

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 may 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.

FINANCE:

APF Red Boxes: *These are due to be collected and counted. Please arrange to bring these into church over the next few weeks. Thankyou.*

Offertory Boxes: *I know a lot of people have kindly moved to standing order for regular giving, but we do have spare offertory boxes for any parishioners that feel able to make regular contributions to our parish, especially when they are unable to always attend weekly Mass. Please see Sue if interested.*

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.



Confirmation : Thursday 25th May 6.00pm.

Please keep in your prayers all the children preparing for their Sacrament of Confirmation this week and First Holy Communion later in the year.

SOCIAL: 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. 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.

Flower arranging/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



Seventh Sunday of Easter

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Graciously hear our supplications, O Lord, so that we, who believe that the Saviour of the human race is with you in glory, may experience, as he promised, until the end of the earth, his abiding presence among us.

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 21st May

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00 am with

Children's Liturgy

Monday 22nd May

Mass 10.00am

Tuesday 23rd May

Mass 10.00am

Wednesday 24th May

Mass 10.00am

Thursday 25th May

Mass 10.00am

Confirmation-Bishop

David Evans

6.00pm

Friday 26th May

Mass 7.00pm

Saturday 27th May

Mass 5.00pm

Sunday 28th May

Solemnity of Pentecost

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00 am with

Children's Liturgy

"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 21st May, Seventh Sunday of Easter:
John 17:1-11**

"Eternal life is this: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."

The Last Supper is the setting for this gospel, and it is one of the most intense prayers Jesus prayed the night before the Crucifixion. Here we are reminded of it again just before Pentecost and informed that our mission is the same as the apostles, to preach the Good News everywhere. It is a lifelong mission. We may not always be conscious of it, and we may fail in carrying it out many times, but God can "write straight with crooked lines". Our goal as Christians is eternal life with and in the Trinity. In his prayer Jesus uses the word "know" frequently. He wants us to know God as God knows us. Jesus asks us to show our belief in him by our words and actions. By loving one another and reaching out to those who are poor and marginalised in any way. The Easter message is that Christ is with us still. So let us go, like the apostles, into our troubled world and share the Good News that Jesus lives and that he loves and knows each one of us intimately through all that we do.

Trusting in God, who has invited us to be the messengers of the Good News, let us go forth with courage and hope in God's name.

Amen.

Altar Flowers

Please consider donating towards remembrance of a loved one.



Offertory

14th May 2023

GA	£141.00
NGA	£96.70
Total	£237.70

Today there will be a second collection for Catholic Communications



Recently died and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Stan Oliver: Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

The sick: Margaret Ludlow, Isabel Hackett, Rose Cogan, Andrew Trueman, Eileen Morrissey, Mary Quilty, Mark Ford, 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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