

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.

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: *We look to holding a summer fete again this year to celebrate all that we have achieved as a parish over the past year. A date for an initial meeting will follow 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. 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



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

W: www.stgerardschurch.co.uk



Fifth Sunday of Easter

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Almighty ever-living God, constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us, that those that you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism may, under your protective care, bear much fruit and come to the joys of life eternal.

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 7th May

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00 am with

Children's Liturgy for

William Enright RIP

Monday 8th May

Mass 10.00am for special intentions of Gemma and Michael

Tuesday 9th May

Mass 10.00am

Wednesday 10th May

Mass 10.00am

Thursday 11th May

Mass 10.00am

Friday 12th May

Mass 7.00pm

Saturday 13th May

Mass 5.00pm

Sunday 15th May

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00 am with

Children's Liturgy for

James Whelan RIP



"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. 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.

Based on the gospel for Sunday 7 May Fifth Sunday of Easter: John 14:1-12 "There are many rooms in my Father's house."

There are different possible destinations for the soul after death, and the Bible uses a variety of words to talk about this: Heaven, Hell, Sheol, Paradise, the Abyss and Gehenna. There is also Purgatory. But in this passage Jesus is saying that he is in the Father and the Father is in him. No one comes to the Father but through him. Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. He is offering us redemption and salvation and a place prepared for us after our death if we follow him, put complete trust in him and have faith in him alone. Believing in Christ, the only way, we strive to seek him in the faces of our brothers and sisters whom we encounter every day, particularly people who are poor or who are undergoing any kind of difficulty in life. By showing solidarity with others, we allow Christ to act in and through us, as we seek to follow his way.

Dear Lord, Help us to follow you and have complete faith in you, for you are the Way, the Truth and the Life. Help us to see your face in the people we encounter each day. Amen.

Popes Prayer Intention for May: We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelisation each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.

Altar Flowers

Please consider donating towards remembrance of a loved one.



Offertory

30th April 2023

GA £84.00

NGA £50.46

2nd coll £30.85

Total £165.31



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.

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