

### **Confirmation at St Gerard's Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 7.00pm**

*This coming Wednesday evening we welcome Archbishop Bernard Longley to St Gerard's parish to preside over the Confirmation service and Mass. We are delighted that Archbishop Bernard has expressed an interest in visiting us as in his words "it has been a long time since I visited you all here at St Gerard's". The children and teachers have been preparing hard for this very special occasion and are very much looking forward to this special celebration. On behalf of our parish I would firstly like to thank all those parishioners that have helped prepare our church for this coming week but also encourage all parishioners along to celebrate with the children and to chat with the Archbishop about how wonderful our parish community is and the wonderful work that we are doing to ensure the viability of our parish for a long time to come. Please if you are able come along for what will be a very special Mass.*

#### **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 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



#### **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: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent: "Be on guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come." (Mark 13:33)**

*Today we begin a new Church year and turn to Mark's gospel. Mark is writing for the early Christian community in Rome, at a time when Roman imperial forces have destroyed the Jewish temple. Jesus's followers are facing violent persecution and it is surely hard for them to hold onto hope. Amid this suffering, Jesus assures them that the "master of the house" will return. The Son of Man will come in power and glory to set all wrongs right. He warns them – and us – not to be found complacent and sleeping when this time comes, but to "stay awake". The people of Afghanistan have endured decades of conflict, political turmoil and poverty. Further devastation has been caused by recent earthquakes. The situation, especially for women and girls, has become even more critical since the Taliban takeover in 2021. Two thirds of the population require urgent humanitarian assistance, including 15 million children. Yet somehow, people still hold on to hope. A trusted local expert who works with women and girls in Afghanistan tells us: "It has been a difficult and painful year for us all as Afghans. But it has not stopped us from surviving every day and fighting for the spark of light in the darkest days." As we enter this season of Advent, may we stay awake, not losing hope in the face of seemingly impossible challenges, but taking action together. By treasuring each other and our common home, may we stand ready at the door for the hour of our Master's return.*

*Prayer: Eternal God, you will come when we do not expect you. Help us to welcome you now in one another, to reach out to our sisters and brothers in loving care and support. In this way may we be found ready, when you come again in glory. Amen*

**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.

### First Sunday of Advent Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023 Year B Volume 1 Page 82

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.

🌟 **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 3<sup>rd</sup> December

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

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00am for deceased

Runganga family with

Children's Liturgy

##### Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December

Mass 10.00am

##### Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December

Mass 10.00am

##### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December

Confirmation Mass 7.00pm

presided by Archbishop

Bernard Longley

##### Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December

Mass 10.00am

##### Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December

School Mass 9.30am

##### Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December

No Mass

##### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00am with Children's

Liturgy

#### Advent:

##### About the Season

Advent has a twofold character, for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight.

##### About the Readings

Each Gospel reading has a distinctive theme: the Lord's coming at the end of time (First Sunday of Advent), John the Baptist (Second and Third Sunday), and the events that prepared immediately for the Lord's birth (Fourth Sunday).

The Old Testament readings are prophecies about the Messiah and the Messianic age, especially from the Isaiah.

The readings from an apostle serve as exhortations and as proclamations, in keeping with the different themes of Advent

**Please bring Red Boxes to church for counting**

**Raffle prizes required! Bottles, chocolates, small gifts.....**

**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

##### 26th November 2023

GA £114.00

NGA £57.97

Cath Youth £35.22

Piety £34.00

Votives £54.81

**Total £296.00**

**Mass Attendance :78**