



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

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

Welcome to Mass on the 5th Sunday of Lent

Today's Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Ezekiel 37: 12-14 *I will put my spirit within you and you shall live.*

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 130) *With the Lord there is mercy and plentiful redemption.*

Second Reading: Romans 8: 8-11 *The Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you.*

Gospel Acclamation: *I am the resurrection and the life says the Lord. Everyone who believes in me shall never die.*

Gospel: John 11: 3-45 *I am the resurrection and the 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	21/03/2026	Lent Feria	12.00 CTK	Recitation of the Rosary
			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
			16.00 Community Cafe	Lent Talk :Francis and the Cross – Fr. Andrew Allman of Oscott College.
			16.00 SJC	Community Meal: To book a place, please contact Sandra on 07985607091.
Mon	23/03/26	Lent Feria	07:30 SMM	Brendon Reily (RIP)
			08.00 Con	Kitty Heaney (RIP)
Tue	24/03/26	Lent Feria	09.30 MPS	Kathleen Smith (RIP)
			16.00 CTK	Deacon Gary's Catechism Class (Guild Room)
			18.00 SMM	Stations of the Cross
Wed	25/03/26	Solemnity of the Annunciation	08:00 Con.	Anne Cusack (RIP)
			09.15 SMM	Martha Ugwu (RIP)
			17.30 SMM	Sycamore (in the Newman Gallery): "The Light of Christ"
			19.00 OLAM	Sarah Deane (RIP)
Thur	26/03/26	Lent Feria	19.00 CTK	Remembrance of the Faithful Departed: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, The Prayer of the Church for the Dead and Benediction
Fri	27/03/26	Lent Feria	09.00 CTK	Mary McBride (RIP)
			19.00 CTK	Stations Of the Cross led by the Youth Group
Sat	28/03/2026	Palm Sunday (Vigil Masses)	12.30 CTK	Susan Ashford (Birthday)
			18.00 OLAM	Eric Pitt (Anni)
Sun	29/03/26	Palm Sunday	09.30 CTK	Kif Iimariam Teklemariam (RIP)
			11.15 SMM	Rosaline Ikwuka (Anni)

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.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL AND FORMATION FOR CATHOLIC LIFE

Sanctuary Lamp Dedication throughout March the Sanctuary Lamp at CTK is dedicated to the Ikwuka & Ubah Families. There is still space to make a dedication at OLAM. Please contact Claire at the Presbytery to place your dedication.

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 Patricik 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: Joan McKillop: 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 have now been 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.

APF Red Boxes: If you are still in possession of a box, please hand these in as soon as possible.

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.

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.

Petition for Merger: As previously announced, a copy of the draft Petition for Merger is available for you to read at the back of each Church. For parishioners in CTK and OLAM, if you have any further comments or queries, please mention these to the members of the Parish Council or the members of the Merger Advisory Group who will be on hand after each of the Sunday Masses to take note of these. For parishioners of SMM, the Petition is made available to you for information. At this stage, all we are asking the Archbishop to do is merger CTK and OLAM and change the name. There will be have to be a second petition relating to the future of the building at OLAM once we have more information following the marketing campaign. Eventually, there will be a third and final petition relating to the merger of SMM with the rest of the Cluster. There will be further periods of consultation before the second and the third petitions can be ready for presentation.

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

PARISH, COMMUNITY, DEANERY AND DIOCESAN NOTICES

Christ the King/OLAM



St Margaret Mary / POLW



Mass attendance for last weekend

CTK: - 368

OLAM: - 65

SMM: - 165

Last Week's Collection CTK

Loose:	£ 388.52
Envelopes:	£ 302.00
S/O	£ 171.31
S/C	£ 227.00
Total:	£ 1088.83

Last Week's Collection SMM

Envelopes:	£102.00
Loose:	£ 169.91
Total:	£271.91

Last Week's Collection OLAM

Loose:	£ 88.70
Envelopes:	£ 158.00
S/O	£ 73.58
Total:	£ 320.28

Dates for your Diary:

- (1) 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.
- (2) **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.

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.

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.

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!**

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FATHER SIMON writes: People sometimes say that Christmas is on 25th December because Christians adapted the pagan festivals of the Winter Solstice. But, fundamentally, Christmas is 25th December because of the Annunciation (and conception_ of the Lord on 25th March – a day that in the Jewish world marked the beginning of the world and the Passover. The same total self-giving of God which we begin to contemplate this Passiontide is already visible when the Archangel Gabriel visits Mary who says “yes” to God’s promise not out of mere duty, but out of love.

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.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: if you are on the Rota for assisting with the administration of the Precious Blood from the Chalice at either the Evening Mass of the Last Supper OR the First Mass of Easter please meet with Deacon Gary 30 minutes before the start of the service for a quick run through of the necessary practicalities.

HOLY WEEK itself: Please note the following events and liturgies

Sat	28/03/2026	Palm Sunday Vigil Masses	12.00 CTK Roary: Sorrowful Mysteries
			12.30 CTK with Blessing of Palm Crosses
			18.00 OLAM with Blessing of Palm Crosses
			CLOCKS GO FORWARD ONE HOUR
Sun	29/03/26	Palm Sunday	09:30 CTK with Blessing of Palm Crosses
			11:15 SMM with Blessing of Crosses
Mon	30/03/26	Monday of Holy Week	07:30 SMM
			08.00 Con
			19.00 Erdington Abbey: Joint Service of Penance and Reconciliation with the Perpetual Help Cluster
Tue	31/03/26	Tuesday of Holy Week	09.30 Mass at SMM
			11.30 CTK Requiem Mass of Joan McKillop
			18.00 SMM Stations of the Cross
Wed	01/04/26	Wednesday of Holy Week	Chrim Mass in the Cathedral – no other liturgies.[TBC]
Thur	02/04/26	Thursday of Holy Week (Maundy Thursday)	19.30 CTK Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper and watching until 6 am.
Fri	02/04/26	Good Friday Day of Fasting and Abstinence	10.00 Walk of Witness (City Centre) Carrs lane Church to St Chad’s
			10.30 Walk of Witness starting from the Oikos Café, Erdington
			11.00 CTK Children’s Stations of the Cross
			14.00 SMM Stations of the Cross
			15.00 CTK/ OLAM/SMM Solemn Celebration of the Lord’s Passion
			19.00 CTK Stations of the Cross
Sat	28/03/2026	Holy Saturday	11.00 CTK Blessing of Baskets for the Polish Community “Świecenie potraw Wielkanocnych
			NO 12.30 Mass at CTK
			20.00 OLAM Solemn Vigil and First Mass of Easter
Sun	29/03/26	Easter Day	09.30 CTK Mass
			11.15 SMM Mass