

"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

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 6th 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.

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 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

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. **Church Deep Clean :** If anyone knows of anyone suitable that would be able to undertake a deep clean of our Church to include carpets and interior windows at higher levels then please could they pass details to Sue. We do have some money to pay for this and would like to get this done before welcoming Archbishop Bernard for Confirmation on 6th December. **Retiling of area under the Campanile:** Again If anyone knows of anyone suitable that would be able to replace the tiles in the rear garden then please could they pass details to Sue.



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



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.

Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 5th November 2023 Year A Volume 2 Page 149

Almighty and merciful God, by whose gift your faithful offer you right and praiseworthy service, grant, we pray, that we may hasten without stumbling to receive the things you have promised.

Reflection: Let us persevere in our prayer for the holy souls.

On All Souls Day, when we honour all of the Faithful Departed for their fidelity to Christ in life, we also pray for them, that they be purified before entering into the all holy presence of God. Our prayer in the cemetery or the church, and our attendance at Holy Mass all testify to the bonds of love that we have forged with those who have gone before us. It is also a witness to the faith and trust that we have in God and his merciful love for all of us, the living and the dead. On this autumn day, our prayerful presence is a beautiful witness of hope that we have in the life eternal which has been won for us by our Lord Jesus Christ.

As we look forward with hope to the day of resurrection, let us persevere in our prayer for the holy souls, remembering especially those who have no-one to pray for them.

Mass Times

Sunday 5th October

Mass 10.00am

Today there is a second collection for the Johnson Association.

Sunday 12th November

Remembrance Sunday

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.

The gospel for the 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A is from Matthew 23:1-12. In this passage, Jesus advises the crowd and his disciples to follow the teachings of the scribes and Pharisees but not their actions, as they are showy and lack genuine help for others. He emphasizes humility and service over titles like "Rabbi" and "Master." Throughout the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus exemplifies compassion and mercy by healing the sick, feeding the hungry, and comforting the marginalized. His ultimate sacrifice on the cross demonstrates his love for all. As Catholics, we find valuable lessons in Jesus' teachings on love, forgiveness, and service. We are called to be compassionate and merciful, mirroring his example.

Jesus, in his time, was a devout Jew who didn't shy away from addressing concerns with religious leaders, much like Malachi did. He emphasized the importance of faithfulness among these leaders, as their actions could influence others. Leaders must set a positive example and maintain a strong connection with God's love.

The readings for the 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, particularly the first reading from Malachi and the Gospel from Matthew, highlight this message. Malachi's admonition for religious leaders to uphold their faith and Matthew's caution against hypocrisy resonate with Jesus' teachings.

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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Offertory

29th October 2023

GA	£101.00
NGA	£29.52
Cath Comm	£5.00
TOTAL	£135.52

Mass Attendance :63