

**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](http://www.stgerard.bham.sch.uk)

**Readers Rota:** Thankyou to both our current readers and those new readers that have offered their service to our parish. A new rota covering January to June 2024 is available on the notice board at the back of church.

**PARISH ADMINISTRATION:** Parish Administrator: Sue Perkins: [stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk)

**HEALTH AND SAFETY:** Parish Health and Safety Hayley Macilwraith-[hs.stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:hs.stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk)

**YOUTH:** Young Persons Officer: *To be appointed:* [yth.stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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

#### **Christmas Carols and Vigil Mass- this evening 6.30pm**

*We look forward to seeing as many parishioners, school children and families at our Carol Service this evening. Carols will be led by Nancy and Roseline and our wonderful choir. We thank them all in advance for what we know will be a beautiful evening and also for their service throughout the whole year. We thank all the readers that will be playing their part both during the carol service, the Vigil Mass and Christmas Day Mass as well as their service throughout the year. We talk so much about the Word of God, and at this time of year the Word made flesh, so the service you give week in week out is so vital to our parish.*

*May we all make the most of these last few hours. The waiting is nearly over. Are we ready? Have we prepared? In advance of our Christmas celebrations Fr Mathew would like to wish all his parishioners a very Happy and Holy Christmas and every good wish for 2024.*

**Christmas Raffle-** The Christmas draw will take place after Mass today- Thank you to everyone who bought tickets/donated prizes etc. A big thankyou to Sarita and Bernie who organise this wonderful annual raffle. It is very much appreciated.

#### **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](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.

### Fourth Sunday of Advent Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2023 Year B Volume 1 Page 90

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.



#### Mass Times

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

*Confession 9.30am*

*Mass 10.00am for Jim Sargeant*

*RIP*

**Carols and Christmas Vigil**

*6.30pm*

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

**Christmas Day**

*Mass 10.00am*

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> December**

**Feast of St Stephen**

*Mass 10.00am*

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December**

*Mass 10.00am*

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> December**

*Mass 10.00am*

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> December**

*Mass 10.00am*

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December**

*Mass 5.00pm*

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December**

**Feast of Holy Family**

*Confession 9.30am*

*Mass 10.00am*

#### Reflection: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Fr Michael Glover, currently studying in Rome, is sharing reflections for Advent.

#### Mary Holds the Word

We are a day away from the Solemnity of Christmas, the image of the pregnant Mary is most applicable now as the time draws near for her to give birth to her Son.

Very soon Mary will see the Word made flesh. Birth is the end of pregnancy but Mary's relationship with the Word, her Son Jesus Christ, does not end.

Mary will hold him cradled in her arms. As the boy grows, she will hold him close. When she finds him in the Temple, she will hold him in relief. As he begins his ministry, she holds him in her heart. At his Passion and Death, Mary will take his lifeless body and hold him.

Through her life Mary holds on to the Word made flesh. As the season of Advent concludes and we begin the season of Christmas celebrating the Word made flesh, will you hold on to the Word? Will you hold on to Jesus as he grows in your life? Will you hold on to him as he reveals himself to you and teaches you? Will you hold on to him as he suffers with you?

Mary holds the Word; may her prayers help us to hold Jesus in our lives with love, with devotion and with adoration.

**Childrens Liturgy:** A new rota for 2024 is on the noticeboard at the back of church. Could existing liturgy helpers please fill in dates that they are available to lead. If there are any new parishioners that may be interested in helping run children's liturgy please see Sue.

#### Offertory

##### 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 2023-Attendance 68

GA	£111.00
NGA	£43.19
Walk with Me	£7.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£161.19</b>

##### 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 2023-Attendance 67

GA	£98.00
NGA	£100.17
Poor Parishes	£34.11
<b>Total</b>	<b>£222.28</b>

##### 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 2023-Attendance 58

GA	£173.50
NGA	£23.36
Piety	£10.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£206.86</b>

#### 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.

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