



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 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 11th September 2022 Year C Volume 2 Page 136

Look upon us O God, Creator and ruler of all things, and, that we may feel the working of your mercy, grant that we may serve you with all our heart.

Mass Times

Sunday 11th September

Confessions 9.30am

Mass 10.00 am for Vicki Keating

RIP with Children's Liturgy

Monday 12th September

No Mass

Tuesday 13th September

No Mass

Wednesday 14th September

No Mass

Thursday 15th September

No Mass

Friday 16th September

School Mass 9.00am

Mass 7.00pm

Saturday 17th September

Mass 5.00pm

Sunday 18th September

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00 am with Children's

Liturgy



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

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.

Social Committee:

Beulah, Sarita, Bernie, Rosaline and Sue.

Altar Flowers

In Memory of the Masters family and Rosemary Hayer on her birthday.



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 September: We pray that the death penalty, which attacks the dignity of the human person, may be legally abolished in every country.

Today we welcome our children back for Children's Liturgy. Thank you to all those that have volunteered to run this for our Parish.

Offertory

4th September 2022

Gift Aid	£83.00
Regular Giving	£80.00
Non Gift Aid	£50.88
Votive Candles	£35.55
Total Banked	£169.43

Today Second Collection for the Catholic Education Service

Recently died and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: 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.

*Let us please pray for **Eileen Morrissey**, our wonderful friend and long standing parishioner of St Gerard's Church. A most gentle, generous, kind and faithful servant. Eileen is currently very unwell in the QE hospital. We remember her and pray for her and her family. Heavenly Father, giver of life and health, comfort and relieve your sick servant and give your power of healing to Eileen, that she may be strengthened in her weakness and have confidence in your loving care, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.*

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!

Mass times: Fr Mathew will be away on a Priests Ongoing Formation in Kent so there will be no Holy Mass on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. On Friday there will be school Mass at 9.00am.

Fr will be away from the parish from the 19th September through to the 30th September as he travels to see family. Fr Biju will be joining us celebrate Mass on Sunday 25th September. There will be no Saturday vigil Mass on 24th September or any weekday Masses during that time.

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.

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

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

Trip to Italy— Fr Mathew is looking to lead a trip to Italy next Easter. It is proposed that it will be for 6 days and take in Pisa, Florence, Assisi, Rome, Venice, Padua, Milan. Please see Fr if you would be interested in joining him. A meeting will be held shortly for those interested to discuss more details.

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

Volunteer in the Parish: 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. 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!

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.

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.

Queen Elizabeth II, Rest in Peace.

Most Reverend Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham:

O Lord, you have been our refuge, from one generation to the next (Psalm 90:1) Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I shall give you rest. (Matthew 11:28) As we digest the news of the past day, these two passages from the Bible speak to me of Her Majesty the Queen's remarkable life of duty and service, as she lays down the burden of her years and begins a new life in God's presence for ever. Although the Queen's life has been long and full, this is still a time of sadness, first of all for her family, but also for so many people who have admired the Queen's dignity and dedication throughout her life. In particular, as people of faith, we have valued her frequent references to her own faith in Christ, which has given her strength and guidance in all the circumstances of her life. Her death is the fulfilment of a long and fruitful life and we commend her soul to the loving mercy of God. We pray for her and for all those who mourn her loss, especially her family. In the midst of his own sadness, I pray for our new sovereign King Charles III, as he assumes his new responsibilities, and for the Queen Consort who stands by his side. I pray for our country at this time: