



Parish of St. Gerard, Castle Vale

part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham—Registered Charity No. 234216

Parish Priest: **Father Mathew Pinakkattu** : 07788790928 Email: stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk

Presbytery: 2 Renfrew Square, Castle Vale, Birmingham B35 6JT T: 0121 747 7390



Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 21st August 2022 Year C Volume 2 Page 127

O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found.

Mass Times

Sunday 21st August

Confessions 9.30am

Mass 10.00 am for Lettice

Mendez RIP

Monday 22nd August

Mass 10.00am

Tuesday 23rd August

Mass 10.00am

Wednesday 24th August

Mass 10.00am

Thursday 25th August

Mass 10.00am

Friday 26th August

Mass 10.00am

Mass 7.00pm

Saturday 27th August

Mass 5.00pm

Sunday 28th August

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00 am



Sunday Obligation:

Since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, until the present time, we have shared with you our judgment that the situation of the last two years has meant that the Sunday Obligation has been impeded and has needed to be fulfilled in other ways. We thank God that this situation has now changed. "The pressing challenges of the pandemic have lessened significantly. Most people have resumed the wide range of normal activities, no longer restricted by the previous Covid measures. We therefore believe that the reasons which have prevented Catholics from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation no longer apply. "We understand there will still be some members of our congregations who, for reasons of health, do not feel safe enough to return to Mass. It has always been the understanding of the Church that when the freedom of any Catholic to attend Mass in person is impeded for a serious reason, because of situations such as ill health, care for the sick or legitimate fear, this is not a breach of the Sunday Obligation." **Bishops Conference**

Making time for Confession

The Church calls us to examine our lives, and amend and correct those faults that separate us from God. One of the best and most effective ways we can draw closer to God is by confessing our sins. It is through the Sacrament of Reconciliation that the Church provides us with the means to make our relationship right again with God. The sacrament is one of healing because through it we find absolution and mercy and forgiveness. Sometimes we get nervous about going to confession. But don't let nerves or fear hold you back. However long it has been, however bad the sin, however embarrassed you feel, don't let anything stop you from going to confession. Please think about taking this opportunity to come closer to God.

Who's Who?

Parish Safeguarding and Health and Safety Officer:

Hayley Macilwraith: 07840 866201

Parish Administrator: Sue

Perkins: 07971 076835
stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk

Young Persons Officer:

Therese Mimboe: 07897 530915

Parish Finance and

Premises Committee: Fr, Sue Perkins, Sue Byrne, Therese and Frank.

Pastoral Committee is led by Shirley.

Altar Flowers

Please consider donating towards remembrance of a loved one.



Parish Mission Statement We, the members of St Gerard's R.C. Church, are baptised in Jesus Christ, empowered by the spirit, nurtured in community, and nourished by prayer, word and sacrament. Therefore, for the greater glory of God, we proclaim for all people the saving message of the Gospel, and joyfully share our time, talent and resources, in works of mercy and justice, both within and beyond our parish community.



Popes Prayer Intentions for August: We pray for small and medium sized businesses; in the midst of economic and social crisis, may they find ways to continue operating and serving their communities.

Offertory

14th August 2022

Gift Aid £64.00

Regular Giving £80.00

Non Gift Aid £49.36

Donation Sehon £50.00

Total Banked £163.36



Recently died and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Sheila Flanagan, Janice Pidgeon, Kathleen Key: Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

The sick: Rose Cogan, Andrew Trueman, Eileen Morrissey, Mary Quilty, Mark Ford, Kath Taylor, Stan Oliver, Frances Irwin, George Irwin, Jean Chambers, Debbie Johnson, Perry Desmond, Philip Fox, Kevin Hollis, Tina Parkes and all the sick priests of the diocese. May the Lord grant them the healing they require.

Mass Intentions: If you would like to have a Mass celebrated for a particular intention: on behalf of a family member, a friend or a deceased loved one, to remember a birthday or anniversary, envelopes are available at the back of church or email Fr Mathew.

Watch this space-or the space at the back of church!!!

We are hoping to re-energise our Piety stall with the help of our youth of the parish. We are in the process of purchasing stock and display cabinets/tables and the children of our parish will be manning the stall before and after Mass each Sunday. Please let us know if there were any specific items that you would like us to stock.

FINANCE

APF Missio Red Boxes: We have some spare boxes if anyone feels able to take one to collect small change?

