

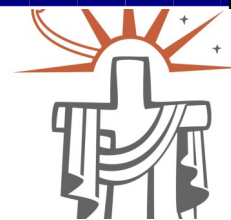
Parish of St. Gerard, Castle Vale

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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Easter Sunday

Solemnity of the Resurrection of the Lord

Sunday 9th April 2023 Year A Volume 1 Page 251

O God, who on this day, through your Only Begotten Son, have conquered death and unlocked for us the path to eternity, grant, we pray, that we who keep the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection may, through the renewal brought by your Spirit, rise up in the light of life.

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 9th April

Easter Sunday

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00 am with

Children's Liturgy

No Masses during the week
as Fr Mathew is away in Italy

Sunday 16th April
Second Sunday of Easter



Mass 10.00 am celebrated by
Fr Biju

HE IS RISEN!

"Jesus, the Risen Lord, loves us without limits and is there at every moment of our lives. He invites us to overcome barriers, banish prejudices and draw near to those around us every day in order to rediscover the grace of everyday life" Pope Francis .

Dear brother, dear sister: if on this night you are experiencing an hour of darkness, a day that has not yet dawned, a light dimmed or a dream shattered, open your heart with amazement to the message of "Do not be afraid, he has risen!" Pope Francis .

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy and Holy Easter. We have a lot to be thankful for as our church remains open and our congregation continues to grow with parishioners taking on many responsibilities. Thankyou to all our volunteers, stewards, florist and choir that continue to serve and prepare our church and services so diligently. I am very grateful for your support and at this Eastertime . I thank you all.

God Bless Father Mathew.

Popes Prayer Intention for April: For a culture of peace and non-violence: We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.

Altar Flowers

Please consider donating towards remembrance of a loved one.

Thank you to all who contributed to the lovely Easter flowers and to the Ladies who organised them. They are beautiful.



Offertory

2nd April 2023

To be announced
shortly



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: Margaret Ludlow, Isabelle Walsh, Mary Walsh, Isabel Hackett, Rose Cogan, Andrew Trueman, Eileen Morrissey, Mary Quilty, Mark Ford, 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.

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

Easter Raffle: Sarita and Bernie have once again organised our annual Easter raffle. Tickets are available after Mass and the draw will take place after Mass this morning. Please support them in their efforts, Proceeds will go towards our parish funds with a donation being made to our young adults travelling to Lisbon this summer for World Youth Day. Thank you in advance for all your generous donations and support not just with the raffle but with all your support that you give to our parish throughout the year.

ITS NOT TOO LATE!! CAFOD-Walk Against Hunger: So as planned Sue completed her Lenten Activity in aid of CAFOD. She walked 200.4km in 35 days and has currently raised over £250 for CAFOD. Congratulations and thank you to Sue for her efforts during this Lent for this worthwhile cause. If you sponsored her or would like to then please see her at the back of church over the next few weeks and help give hunger its marching orders. She would like to thank all those that have already contributed so generously.

FINANCE: *For the first time in a long time, and despite the difficulties that these last 2 years have presented us with, we are delighted to say that we remain in credit in our bank account and have the secured monthly revenue from rental income from our church centre. We can head into 2023 knowing we are secure in covering our bills each month and have a little to make inroads into the much needed repairs to our church.*

SOCIAL: *Upcycle are looking for volunteers to tend the tables in the Café or work in the shop for maybe a few hours once a week? This is a wonderful opportunity to really demonstrate our faith and make a difference to our community. See Sue if you feel you could offer a few hours?*

Summer Fete: *Sarita has suggested that we look to holding a summer fete again this year to celebrate all that we have achieved as a parish over these past couple of years where COVID has impacted on all our lives. We will be setting a date for an initial meeting shortly and would love as many parishioners as possible to get involved. WATCH THIS SPACE!*

PARISH ADMINISTRATION: Volunteer in the Parish: Our parish needs you. A vital aspect of a church is people willing to bring their talents, experience and energy to our various ministries and activities. Could your post Lent resolution be getting involved in our parish life? This can be very fulfilling and help build our community. We have lots of different ways you can get involved such as:

Church Gardens: I know a set date is not always convenient for everyone so please feel free to attend at any time to do a bit of weeding/cutting back. All help is greatly appreciated

Church Cleaning: I know a set date is not always convenient for everyone so please feel free to attend at any time to do a bit of cleaning if you have a spare hour. If you phone Fr he will confirm he is around to let you in. All help is greatly appreciated.

Flowers/Visiting the Sick/Eucharistic Ministers/Choir/Altar Serving-You are never too old.

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!



"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