

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 Officer: Hayley Macilwraith-

sg.stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk

Parish Health and Safety Hayley Macilwraith-

hs.stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Sue Perkins:
stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk

Young Persons Officer: To be appointed :

yth.stgerard.bhm@rcaob.org.uk

Parish Finance and Premises

Committee: Fr, Sue Perkins, Sue Byrne, Therese and Frank.

Pastoral Committee is led by Shirley.

Social Committee: Beaulah, Sarita, Bernie, Rosaline and Sue.



St Gerard's Catholic Primary School

'We Live, Love and Learn Together with Jesus'

Twitter: @StGerardsBham **School website:** www.stgerard.bham.sch.uk

Please keep in your prayers all the children and staff of our school as they begin their summer break. May they enjoy some rest and continue to live out and deepen their faith during this time.

Altar Flowers

Please consider donating towards remembrance of a loved one



We welcome back Nancy and Joyce from their mission trip to Lisbon, Portugal with Pope Francis. I imagine they have lots to say about that. If not done so already please take a moment to ask them about their experience.

We also ask you to keep our youth in your prayers. Many of them have received exam results this last week or are expecting them next week and will be making plans for their futures. May God watch over them and guide them in this next step of their journey.

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:*

Young Persons Officer: We are looking to appoint a new Young Persons Officer. Please see Fr for details.

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. **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/Piety Stall**

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 must 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



Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 20th August 2023 Year A Volume 2 Page 117

O God, who have prepared for those who love you good things which no eye can see, fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you in all things, and above all things, we may attain your promises, which surpass every human desire.

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 20th August

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00 am for Isobel
Hackett RIP with Children's
Liturgy

Monday 21st August

No Mass

Tuesday 22nd August

No Mass

Wednesday 23rd August

Mass 10.00am

Thursday 24th August

Mass 10.00am

Friday 25th August

Mass 10.00am

Saturday 26th August

Mass 5.00pm

Sunday 27th August

Twenty First Sunday of Ordinary Time

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00 am with
Children's Liturgy



Popes intentions for August:

We pray that the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to love and witness the Gospel in their own lives.

This Sunday's Gospel describes the meeting between Jesus and the Canaanite woman. The woman was not Jewish, she was Canaanite. Jesus is there to spend some time with His disciples away from the crowds. A woman approached Him seeking help for her sick daughter: "Have mercy on me, Lord!". It is the cry that is born out of a life marked by suffering, from the sense of the helplessness of a mother who sees her daughter tormented by evil who cannot be healed; she cannot heal her. Jesus initially ignores her, but this mother insists; even when the Master says to the disciples that His mission is directed only to "the lost sheep of the house of Israel" and not to the pagans. She continues to beg Him, and at that point, He puts her to the test, citing a proverb: "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs". And right away, the woman, quick, anguished, responds: "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table". And with these words, that mother shows that she has perceived the goodness of the Most High God present in Jesus who is open to any of His creatures necessities. And this wisdom, filled with trust, touches Jesus's heart and provokes words of admiration: "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish". Great faith is that which brings its own story, marked even by wounds, and brings it to the Lord's feet asking Him to heal them, to give them meaning. Each one of us has our own story and it is not always a clean story. Many times it is a difficult story, with a lot of pain, many misfortunes and many sins. What do I do with my story? Do I hide it? No! We must bring it before the Lord. "Lord, if You will it, you can heal me!" This is what this woman teaches us, this wonderful mother: the courage to bring our own painful story before God, before Jesus, to touch God's tenderness, Jesus's tenderness. Let's try this story, this prayer: let each one of us think of his or her own story. There are always ugly things in a story, always. Let us go to Jesus, knock on Jesus's heart and say to Him: "Lord, if You will it, you can heal me!"

Offertory

30th July 2023

GA £111.00
NGA £57.47
Summer Fete £1383.60

TOTAL £1552.07

Mass Attendance : 72

6th August 2023

GA £78.00
NGA £37.80

TOTAL £115.80

Mass Attendance : 64

13th August 2023

GA £54.00
NGA £25.27
Votive Candles £21.15

TOTAL £100.42

Mass Attendance : 58

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, 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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Thank you for your
continued support