

PASTORAL: Committee is led by Shirley.

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.



St Gerard's Catholic Primary School

'We Live, Love and Learn Together with Jesus'

Twitter: @StGerardsBham **School website:**

www.stgerard.bham.sch.uk

Visit from Archbishop Bernard Longley: A wonderful evening was had on Wednesday as we welcomed Archbishop Bernard Longley to our parish to celebrate Confirmation for 24 children from our school. Thankyou to all the children, their families, teachers and parishioners for their preparation and making this such a memorable occasion.

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

HEALTH AND SAFETY: Parish Health and Safety Hayley Macilwraith-hs.stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk

YOUTH: Young Persons Officer: *To be appointed:* yth.stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk **Children's Liturgy Leaders and Helpers:** Sue, Grace, Will, Annie, Sarita, Faith and Cynthia. **Altar Server Chaperone:** Hayley Macilwraith.

FINANCE/PREMISES: Parish Finance and Premises Committee: Fr, Sue Perkins, Sue Byrne and Frank.

SAFEGUARDING: 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.

SOCIAL: Committee: Beulah, Sarita, Bernie, Rosaline and Sue



Reflection: 2nd Sunday of Advent:

It would be a tragedy to allow the beauty of the change of seasons to pass us by because of distraction or indifference. It would be even more tragic to allow the season of Advent pass us by this year without striving to "change" within so as to become more like John the Baptist and point to the goodness of God, a God who continues to make a difference and walk with us in the most appalling of times - as the popular poem has it, there are times when we need to be carried. Just as you are carried and loved by God, you too can carry and love others to the full this week: *One night I had a dream...I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord, and across the sky flashed scenes from my life. For each scene I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; One belonged to me, and the other to the Lord. When the last scene of my life flashed before us, I looked back at the footprints in the sand. I noticed that many times along the path of my life, there was only one set of footprints. I also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in my life. This really bothered me, and I questioned the Lord about it. "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, You would walk with me all the way, but I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why in times when I needed you the most, you should leave me. The Lord replied, "My precious, precious child. I love you, and I would never, never leave you during your times of trial and suffering. When you saw only one set of footprints, It was then that I carried you!*

RIP David Bacchus.

As we pray for the eternal rest of David, our most beloved brother, husband to Roseline, father to Nancy, son and brother and friend to many, may we all find comfort in knowing that we do not walk this journey alone. Let us pray that the Lord comforts us, strengthens us and carries us through this time of sadness. We thank God for David and his wonderful life that touched so many of us. We keep Roseline and Nancy in our prayers and ask God to watch over them. RIP David. You will always be remembered in your beloved St Gerard's parish.



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.

Second Sunday of Advent Sunday 10th December 2023 Year B Volume 1 Page 85

Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company.

🌟 **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 10th December 2nd Sunday of Advent

Confession 9.30am

*Mass 10.00am for David
Bacchus RIP with Children's
Liturgy*

Monday 11th December

Mass 10.00am

Tuesday 12th December

*School Carol Concert 9.00am
Mass 10.00am*

Wednesday 13th December

Mass 10.00am

Thursday 14th December

Mass 10.00am

Friday 15th December

Mass 10.00am

Saturday 16th December

Mass 5.00pm

Sunday 17th December

3rd Sunday of Advent

Confession 9.30am

*Mass 10.00am with Children's
Liturgy*

Advent is a time of preparation and joyful expectation. As we prepare for the birth of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, these weeks provide a wonderful opportunity to slow down and reflect.

We look forward to the coming of Christ: celebrating His birth, His renewed coming into our lives this Christmas, especially through the Eucharist, and His second coming at the end of time. Advent marks the start of the Church's liturgical year.

Advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning 'arrival' or 'coming'. Each Gospel reading during Advent 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).

In today's gospel we find the unique example of that radically transformed heart to Christ Jesus in John the Baptist. He is the role model for all those who call themselves Christian. We, like John, are also called to go forth and "announce" the coming of Christ. Like John we too are called to "proclaim" the Good News by our lives; to encourage our sisters and brothers to "prepare the way of the Lord!" The changes within the heart of John the Baptist enabled him to decrease while Christ within him increased. John "cries out" for us to "prepare" for the birth of Christ. He appeals for change - change within! Whatever that might mean for each and every one of us, we must strive to make those changes in our personal lives that will make us more pleasing to our loving God and Father. John the Baptist is a living sign of the transforming grace of God. Advent is that season that invites us to change. The Covid pandemic had change forced upon us in the most cruel way, especially for those of us who have lost loved ones to the virus. The innocent victims of hatred in Ukraine, Gaza and Israel over these past ten months and, hopefully, the transformation of Advent will help us to move forward. It cannot be stated enough and today you are reminded that there are changes for good that only YOU can make - don't wait for someone else to make the difference.

Recently died and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: **David Bacchus:** Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

The sick: 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

3rd December 2023

GA	£
NGA	£
Piety	£
Votives	£ Total
£ Mass Attendance	
:69	