



## 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

**Presbytery:** 2 Renfrew Square, Castle Vale, Birmingham B35 6JT T: 0121 747 7390

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### Palm Sunday

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*Almighty, ever-living God, who as an example of humanity for the human race to follow caused our Saviour to take flesh and submit to the Cross, graciously grant that we may heed his lesson of patient suffering and so merit a share in his Resurrection.*

#### 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 2nd April**

**Palm Sunday**

**Confession 9.30am**

**Mass 10.00 am with**

**Children's Liturgy for**

**Robert Sloan RIP**

**Monday 3rd April**

**Mass 10.00 am**

**Tuesday 4th April**

**Mass 10.00am**

**Wednesday 5th April**

**Mass 9.00am**

**Maundy Thursday 6th April**

**Mass 7.00pm**

**Good Friday 7th April**

**Service 3.00pm**

**Saturday 8th April**

**Vigil Mass 6.00pm**

**Sunday 9th April**

**Easter Sunday**

**Mass 10.00 am with**

**Children's Liturgy and**

**Baptism**



#### 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.

**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.

**Palm Sunday:** On this day the Church recalls the entrance of Christ the Lord into Jerusalem to accomplish his Paschal Mystery. Accordingly, the memorial of this entrance of the Lord will take place at Mass with a procession into Church. If we could gather outside of church (weather permitting) or alternatively at the back of church and Fr will lead us into church ahead of Mass accompanied by our children waving their palms!



#### Offertory

**26th March 2023**

**GA £ 86.00**

**NGA £78.84**

**Catholic Main £5.00**

**CAFOD £55.00**

**Total Banked £224.84**



**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 on Easter Sunday. 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.

**Parish Youth Group:** Thank you to those that came and cleaned the church yesterday in readiness for our Easter celebrations.

**Sacred Paschal Triduum:** *Since Christ accomplished his work of human redemption and of the perfect glorification of God principally through his Paschal Mystery, in which by dying he has destroyed our death, and by rising restored our life, the Sacred Paschal Triduum of the Passion and Resurrection of the Lord shines forth as the high point of the entire liturgical year. Therefore, the pre-eminence that Sunday has in the week, the Solemnity of Easter has in the liturgical year.*

*The Paschal Triduum of the Passion and Resurrection of the Lord begins with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, has its centre in the Easter Vigil and closes with the Sunday of the Resurrection.*

*On Friday of the Passion of the Lord the sacred Paschal Fast is observed.*

*The Easter Vigil, in the holy night when the Lord rose again, is considered the 'mother of all holy vigils', in which the Church,*



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

I did it!!! ( Well I will have when I do my 40th walk and final 5km today in Roscrea, Tipperary!!) Thank you to all those that encouraged me and supported me financially. I believe I raised about £350 for CAFOD on behalf of our parish and more importantly raised the profile of CAFOD and the wonderful work that they do. If anyone has pledged money and wants to pay then Frank has agreed to collect in my absence. Until next year!!!

**Easter Triduum Readers Request:** Could all readers stay behind after Mass today, if possible, to run through requirements for the Easter Triduum. Thank you.

**Italy 2023—** One week to go. After our Easter celebrations next Sunday, nine of us and Fr will be heading off to Italy on our parish pilgrimage, Please keep us all in your prayers and we will take you all with us in our prayers. If anyone has any special intentions that they would like for us to take with us then please let Fr know.

## 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*