



Parish of St. Gerard, Castle Vale

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

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Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 19th February Year A Volume 1 Page 139

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, always pondering spiritual things, we may carry out in both word and deed that which is pleasing to you.

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 19th February
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary
Time

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00 am with

Children's Liturgy for Jean
Chambers RIP

Monday 20th February

Mass 10.00am

Tuesday 21st February

Mass 10.00am

Wednesday 22nd February

Ash Wednesday

Mass 7.00pm

Thursday 23rd February

Mass 10.00am

Friday 24th February

Stations of the Cross

7.00pm

Saturday 25th February

5.00pm

Sunday 26th February First

Sunday of Lent

Mass 10.00 am with

Children's Liturgy



Themes for the 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Blockbuster movies, and our own sense of righteousness, often gives us an image of what a hero should be like. Faced with adversity, threatened with danger, we expect the hero to rise to the challenge, to fight back, to defeat the 'bad guy'. Responding to tragedies in the news, there is often a clamour of voices that favour "eye for an eye" as justified and appropriate.

Jesus is not that kind of hero. Revenge may be instinctive, but it is not the best way, the good way. In his own response, at his arrest and trial, Jesus shows restraint and silent dignity against a show of ego and injustice. Accusations of cowardice are simplistic. How would Jesus change hearts and minds, change the world, by simply taking on the role of aggressor?

The way of non-violence is far more in keeping with the Kingdom of God, living out human ideals and nurturing human dignity. Questioning what is right, being an example of a better way.

Recently Pope Francis made a 'pilgrimage of peace' to South Sudan. This was not the first time the Pope has called for an end to conflict in the country. In 2019 Pope Francis invited President Salva Kiir and other opposition leaders to the Vatican. An uneasy ceasefire had been in place since the previous September. In the Vatican, people who had fought one another prayed together instead. Pope Francis said: "I am asking you as a brother to stay in peace. I am asking you from my heart, let us go forward." Pope Francis knelt and kissed the feet of the opposing leaders. Salva Kiir, later said that he "trembled" as Pope Francis knelt before him.

"To love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" is an act of courage. Internationally, nationally or personally, we are encouraged to be better, to be 'the change'. To recognise that violence does not pay; revenge is not sweet.

God of forgiveness,

Give us hearts that are compassionate and forgiving.

Make us agents of reconciliation and peace.

Give us courage to make a difference,
to bring justice and peace to all.

Amen.



Offertory
12th February

To be announced

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: Beaulah, Sarita, Bernie, Rosaline and Sue.



We ensure all the children preparing to make their Sacraments of our prayers as they continue their preparation. We also wish the children and staff a restful and holy holidays as we move into the season of Lent. Children's Liturgy continue over the next two weekends and all are welcome.

CAFOD-Walk against hunger-Sue's 200km Lenten challenge

Here we go again! Sue, on behalf of our Parish, will be embarking on another 200km walk during this Lenten season beginning on Ash Wednesday 22nd February. If anyone feels able to sponsor her for her efforts as part of their Lenten arms-giving then a sponsor sheet will be 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 2023



Travellers should aim to pay 50% of their balance by the end of February and the final balance by the end of March ahead of our trip on 10th April. See Sue for details. Thank you to those that have indicated their baggage requirements. 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. Sue will be confirming all arrangements made to date this week. We will have a short meeting next Sunday after Mass to discuss arrangements further.



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 February: For Parishes: We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

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