play at Maryvale Community, run by the local SVP, is now up and running on Friday Mornings in term time. The children are having a great time, but we need more helpers. Could you spare a few hours some Friday mornings to support this important work? You would be sure of a warm welcome. Please call 07548 937287 for more information.

Dementia Prayer Week: Dementia Prayer Week begins on Thursday 12th March. Resources to support our prayers for those living with dementia and their carers can be found at www.rpbooks.uk.

Community Meal: The next Community Meal, generously sponsored by Dr. Bhomra, will take place in the St John's Centre on 22nd March at 4 pm. To book a place, please contact Sandra on 07985607091.

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

THE BACK PAGE

Fr. Simon writes: Last week we celebrated S David of Wales. Next week we celebrate St Patrick of Ireland (Maryvale Primary School Mass at 09.30 am followed by St. Patrick Day treats). This week (10th March), we celebrate St John Ogilvie, Jesuit priest of Scotland. 10th March, incidentally, is the date of the laying of the foundation stone of Christ the King Church. St John Ogilvie is the only post-Reformation Scottish Saint. Following ordination on the continent, he returned to his native Scotland, disguised as a horse trader named John Watson. He was later betrayed and captured. He was martyred in Glasgow on 10th March 1615. The Calvinist nobleman, Baron John ab Eckersdorff, who was travelling through Glasgow, received Ogilvie's Rosary as Ogilvie went to the gallows. Baron ab Eckersdorff was later received into the Catholic Church.

Consultative Vote on the new parish name: Please remember that is a vote about the name of the new Parish Community which will be formed by the merger by fusion of Christ the King and Our Lady of the Assumption, Maryvale. **It does not affect the name of any particular building in which we worship.** The purpose of the exercise is to draw up a short list for Archbishop Bernard's consideration. Voting is open to all students in secondary education who attend Mass this weekend and all adults. The names on the long list are on a laminated poster at the back of each Church. There is a supply of coloured dots. To cast your vote, please take a dot and place it next to the name you like most. One person, one vote.

Preparation for Holy Week: ; To prepare for this all-important week in the Church's calendar, please note the following:

- **Sunday 22nd March** (Lent V), meeting after the 09.30 Mass at CTK for any young people wanting to plan for the Youth-led Stations of the Cross on 27th March at 7 pm at CTK.
- **Saturday 28th March:** beginning at 09.30 at CTK with a second part at OLAM, there will be a rehearsal for Holy Week for all altar servers covering **Maundy Thursday (3rd April – at CTK)** and the Easter Vigil on **Holy Saturday Night (4th April at OLAM)**. The servers will be bussed between the venues. New servers are welcome provided they are over 7 and have already received their First Holy Communion.

Information about Holy Week Foot washing on Maundy Thursday (19.30 at CTK): we need 4 people from each parish within the Cluster. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of each Church. Watching in Prayer will take place in the Chapel of Repose from the conclusion of the Mass of the Lord's Supper until 6 am on Good Friday morning. Please sign up for the watch for an hour so that is a continuous cycle of prayer.

HOLY WEEK itself: Please note the following:

Palm Sunday (29th March and Vigil Masses): Sunday Masses at the usual times.

Maundy Thursday (2nd April): Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at Christ the King only followed by watching before the Altar of repose until 6 am on Good Friday morning.

Good Friday (3rd April):

- The children's Stations of the Cross will take place on Friday 3rd April 2026, 11am at CTK. Group leaders will announce further information nearer the date.
- Solemn Celebration of the Passion of the Lord at 3 pm in all three places of worship (CTK/OLAM/SMM).
- Stations of the Cross at CTK at 7 pm.

Holy Saturday (4th April):

- **NO 12.30 PM MASS.** With the exception of the Sacrament of Penance and the Anointing of the Sick, the Church abstains from sacraments today.
- "*Świecenie potraw Wielkanocnych*" – the traditional Polish blessing of the baskets at 11 am at CTK only.
- Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter at 8 pm at OLAM only.

EASTER DAY: Sunday morning Masses as usual at 09.30 am (CTK) and 11.15 am (SMM).

Happy Mothers' Day: Fr. Simon and all the parish clergy offer prayers and blessings to the many mothers in our congregation and hope that you all have a wonderful day.
