

*"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.



#### **St Gerard's Catholic Primary School**

*'We Live, Love and Learn Together with Jesus'*

**Twitter:** @StGerardsBham **School website:** [www.stgerard.bham.sch.uk](http://www.stgerard.bham.sch.uk)

Please keep in your prayers all the children and staff of our school. We pray that they continue to live out and deepen their faith and look forward to seeing the children in church preparing for receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion in the coming months. We will be welcoming Archbishop Bernard Longley to our Parish on 6<sup>th</sup> December for Confirmation.

**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.**

#### **Who's Who?**

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocesan policies and procedures at all times. Our **Parish Safeguarding Officer** is Hayley Macilwraith who can be contacted on

**[sg.stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk)** or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team on 0121 230 6240 if you have any concerns.

**Childrens Liturgy Leaders and Helpers:** Sue, Grace, Will, Annie, Sarita, Faith and Cynthia

**Altar Server Chaperone:** Hayley Macilwraith.

**Parish Health and Safety** Hayley Macilwraith-

**[hs.stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:hs.stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk)**

**Parish Administrator:** Sue Perkins: **[stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk)**

**Young Persons Officer:** *To be appointed:*

**[yth.stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:yth.stgerard.bham@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

#### **PARISH ADMINISTRATION:**

**Childrens Liturgy Leaders and helpers:** Could all leaders and helpers contact Hayley to confirm their Safeguarding status and provide any refresher information.

**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.



## 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 Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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*May your grace, O Lord, we pray, at all times go before us and follow after and make us always determined to carry out good works.*

Dear Parishioners,

I am looking forward to my holidays in India. I haven't been in India for the last four years. I am leaving on 16<sup>th</sup> October and will be back on 16<sup>th</sup> November. All weekday Masses are cancelled, including Saturday Vigil Mass. Fr Francis Barret will be celebrating Sunday Masses. I am so excited to visit my family and friends.... Please keep me in your prayers.

Fr Matthew Pinakkattu.

#### Mass Times

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October  
Mass 10.00am

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October  
Feast of St Gerard

School Mass in Church 9.00am.  
All parishioners are welcome to  
join this Mass in celebration of  
our Patron Saint.

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October  
Rosary 7.00pm

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October  
Mass 10.00am

No midweek Masses or  
Saturday evening Masses.

We welcome Mr Francis  
Barratt who will be celebrating  
Mass for us here at St Gerard's  
each Sunday at 10.00am whilst  
Fr Matthew is away.

Matthew 22:1-14 ***"The wedding is ready; but those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding."***

This week we hear the parable of the wedding feast. Pope Francis talks about this parable as an "image of the Father's generosity and extravagant love for humanity." It features a king who invites people to a wedding feast. However, when the day of the wedding comes, some invitees decide to prioritise other things instead. This parable challenges me: how often do I make excuses and prioritise my own interests over the needs of others? It can be easy for me to overlook helping a brother or sister in need or to choose not to contribute to a global cause because I feel like I have my own priorities or problems to deal with. But it's important to remember that every little work of generosity counts. In response to people rejecting the king, he sends his servants to invite anyone who passes by, regardless of social status, moral character, race, nationality, or gender to the feast. This highlights that our God invites everyone to his kingdom. We, too, should cultivate a spirit of generosity towards all our brothers and sisters around the world. By being generous of heart, we are more equipped to respond positively and consistently 'yes' to his invitation.

*Loving God, bless us with fortitude and resilience to continue to say 'yes' to you, no matter how important our own priorities seem. We pray that our hearts remain open to embodying your compassion and generosity. May we be a source of comfort and strength for others, just as you are for us. Amen.*

**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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#### Offertory

8<sup>th</sup> October 2023

GA	£96.00
NGA	£29.31
CAFOD	£36.43
PIETY	£31.45
100 club	£150.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£343.19</b>
<b>Mass Attendance :59</b>	