Offertory Boxes: Please consider whether you would be able to take a box for regular giving. Spare boxes are available from Sue.

100 club: Thankyou to all who support this fundraising for our Parish. Please see Frank if you or your family would like any additional numbers.

PREMISES

We still have much work to do in terms of repairs and maintenance of our buildings. We achieved so much last year with a new roof on the church centre and roof repairs to the church and presbytery, outside lighting, new soffits and fascia boards on the whole site, refurbished church toilet, improved safety to the presbytery and a refurbished bathroom but the list continues. Sue would welcome any help with continuing addressing the further repairs required. Each repair is a job in itself to get completed in terms of sourcing contractors, obtaining quotes, raising funds and ultimately overseeing the works. Many hands make light work!

Sower Magazine-Grab a copy! We made the papers! Well the Sower Magazine. Yes St Gerard's is recognised for its renovation of its church centre and its partnership with Upcycle in providing services for the Castle Vale Community. We should all be very proud for the recognition we have received as a parish for our work in engaging with our local community and also securing the financial viability of our parish. Our next focus for our church premises is the car park and perimeter fencing. Planning permission is being sought for the fencing which if agreed and installed with improve the safety and security of our church. We can then start to look at getting the car park retarmacked.

PASTORAL

Hospital Chaplaincy: If you or a family member is in hospital and would like a visit by a Priest or Eucharistic Minister please inform the parish office.

Baptism: Please complete the request forms available at stgerardschurch.co.uk and send to the parish office. You will be contacted to book a date but you must give at least two months notice to attend a preparation course before confirming any date. A parent of the child to be baptised must be baptised, attend Sunday Mass regularly and undertake the preparation meetings.

Marriage: Please contact Fr Mathew initially to discuss your request for marriage. This must be done before Fr can agree any dates with you as you will be required to attend wedding preparation classes beforehand.

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Communion to the Sick and the Housebound: Please speak to Fr if you know of anyone who is unable to come to Mass and would like to receive Communion.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

*Please continue to be vigilant in the COVID times by maintaining distances within church and wearing face coverings where possible. This is particularly important at this time where we are seeing increased numbers of people testing positive for the virus. Hand sanitiser is available when entering and leaving church and we recommend that this is utilised. **If you have any symptoms of COVID please do not attend church without taking a lateral flow test.** Lets continue the good work we have done to date in containing this virus and keeping each other safe.*

SOCIAL

Upcycle continue to look for volunteers to tend the tables in the Café or work in the shop for maybe a few hours once a week? This is a wonderful opportunity to really demonstrate our faith and make a difference to our community. See Sue if you feel you could offer a few hours?

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

Volunteer in the Parish: Our parish needs you. A vital aspect of a church is people willing to bring their talents, experience and energy to our various ministries and activities. We have seen a great increase in representation from our youth as they take up roles as Altar servers and choir members, not to mention Nancy and her family in music ministry but we still need more. Do you want to be actively involved to help build our community. We have lots of different ways you can get involved such as:

Refreshments: We would love to serve refreshments after Mass each Sunday but require a volunteer to take ownership of organising this and recruiting volunteers to form a rota for each week. Is this something you could consider?

Church Gardens: Whilst we employ a gardener to cut the grass we are in need of someone to take ownership of maintaining the grounds, in addition to the lawns. I am sure that between us we would have lots of willing volunteers to help. Is this something you may be interested in?

Church Cleaning: Anyone up for taking responsibility for keeping our church clean and tidy? Currently there are number of parishioners that offer their time to clean , and we thank you for this. This role would really be just organising those volunteers so that we can keep on top of cleaning.

Readers Rotas etc: Please see Yvonne if you would like to offer your services with Mass each week. Flowers/Visiting the Sick/Eucharistic Ministers/Choir. Whilst "being" a Catholic is very important there are many jobs to be done and so "doing" Catholic is equally important. There really is something for everyone!

Children's Liturgy Leaders- Please see Therese if you would like to be a liturgy leader. We are looking for a team of 8 people so we can have a monthly rota for our Sunday Liturgy classes.

Call for Volunteers

We are looking for up to eight parishioners that would like to take up the role of Children's Liturgy Leaders/Helpers. It is hoped that we will be able to reinstate our weekly Children's Liturgy at Sunday morning Mass. A rota would be put in place so that each helper would be required just one Sunday a month or less if we attract more volunteers? Please see Therese if you feel able to help.