



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

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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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday 18th December 2022 Year A Volume 1 Page 90



Pour forth, we beseech you O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.

Mass Times

Sunday 18th December

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00 am with

Children's Liturgy

Monday 19th December

Mass 10.00am

Tuesday 20th December

Mass 10.00am

Wednesday 21st December

Mass 10.00am

Thursday 22nd December

Mass 10.00am

Friday 23rd December

Mass 10.00am

Confessions 9.30am

Mass 7.00pm

Saturday 24th December

Carols 6.30pm

The Nativity of the Lord

Vigil Mass 7.00pm

Sunday 25th December

The Nativity of the Lord

Mass 10.00 am



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. We light this Candle of Peace today knowing that no matter what conditions we find ourselves in, we are never far from the Peace of Christ if we are His. Salvation in Christ is the steady anchor for a life that seems to be full of struggle.



Italy 2023

For those parishioners wishing to join Fr on his trip to Italy next year we will be looking to book flights on 19th December so we do need to get firm commitment for those interested before this date. It is proposed that those committed attend church on the evening of 19th December, at 6.00, so we can book all flights together. Please bring your passport and a means of payment.

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

11th December 2022

Gift Aid £ 46.00

Regular Giving £80.00

Non Gift Aid £ 28.62

Total Banked £74.62



Recently died and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Joanne Lawton: Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.

The sick: Herbert Dobree, Isabel Hackett, 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.

Walk with Me Booklets are available at the back of church. These booklets cost £1.00 so we ask for a donation of at least the same to cover cost. However please do not be put off from taking a copy to help you follow the prayers during this advent season and prepare ourselves for Christmas.

Christmas Cards— We are pleased to announce that we have a supply of CAFOD Christmas cards for sale on the Piety stall. Please consider purchasing some of these as in doing so all proceeds is going directly to CAFOD to support them in the wonderful work that they do.

Heating in Church:

We apologise that that our church has been cold these last few weeks, especially when it has been so cold outside. You will be pleased to hear that the Church boiler was repaired and serviced this week following what appears to be an annual problem with the pilot light. We are very grateful to all our parishioners who continue to financially support the parish both with weekly offerings, 100 club, raffles, fayres and donations and to our tenants Upcycle who provide rental income to our parish. This has allowed us to provide for the cost of the upkeep of our church both with these recent repairs and the various requirements over the year. We wish you a very Happy, Holy, Blessed and Warm Christmas here in our Parish of St Gerard's.



A wonderful carol service was held on Tuesday with the children from school here in church. We hope that some of you were able to join. Children and staff have now begun their Christmas break. We wish them all a very blessed and happy Christmas and look forward to seeing many of them here over the Christmas period to continue our "waiting" and receiving of Jesus.

Christmas Raffle

Tickets are on sale today for our Christmas Raffle. Please support Sarita and Bernie in their efforts.

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 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 offer these opportunities, including Children's Liturgy, to our Youth so please join us in recognising her hard work.

Christmas Mass times

Saturday 24th December: Carols 6.30pm followed by Mass at 7.00pm

Sunday 25th December: Mass 10.00am

Monday 26th December: Mass 10.00am

