

*My name is Hayley Macilwraith and I am the safeguarding representative for St Gerard's, and I have been in this role for 3 years. Safeguarding is so important to us all and a crucial part of our faith and Christian mission. Today is about recognising and celebrating the important work of safeguarding within our parish and wider communities. My role is to be a point of contact within the parish regarding safeguarding matters. I work with the clergy and group leaders to ensure all things we do in church are safe and ensure everyone has the right checks in place to work with children and adults at risk. If you ever want to discuss anything regarding safeguarding or have any questions about how you can get involved, you can contact me via the details on the newsletter (or see me after Mass). By working together and all being aware that safeguarding is important, and we all have a role to play, we can ensure our churches and communities are a safe and welcome place for all, especially those who have not felt this in the past.*

## 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 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?

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

**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**

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

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

**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:** 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](http://www.stgerard.bham.sch.uk)

Confirmation Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December 7.00pm

## Reflection: Feast of Christ the King, Sunday 26 November

*Christ the King ... Who reigns in my life? St Bernard of Clairvaux realised that there was a battle taking place in his inner self. Who would reign in his heart? In one of his Advent sermons he pondered on what was really going on inside himself...*

*"Greed comes along and claims its throne in me; arrogance would dominate me; pride would be my king. Comfort and pleasure say: We shall reign! Ambition, detraction, envy, and anger struggle within me for mastery and seem to have me entirely in their power... I resist as far as I am able. ... I call on my Lord Jesus; for His sake I defend myself, since I proclaim that I am completely His possession. He is my God ; He alone do I cling to. I proclaim Him as my Lord ; I have no other King than my Lord Jesus Christ. Come, then, O Lord, and disperse these enemies by your power, and you will reign in me, for you yourself are my King and my God..."*

*(St Bernard of Clairvaux, 4th sermon on the "Missus Est")*

*In the preface of today's Mass the alternative Kingdom is described as an eternal and universal kingdom, a kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love and peace .This is what Christ brings! This is his reign! And he calls each of us to share in the building-up of his kingdom, to each take responsibility. Today, especially, we celebrate the kingdom-building call to you who are young. But which do you choose? Are we to be ruled by unruly passions, or by the Lord of love?*

**Come, Lord Jesus, and reign in our hearts. Show us the ways that we may help transform all we see into your eternal kingdom.**

**PARISH ADMINISTRATION:** Hopefully you will notice that the windows of the church have been cleaned inside and outside in readiness for welcoming Archbishop Bernard for Confirmation on 6<sup>th</sup> December. Work has also begun in retiling the area under the Campanile and cutting back the hedges in the Church garden. Thank you to those parishioners that have helped to make this happen. There is always so much to do in maintaining our church so all help is hugely appreciated. 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.

### Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

#### National Youth Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2023 Year A Volume 2 Page 158

Almighty ever-living God, whose will it is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of the universe, grant we pray, that the whole creation, set free from slavery, may render your majesty service and ceaselessly proclaim your praise.

🌟 **Christmas Raffle:** Sarita and Bernie have kindly agreed to organise our Christmas raffle again this year. Any donations of bottles, chocolates, small gifts would be very welcome. Please leave these on the back of church over the next few weeks. Raffle tickets will be sold in the two weeks leading up to Christmas. 🌟

### Mass Times

#### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November

*Confession 9.30am*

*Mass 10.00am for Sweeney  
Family & Campbell Family RIP  
with Children's Liturgy*

#### Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November

*Mass 10.00am for Bricknell  
& Flaherty family RIP*

#### Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November

*Mass 10.00am for Elaine and  
Tommy Flaherty RIP*

#### Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November

*Mass 10.00am for Cath and  
Tom Dunleavy RIP*

#### Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November

*Mass 10.00am for Jim Whelan  
and Mary Bradbury RIP*

#### Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December

*School Mass 9.00am*

#### Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

*Mass 5.00pm for Bill Heekin RIP*

#### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

*Mass 10.00am for deceased  
members of the Runganga  
family with Children's Liturgy*

*Based on the gospel for Sunday 26 November, Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe:  
Matthew 25:31-46*

This feast day, we celebrate a king whose reign was not defined by earthly ambitions supported by powerful armies or the conquest of lands, acquisition of wealth or subjugation of peoples. We celebrate a king who taught us very different values. Who calls us to see his face in the cry of our sisters and brothers who are hungry, thirsty, strangers, lacking clothing, imprisoned; calling us to love them and to respond to their needs.

This week marks the 75th anniversary of the assassination of President JF Kennedy. Shortly before his death he told students in Washington: "let us direct attention to our common interests and to the means by which differences can be resolved. For in the final analysis, our most basic common link is that we inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's future. And we are all mortal." Christ came as king for everyone, his message was not for any particular nation or peoples. He calls on us to respond to the needs of all inhabiting our small planet earth. In a world which seems to be increasingly defined by division, differences, inequalities and injustice among peoples, let us never cease striving to bring about Christ's kingdom, for the benefit and enjoyment of everyone. So that in this life or the next, Christ will look to us and say, "you did not neglect the least of these sisters and brothers of mine. As you did this to one of them, you did it to me."

*Lord Jesus, King of justice and human dignity, you inspire us to hear the cry of our sisters and brothers. May we strive to work for the common good of all, so everyone may share in the gift of your creation, our planet earth. Amen.*

**Please bring Red Boxes to church for counting  
Today there will be a second collection for Catholic Youth  
Service.**

### Offertory

#### 12<sup>th</sup> November 2023

GA	£58.00
NGA	£26.50
Johnson	£2.00
Piety	£65.00
100 Club	£150.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£301.50</b>

#### Mass Attendance :42

#### 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023

GA	£75.00
NGA	£121.08
<b>Total</b>	<b>£196.08</b>

Mass Attendance :89

**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:** David Bacchus, 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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