



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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First Sunday of Lent

Sunday 26th February Year A Volume 1 Page 151

Grant, almighty God, through the yearly observances of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects.

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.

Mass Times

Sunday 26th February

1st Sunday of Lent

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00 am with

Children's Liturgy for Doreen

Mooney and Ivy Davies RIP

Monday 27th February

No Mass

Tuesday 28th February

Mass 10.00am

Wednesday 1st March

Mass 10.00am

Thursday 2nd March

Mass 10.00am

Friday 3rd March

CAFOD Family Fast Day

Lenten Mass 8.00am

School Mass 9.00am

Stations of the Cross 7.00pm

Saturday 4th March

Mass 5.00pm

Sunday 5th March

Mass 10.00 am with

Children's Liturgy



Making time for Confession during Lent

The Church calls us to examine our lives, and amend and correct those faults that separate us from God especially as we prepare for Easter.

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.

Fr continues to make himself available each morning at 9.30 am to hear confessions. Please think about taking this opportunity to come closer to God.

In addition, briefly examine your conscience at the end of each day, and make an act of contrition. In this way you will become more sensitive to what is really happening in your own life, and you will be more prepared and more honest as you come to confession.

Leaflets are available at the back of church to help you prepare for your confession.

Lenten Mass—Friday mornings 8.00am.

Almsgiving—CAFOD Walk against Hunger

Penance—Stations of the Cross—7.00pm Fridays

Fasting—Friday 3rd March—CAFOD family fast day—please take an envelope—lice and eat simply and any money to CAFOD—envelopes due in 12th March so as not to clash with next weeks second collection for Cathedral Maintenance!

Next Sunday there will be a Second Collection for Cathedral Maintenance. CAFOD Family fast enveloped will be due the week

Our Lord wills that you cling to Him alone!

If your faith were greater how much more peaceful you would be even when great trials surround and oppress you

Saint Paula Frassinetti (1809-1882)



Offertory

12th February 2023

£256.17

19th February 2023

£140.41

Thankyou

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

The sick: Margaret Ludlow, Isabelle Walsh, Mary Walsh, Isabel Hackett, Rose Cogan, Andrew Trueman, Eileen Morrissey, Mary Quilty, Mark Ford, Kath Taylor, Stan Oliver, Frances Irwin, George Irwin, 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.



We continue to keep all the children preparing for their First Holy Communion and Sacrament of Confirmation later this year in our prayers. We hope that all the children and their teachers have had a well deserved rest and return to school this week to continue their Lenten journey.

CAFOD-Walk against hunger-Sue's 200km Lenten challenge on behalf of St Gerard's Parish

So far so good! Ash Wednesday was my first walk and so far the best. I walked the furthest distance, got to spend an hour and a half walking with my best friend, stopped for a coffee break, both of us with our ashes on our foreheads! If anyone feels able to sponsor her for her efforts as part of their Lenten arms-giving then a sponsor sheet is available at the back of church. Thank you

Piety Stall-First Holy Communion and Confirmation cards along with medals, bibles and gifts are available to purchase or order at the back of church today. Please take a look as you leave church. Thank you



Italy—The birthplace of our patron saint Gerard Majella!-2023

All flights accommodation and transport has now been booked, confirmed and paid for. Please start to think about your luggage requirements, keeping to minimums as we do not have a lot of space for transporting luggage. For flights booked through Fr please see Sue if you wish to add additional bags. A detailed itinerary will be available next week so you can all see what we will be up to over our 6 days in Italy and can start to think about what you might want to do/see in each of the locations. It may be that you will need to pre book some attractions.

Parish Youth Group: are scheduled to clean the church during Lent on 18th March and 1st April. Anyone wishing to take part should let Therese know.

Popes Prayer Intentions for March: For victims of abuse; We pray for those that have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

Church Garden - We recently received a notice from Birmingham Council that the hedge in the church garden was so overgrown that it was causing an obstruction to the pavement on Renfrew Square. We were given 7 days to remedy the situation before being prosecuted! Panic! A google search revealed a local gardener that when contacted was delighted to be able to assist and attended to hedge over the next 2 days and all free of charge. Cant help but think about today's Gospel as I write this! In recognition for his generous service to our parish I thought I would share the details of his business in case anyone has some pre season gardening/landscaping needs? <https://purplelilygardening.co.uk> telephone : 07846 831594.

LENTEN PRAYER



"Lord, I thank you for this new day. I know that you love me, You look at me at this moment and want this day to be a brand new beginning with "a future full of hope".

Whatever I have to face today, one thing I know is that you will be there with me as my best friend, helping, consoling, strengthening, healing and guiding me.

Lord Jesus, I give you my hands to do your work. I give you my feet to go your way. I give you my eyes to see as you do. I give you my tongue to speak your words. I give you my mind that you may think in me. I give you my spirit that you may pray in me.

Above all, I give you my heart that you may love in me your Father and all humankind. I give you my whole self that you may grow in me, so that it is you, Lord Jesus, who live and work and pray in me this day. Amen