



The Newman Cluster

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Simon Ellis

Parish Office for the Cluster

Email: christ-the-king.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
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Welcome to Mass on the 4th Sunday of Lent

Today's Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16: 1b, 6-7, 10-13a David is anointed King of Israel.

Responsorial Psalm 23 (22) 1-6 The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading: Ephesians 5: 8-14 *Arise from the dead and Christ will give you light.*

Gospel Acclamation: Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus. I am the light of the world, says the Lord: whoever follows me will have the light of life. Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.

Gospel: John 9: 1-41 *He went and washed and received his sight.*

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	14/03/26	4th Sunday of Lent (Vigil Masses)	12.00 CTK	Recitation of the Rosary
			12.30 CTK	John Butler (RIP)
			18.00 OLAM	James Heaney (RIP) Anni
Sun	15/03/26	4th Sunday of Lent	09:30 CTK	Lilly Fitzpatrick & Christina Gorman (RIP)
			11:15 SMM	Mary McBride (RIP)
			16.00 SJC	Lent Talk:
Mon	16/03/26	Lent Feria	07:30 SMM	Sean Fitzmaurie (RIP)
			08.00 Con	Liam Curren (RIP)
Tue	17/03/26	Feast of St Patrick	09.30 MPS	Brian Cunningham (RIP)
			12.30 CTK	Jean McCabe: Requiem Mass
			16.00 CTK	Deacon Gary's Catechism Class (Guild Room)
			18.00 SMM	Stations of the Cross
Wed	18/03/26	Lent Feria	08:00 Con.	Luke Byrne (RIP)
			09.15 SMM	Maria Nkenglefac Agendia
			17.30 SMM	Sycamore (in the Newman Gallery): "The Mass"
Thur	19/03/26	Solemnity of St Joseph	12.30 CTK	Kitty Heaney (RIP)
Fri	20/03/26	Lent Feria	09.00 CTK	Bridget Cooper & Deceased Members of The Cooper Family
			19.00 CTK	Stations Of the Cross
Sat	21/03/2026	Lent Feria	12.30 CTK	Dora McKeown (Anni).
			18.00 OLAM	Michael Foley (Anni.)
Sun	22/03/26	5th Sunday of Lent	09.30 CTK	Eddie Walsh (RIP)
			11.15 SMM	Private Intention

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 March the Sanctuary Lamp at CTK is dedicated to the Bridger family (past and present). There is still space to make a dedication at OLAM. Please contact Claire at the Presbytery to place your dedication.

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

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL AND FORMATION FOR CATHOLIC LIFE

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 Funerals: Jean McCabe: Jean's Requiem Mass will be celebrated on 17/03, 12.30 at CTK. **Joan McKellop:** Joan's Requiem Mass will be celebrated on 31/03, 11.30 at CTK and **Bridget Nescar:** Bridget will be received into SMM Church on 15/04 at 4.30pm. Bridget's Requiem Mass will be celebrated on 16/04 at 10.30am at SMM. May the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace!

Mass Intentions: Thank you to those parishioners who have already cooperated with the proposal that Fr. Jude offer some Masses in his private chapel in the Presbytery. The first batches of Mass intentions will be sent to the Vicar-General (for priests of the Archdiocese and Fr. Thé) and direct to Fr. Narary Njiku direct during the course of this coming week.

Remembrance of our faithful departed: Now that Masses will 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.

SMM CENTENARY: On 24 April 2026 11.30am there is a visit to Emery House, 20 Tarpits Lane, B23 5DP to original site of St Margaret Mary Church. On arrival there will be the unveiling of the plaque followed by a Coffee.

APF Red Boxes: If you are still in possession of a box, please hand these in before Lent V????

Holy Week: The Ecumenical Gathering will take place in Erdington on 03/04 at 10.30am for the Walk of Witness. Starting at Oikos Café. All are welcome.

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.

