

"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

Mass of Commitment Sunday 19th November 10.00am. 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: 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. **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 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Almighty and merciful God, graciously keep from us all adversity, so that, unhindered in mind and body alike, we may pursue in freedom of heart the things that are yours.

Remembrance Sunday: May we pray for all those who have died in war and conflict. **Reflection:** I can't help wonder why: Do those that lie here know why did they die? And did they believe when they answered the cause, did they really believe that this war would end wars? Well the sorrow, the suffering, the glory, the pain, the killing and dying, were all done in vain. These song lyrics speak of the futility of war and remind us that the age of those who sacrifice their lives in war and conflict is often so young. As we mark Armistice Day this Saturday and Remembrance Sunday this weekend, we acknowledge those who have fulfilled their duty of service for their country. Even as wars continue so close to our present consciousness, we see that the futility of war is all the greater when there is no identifiable cause for the war at all. May we pray for all those who have died in war and conflict and pray for a future where peace and justice succeed over and defeat war and violence.

Mass Times

Sunday 12th October
Remembrance Sunday

Mass 10.00am

Blessing of the Graves-Newhall
Cemetery 2.00pm

Sunday 19th November
School Mass of Commitment

Mass 10.00am

We welcome once again Fr Francis Barratt who has been celebrating Mass for us here at St Gerard's each Sunday at 10.00am whilst Fr Mathew has been away. Fr Mathew will be back on Thursday 16th December. Please join me in thanking Fr Francis for looking after us in Fr Mathews absence.

Based on the gospel for Sunday 12 November, Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time: Matthew 25:1-13: ***"The foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps."*** In this parable, Jesus tells the story of ten bridesmaids who are waiting for the arrival of the bridegroom. When the bridegroom arrives, the wise ones, who had spare oil, are ready to greet him with their lamps lit. While the foolish ones are left in the dark. As practical people, we may side with the wise women in this story. But maybe this is not so simple. The wise women had enough oil to share. Surely, even in times of poor judgement or lack of preparation, human beings should not be left to "suffer the consequences. Social justice seeks inclusivity and the idea that no one should be left behind. In society, this would mean not pointing the finger of blame, but instead ensuring that marginalised and vulnerable people are not excluded and have shared and equal access to resources. This is why CAFOD provides long-term support to equip people with the skills, tools and opportunities to live with dignity, support their families and give back to their communities and why CAFOD campaigns call for the change needed to create a just and equitable society.

Just and loving God, may we be inspired to use our talents and opportunities to the benefit of all. We pray that our hearts remain open to embodying your sense of justice and compassion in the world. Amen.

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.

Mass Intentions: on behalf of a family member, a friend or a deceased loved one, to remember a birthday or anniversary, envelopes are available at the back of church or email Fr Mathew.

Offertory

5th November 2023

GA	£111.00
NGA	£35.98
Johnson Ass	£60.72
TOTAL	£207.70

Mass Attendance :49