



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

W: www.stgerardschurch.co.uk



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

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday 27th November 2022 Year A Volume 1 Page 82

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.

Mass Times

Sunday 27th November

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00 am with

Children's Liturgy for Bill

Heekin and Sheila Flaney RIP

Monday 28th November

Mass 10.00am

Tuesday 29th November

Mass 10.00am

Wednesday 30th November

Mass 10.00am

Thursday 1st December

Mass 10.00am

Friday 2nd December

School Mass 9.00am

Mass 7.00pm

Saturday 3rd December

Mass 5.00pm

Sunday 27th November

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00 am with

Children's Liturgy for Cath

and John Dunleavy RIP



Advent- A period to "Prepare and be ready, Watch and wait".

We get impatient with God's plan. We wander. We choose our own plans instead. God is faithful though. He calls us to return to Him. God's plan is not about getting what we want. It is about God restoring the whole world to himself. In our lives we will experience events which we don't understand. There will be senseless tragedies and undeserved triumphs. We must be vigilant and ready for those, especially for trials and difficulties. There are always uncertainties in life. We must be ready at all times to serve Christ when we encounter the Lord in our daily lives.



The four Sundays of Advent each have a specific theme or focus- Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. As we light our first candle on our Advent Wreath, the candle of HOPE, we remember that hope is the foundation for our belief that Jesus is coming into our hearts and the world. This first week prepares us to be people of hope and believe that darkness will not prevail, but the light of the world will overcome it.

National Youth Sunday— A huge thank you and congratulations to all our youth who took part in last weeks Mass and shared their experience of being part of the youth of St Gerard's parish. We are truly blessed to have them serving their parish so diligently and wilfully. A big thankyou to Therese and her team of helpers for all that they do to keep the children engaged and interested each week. You are all true testament to our parish mission statement.

Popes Prayer Intentions for December: We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

Altar Flowers

Please consider donating towards in remembrance of a loved one.



Offertory

20th November 2022

Gift Aid	£ 49.00
Regular Giving	£80.00
Non Gift Aid	£ 53.42
Youth Sunday	£ 49.23
100 club	£120.00

Total Banked £252.65



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: Isabel Hackett, Joanne Lawton, 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.

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: A parent of the child to be baptised must be baptised, attend Sunday Mass regularly and undertake the preparation meetings. Please see Fr after Mass to discuss your request. You will be required to attend a preparation course before confirming any date for baptism so please bear this in mind in preparing for the child's baptism.

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.

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.

SOCIAL

Italy 2023- Thankyou to all those that have shown interest in the trip to Italy between 9th and 16th April 2023. Fr has been working on the itinerary for the 6 day trip and provisional details are printed out at the back of church. We will be shortly asking for commitment and deposits from all those interested in joining us and we will be arranging flights. Once flights are confirmed we can sort accommodation. Any questions please see Fr or Sue.

World Youth Day (WYD) is a worldwide encounter with the Pope celebrated about every three years in a different country. The most recent WYD was celebrated in Panama City, Panamá from January 22-27, 2019 and the next World Youth Day will be held in Lisbon, Portugal in 2023. WYD is open to all young people who want to take part in a festive encounter centered on Jesus Christ together with their peers. This event is an opportunity to personally experience the universality of the Catholic Church, and to share with the whole world the hope of many young people who are committing their lives to Christ and His Church. World Youth Day is a unique way to deepen your faith and grow closer to Christ, through prayer and the sacraments, together with hundreds of thousands of other young people who share your interests and ambitions.

Our four young adults Robert, Nancy, Seraphina and Joyce are hoping to join the Birmingham Catholic Youth team on this trip. They will be sharing with us their journey of preparation and request for support. As a parish we would really like to help Robert, Nancy, Seraphina and Joyce through fundraising for this once in a life-time opportunity. If anyone has ideas then please speak to Therese as Young Persons Officer so we can start to put together a calendar of fundraising activities!



NOTICE FROM ST GERARD'S SCHOOL

"St Gerard's Catholic Primary School is undertaking a formal consultation on our proposed admission arrangements for 2024/2025.

As part of this process a copy of our proposed admission arrangements will be uploaded to the School Admission website during the consultation period. A copy will also be uploaded onto our school website during the consultation period (28th November 2022-9th January 2023)"

Altar Servers. Today we welcome 6 pupils from St Gerard's School who are undergoing their training to become Altar Servers for us here in our Parish. We keep them in our prayers as they start their journey in serving the Lord. We thank Robert and Seraphina for taking them under their wing and agreeing to supervise their training and look forward to celebrating their achievement as they move towards obtaining their accreditation with the Guild of St Stephen for Altar Servers.

We should also recognise and thank Hayley who, as Safeguarding Officer, takes up the role of Altar Server Chaperone ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all our young adults. A lot of Hayley's work goes unnoticed but without her we would be unable to offer these opportunities, including Children's Liturgy, to our Youth so please join us in recognising her hard work.

Our refreshed Piety stall!

Our Youth have taken responsibility for running our piety stall, overseen by Therese. They have purchased a few nice items and would love to hear from you as to what else you would like to see available to purchase from them? Their initial purchases have been supported by the parish with funds provided by the 100 club but we hope that they will very soon generate funds to be able to add to their stock. We are very hopeful to have Christmas cards for sale this year! These will be available from the piety stall in December so please hold fire in purchasing your cards! Please take a moment to take a look after mass and speak to the children. Maybe over a period of time the profits generated will help them finance a youth retreat at Alton Castle or further afield!!