Results of the Consultation on the new parish name: 338 consultative votes were cast. The full report on the voting is on our parish websites. The shortlist of four which will be sent to Archbishop Bernard for him to consider comprises: St John Henry Newman (116 votes); St Francis of Assisi (58 votes); St Padre Pio and Sacred Heart and St John Henry Newman (joint on 55 votes). 5th place was taken by Blessed Dominic Barberi on 15 votes. It is too low compared to the others to qualify for the short list.

PARISH, COMMUNITY, DEANERY AND DIOCESAN NOTICES

Christ the King/OLAM



St Margaret Mary / POLW



Mass attendance for last weekend

CTK: - 333

OLAM: - 65

SMM: - 147

Second Collection today: for CAFOD. (At 09.30 Mass)

Last Week's Collection CTK

Loose:	£ 330.38
Envelopes:	£ 97.00
S/O	£ 171.31
S/C	£ 198.13
Total:	£ 796.82

Last Week's Collection SMM

Envelopes:	£98.00
Loose:	£197.84
S/C:	£93.81
Total:	£389.65

Last Week's Collection OLAM

Loose:	£ 105.20
Envelopes:	£ Nil
S/O	£ 73.58
S/C	£ 60.30
Total:	£ 239.08

Fr. Simon writes: How wonderful it is that this coming Tuesday we celebrate St Patrick, the Patron Saint of Ireland (and Nigeria). We also keep the Solemnity of St Joseph, declared Patron of the Universal Church. We are encouraged in calling upon the patronage of St Joseph by saints such as St Teresa of Avila and St Bernadine of Siena. As Pope Leo XIII wrote: *"It is, then, natural and worthy that as the Blessed Joseph ministered to all the needs of the family at Nazareth...he should now cover with the cloak of his heavenly patronage and defend the Church of Jesus Christ."*

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.

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.

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 began 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-the-king.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

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.

SPECIAL YEAR OF SAINT FRANCIS AND PLENARY INDULGENCE

The year 2026 marks the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi. **Pope Leo XVI has proclaimed the Year of Saint Francis, a special Jubilee Year with attached plenary indulgences.** (If you do not know what an indulgence is, you can read the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, nos. 1471–1473)

The following is a summary of the **Decree** issued by the Apostolic Penitentiary (10 January 2026), in accordance with the will of the Holy Father: “A **plenary indulgence** is granted under the **usual conditions (sacramental confession within one week, Eucharistic communion, and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father)**. It may also be applied to the souls in Purgatory. This indulgence is available to all the faithful who, with a spirit detached from sin, participate in the Year of St. Francis by visiting, as pilgrims, any **Franciscan conventual church** or church/place of worship dedicated to St. Francis. While there, the faithful should either devoutly participate in the Jubilee rites or spend an appropriate period in pious meditation and prayer to God, following the example of St. Francis. This should conclude with the Our Father, the Creed, and invocations to the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Clare, and all the saints of the Franciscan Family. The **elderly, the sick, and those who care for them** may also obtain the Plenary Indulgence, provided that they are detached from all sin and intend to fulfil the three usual conditions as soon as possible. They may obtain it by **spiritually joining** in the Jubilee celebrations of the Year of St. Francis, offering to the Merciful God their prayers and the pains or sufferings of their lives.”

Archbishop Bernard Longley has granted permission to include the Sisters' Convent Chapel at 192, Hawthorn Road (B44 8PU) among the Franciscan Jubilee sites of the Archdiocese, where pilgrims may be welcomed throughout St. Francis' Jubilee Year 2026.

Anyone who wishes to ask God for a plenary indulgence for themselves or for a deceased person - under the conditions described above - is **very welcome to visit the convent chapel during Mass times or at any other pre-arranged time!**

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.

Volunteers needed for the Maundy Thursday Mass

- 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 CTK only followed by watching before the Altar of repose until 6 am on Good Friday morning.

GOOD FRIDAY (3RD APRIL):

- Holy Week Ecumenical Gathering in Erdington 10.30am Walk of Witness starting at Oikos Café, 58 High Street, Erdington, Birmingham B23 6RH.
- 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.** Except for 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).