



## 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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### Fourth Sunday of Lent

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O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebration to come.

### 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 March**

**4th Sunday of Lent**

**Confession 9.30am**

**Mass 10.00 am with**

**Children's Liturgy for May**

**Eales 1st Anniversary and**

**Raymond Keily RIP**

**Monday 20th March**

**Mass 10.00 am for Kath**

**Taylor RIP**

**Tuesday 21st March**

**Mass 10.00am**

**Wednesday 22nd March**

**No Mass**

**Thursday 23rd March**

**Mass 10.00am**

**Friday 24th March**

**Lenten Mass 8.00am**

**School Mass 9.00am**

**Stations of the Cross 7.00pm**

**Saturday 25th March**

**Mass 5.00pm**

**Sunday 26th March**

**Mass 10.00 am with**

**Children's Liturgy for Agatha**

**Maher and David Perkins RIP**

### 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.

**Lenten Mass**—Friday mornings 8.00am.—Please use this opportunity during Lent.

**Almsgiving**—CAFOD Walk against Hunger—CAFOD family Fast Day—World Youth Day.

**Penance**—Stations of the Cross—7.00pm Fridays . Confession.

**Fasting**—Fish Friday/Abstinence.

### Happy Mothers Day!!!

*Loving God, we thank you for all the mothers in the world.*

*Bless them so that they may always give life and nourishment to their children through their firm faith, generous and selfless love, good example and constant concern for their bodily and spiritual health.*

*Grant that we, their children, may honor them always with a spirit of profound love, respect and thanksgiving.*

*Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### Offertory

**12th March 2023**

GA	£ 103.00
NGA	£65.59
Flower Don	£300.00
Piety Sales	£110.00
Funeral Fee	£310.00
<b>Total Banked</b>	<b>£888.59</b>

**Recently died and those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** **Kath Taylor.** 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

## Italy—Meeting today after church

Quick meeting today after Mass to catch up on things. All flights accommodation and transport has now been booked, confirmed and paid for. Any luggage needs to be booked before we check in for flights. For flights booked through Fr please see Sue if you wish to add additional bags. We should 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:** Thank you to those that came and cleaned the church yesterday. For those that were unable to attend there will be another opportunity on 1st April!!!!

## "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

This weekend we celebrate Laetare Sunday. Laetare means 'to rejoice' or 'to be joyful' and there is much to celebrate in the readings the Church offers us. In drawing close to Jesus, the Light of the World, we can come to see things anew.

It is also Mothering Sunday, so we celebrate mothers everywhere, and pray for all who have nurtured us.

Shukla, a young widowed mother from southern Bangladesh who experienced a time of great darkness, now has much to celebrate. Her husband's death left her depressed and withdrawn, until a community group, the Bangladesh Association for Sustainable Development, gently encouraged her to join their meetings.

"I am extremely grateful to BASD," Shukla says. "My life was plunged into darkness until they brought me into the light, and it was by holding their hands that I stepped into this new phase in my life. It feels like I've been through a really long journey."

Shukla now has a flourishing garden of fruit and vegetables. Her six-year-old son loves to join her in planting flowers and watering trees. She has a newfound confidence, helping others to learn the skills she has gained and seeking especially to empower other women: "I used to be very quiet and I was scared of talking to people, and now I can talk to anyone."

As Christians, we are called not to be blind to injustice and suffering. Instead, like the neighbours who reached out to Shukla, we should open our eyes and seek to encourage and support others. This Lent, let's pray that our gift of faith will illumine our hearts and minds to walk in God's ways as 'children of light'.

**Jesus, Light of the World,  
give me eyes to see injustice and to recognise you  
in my sisters and brothers.  
Give me eyes of wisdom, to know how to respond  
to the needs of the world.  
Amen.**

## 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*