

*"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**

## **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 and Frank.

**Pastoral Committee** is led by Shirley.

**Social Committee:** Beulah, 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 return for the new academic year. We pray that they continue to live out and deepen their faith and look forward to seeing the children back in church preparing for receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion in the coming months.

## **Altar Flowers**

Please consider donating towards remembrance of a loved one



**As a Parish we continue to pray for Vocations. Matthew 9:38 "Pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest". We pray that people may hear God's call and respond generously. We pray for our bishops, priests and deacons, that they may faithfully live out their calling in the service of God and His people. We pray for our own vocations too. Please continue to pray for the Seminarians in St Mary's College, Oscott, in their formation to priesthood. We will be adopting the Diocesan Prayer for Vocations at the beginning of Mass each Sunday. Please pick up a card at the back of Church. We will also be praying the Rosary during the month of October for Vocations. This will be at 7.00pm on a Friday evening. This will start Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October. Please do try to attend and support our Parish prayers.**

## **PARISH ADMINISTRATION:**

**Young Persons Officer:** We are looking to appoint a new Young Persons Officer to organise and run activities for our youth. This includes recruiting and training Altar Servers, encouraging participation in our choir, establishing a youth group and encouraging participation in the many diocesan activities on offer for youth. Could this be you or someone you know? Please see Fr for details.

I think Spring is well and truly over so we could probably do with a post spring clean of our church. If anyone can spare an hour over the coming weeks to come along and do a bit of cleaning it would be very much appreciated. Just call Fr to let him know when and he will arrange for you to gain access. Thank you.



## 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](mailto:stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk)

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

W: [www.stgerardschurch.co.uk](http://www.stgerardschurch.co.uk)



### 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.

### Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### Sunday 24th September 2023 Year A Volume 2 Page 131

*O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbour, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life.*

**Pope's Prayer Intention for October:** We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.

### Mass Times

#### Sunday 24th September

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00 am for Kirsty Ward RIP.

#### Monday 25th September

No Mass

#### Tuesday 26th September

No Mass

#### Wednesday 27th September

No Mass

#### Thursday 28th September

Mass 10.00am

#### Friday 29th September

School Mass 9.00am

#### Saturday 30th September

Mass 5.00pm

#### Sunday 1st October

### Twenty Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00 am for Bernie Kelly RIP



### "The last will be first, and the first, last"

Whether it is football, cricket, tennis, or any other game, it regularly happens that those who are expected to win, lose. We often think we can guess what will happen, but can be surprised by what actually does. Sometimes we even think we can guess what God thinks or says or does.

Today's gospel story can prepare us to be ready for a surprise, and its message that everyone is important, is very clear.

In our world today it seems that the gulf between the rich and the poor grows wider every day. Too many people are not paid a living wage, and those whose lives are being destroyed by poverty and injustice, may not draw much comfort from the idea that one day all will be well. They need to know and experience that we care for them today. As Christians, our lives should be lived showing that we love God and our neighbour, and this needs to be apparent not only in what we say but more importantly in what we do.

### Prayer

May we follow the message of Jesus in showing practical care for anyone in need.

**Amen.**

Today there is a second collection for Fr Hudson's Care. Please use the envelopes provided on your pew and deposit in the collection baskets as you retire from church. Fr Hudson's Care have also provided a leaflet detailing the work of Fr Hudson's Care and how your donations make a real difference. Thank you.

### Offertory

#### 10 September 2023

GA	£80.00
NGA	£48.15
Catholic Ed	£25.47
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£153.62</b>

#### 17 September 2023

GA	£88.00
NGA	£32.79
Catholic Evang	£33.67
Votive Candles	£21.30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£175.76</b>
Mass Attendance	:52

**Thank you for your continued support.**

**Recently died and those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Ann O'Regan: Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.

**The sick:** Christine, 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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