

"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.

Altar Servers: With 3 of our long standing Altar Servers having moved on to University we would really welcome back some of our younger servers to serve on Sundays.

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



St Gerard's Catholic Primary School

'We Live, Love and Learn Together with Jesus'

Twitter: @StGerardsBham **School website:** www.stgerard.bham.sch.uk

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.

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 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 19th November 2023 Year A Volume 2 Page 153

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God, the constant gladness of being devoted to you, for it is full and lasting happiness to serve with constancy the author of all that is good.

Thank you all for your prayers. I had a good break and holiday time with my family and friends in India and happy to be back at the parish of St Gerard's. **Fr Mathew**

Today we welcome the children and their families from our school for their Mass of Commitment ahead of their Confirmation on 6th December. 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.

Mass Times

Sunday 19th November

Mass of Commitment 10.00am

Monday 20th November

Mass 10.00am

Tuesday 21st November

Mass 10.00am

Wednesday 22nd November

Mass 10.00am

Thursday 23rd November

Mass 10.00am

Friday 24th November

School Mass 9.00am

Saturday 25th November

No Mass

Sunday 26th November

Mass 10.00am with Children's

Liturgy



This week's Gospel speaks of how Jesus' disciples are to conduct themselves as they await the Kingdom of Heaven. In the preceding passages and in last week's Gospel, Jesus taught that there is no way to predict the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven. His disciples must, therefore, remain vigilant and ready to receive the Son of Man at any time. Jesus' parable talks about Christian discipleship. Before he leaves on a journey, the master entrusts to his servants a different number of talents, giving to each according to their abilities. A talent is a coin of great value. Upon the master's return, he finds that the first and second servants have doubled their money, and both are rewarded. The third servant, however, has only preserved what was given to him because he was afraid to lose the money. He has risked nothing; he did not even deposit the money in a bank to earn interest. This servant is punished by the master, and his talent is given to the one who brought the greatest return.

Read in light of last week's parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids, this parable teaches that God's judgment will be based on the service we render to God and to one another in accordance with the gifts that God has given to us. Our gifts, or talents, are given to us for the service of others. If we fail to use these gifts, God's judgment on us will be severe. If we make use of these gifts in service to the Kingdom of Heaven, we will be rewarded and entrusted with even more responsibilities.

This Gospel reminds us that Christian spirituality is not inactive. Our life of prayer helps us to discern the gifts that have been given to us by God. This prayer and discernment ought to lead us to use our gifts in the service of God and our neighbour. God's grace allows us to share in the work of serving the Kingdom of Heaven.

Christmas Raffle: Request for any donations of raffle prizes; bottles, chocolates, small gifts. Tickets will be available shortly.

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

12th November 2023

To Be Advised

Mass Attendance :58