

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

Pilgrimage to Walsingham Saturday 6th April to Monday 8th April: The Birmingham and Wolverhampton Association is organising a pilgrimage to Walsingham this year from Saturday 6th April until Monday 8th April. The cost is £299pp for en-suite and £261pp for budget accommodation. This includes coach travel from various pick-up points across Birmingham and Wolverhampton. For more details and bookings contact Charles Keily before Friday 19th January on 07710 189036.

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

HEALTH AND SAFETY: Hayley Macilwraith-hs.stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk.

YOUTH: To be appointed: yth.stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk.

Children's Liturgy Leaders and Helpers: Sue, Grace, Will, Annie, Sarita, Faith and Cynthia.

FINANCE/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.

Altar Server Chaperone: Hayley Macilwraith

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

2024-Year of Prayer: *"May it be an intense year of prayer in which hearts are opened to receive the outpouring of God's grace"*
Pope Francis.

Thank you to all those that attended our first prayer evening on Friday. We hope that you enjoyed the evening and found it to be nourishing in some way and are looking forward to our next session. We are working to promote initiatives to remind people of the centrality of both individual prayer and community prayer, guiding us in different types of prayer, individual time for prayer and sharing in groups and to experience the riches of prayer. Prayer group every Friday evening 7.00-8.00. Please come along and make this a wonderful community gathering here at St Gerard's. Print outs of what we covered on Friday are at the back of church. Please take one and have a look and consider whether you would like to join us this Friday 7.00pm.

"Jesus turned round, saw them following him, and said: What do you want?" If Jesus asked us today "What do you want?" I wonder how we might reply. We might say "I want something to strengthen my hope for peace now and in the future, for all children." There are so many sad and dangerous events happening around our world. CAFOD reports on them regularly and tells us how help and hope is being given. Encouraging as these reports are, many of us might be thinking, like John Laurie in "Dad's Army" we're all doomed! Colin Parkes wrote: "Goodness is not gone from the world because one good person has died. Meaning has not gone from life, because one who meant so much is no longer present. The loss of one trusted person need not undermine trust in all of those who remain." Even so, holding on to hope is not an easy thing to do, but if we believe in the message of Jesus, we have to do it.

Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, may your light shine for all the nations, to follow the path to reconciliation and peace. May all people live together in freedom and without fear, walking side by side on the road to Bethlehem and throughout the Holy Land. Amen.

Funeral Details: Reception of the body of the late Timothy Joseph Miller into St Gerard's Church on Wednesday 17th January at 6.30pm. Funeral Mass of Timothy Joseph Miller Thursday 18th January 1.00pm followed by the committal at Sutton Coldfield Crematorium at 2.30pm.

As we pray for the eternal rest of Timmy, husband and father, 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 Timmy and his wonderful life and keep his family in our prayers and ask God to watch over them.



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.

Sunday 14th January 2024 Year B Volume 1 Page

Almighty ever-living God, who govern all things, both in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the pleading of your people and bestow your peace on our times.

Mass Times

Sunday 14th January

Second Sunday in

Ordinary Time

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00am with

Childrens Liturgy and

First Holy Communion of

Adrian Uwadia and

Imade Rawlings

Monday 15th January

Mass 10.00am

Tuesday 16th January

Mass 10.00am

Wednesday 17th January

Mass 10.00am

*6.30pm Reception of
body of the late Timothy*

Joseph Miller

Thursday 18th January

Funeral Mass of Timothy

Jospeh Miller 1.00pm

Friday 19th January

School Mass 9.00am

Prayer Group 7.00pm

Saturday 20th January

Mass 5.00pm

Sunday 21st January

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00am

Today's Gospel gives an account of the vocation of the first four Apostles who followed Jesus. It was a momentous event in the history of salvation, the beginning of a stream of vocations that would grow and spread down through the ages. It was momentous in that Christ, who had come to open heaven for all men and who could find means of bringing them all to that eternal home without help from any man, decided instead to let men co-operate with him in this divine task. He decreed to set up a kingdom in this world which would be run by mere mortals for their fellow-mortals, under his protection and assisted by his divine aid until the end of time.

Christ, as God, could deal directly with every human being on earth. He could teach the infallible truth; he could pardon sins; he could give all the graces needed to travel successfully to heaven. There would then be no need for a Church with its teaching, no need for the sacrament of Baptism, or of Penance, nor of the Holy Eucharist itself. Christ could do all that his Church does for the salvation of mankind, and more successfully, of course, but yet he chose the way which divine wisdom saw was best. We know that God can do directly all that is done by his Church, to whom he gave the power, but if he were to act in this way, we should be open to continuous doubts about the source of our inspirations and the objectivity of the graces we thought we were receiving. It was to remove such doubts that Christ left to us the external visible kingdom to which he gave all the powers necessary for men's salvation. It was for the security and peace of men's consciences that he set up a visible Church founded on the Apostles but transformed by his assisting grace. Another fact in Christ's choice of the Apostles is that he "chose the lowly and the humble to confound the wise." The Apostles were simple, lowly fishermen from Galilee. They may possibly have been able to read and write a little, but they were certainly not men of education or any social standing in their communities. He could have converted and chosen some of the more highly educated scribes of Jerusalem, or some of the Roman centurions then in Palestine, or some of the many philosophers in Greece, or even Roman senators whose influence as Christian teachers would carry such weight with the educated elite of the empire. But he did not. Had his message of salvation been spread and promulgated by men of learning and social standing, the cry would soon go up on all sides: "This religion is the invention of philosophers; it is a clever plan of the upper classes to keep the poor and humble workers in subjection." But it was the poor and working classes who spread Christ's message, and who suffered imprisonment and death itself at the hands of the educated and upper classes for so doing. Today, let us thank our blessed Lord who provided so humanly for our eternal welfare. In the Church, which he founded on the lowly but solid foundation of simple fishermen of Galilee, he erected an institution against which the gates of hell, the power of all the enemies of our salvation, cannot prevail, for his divine guidance and help will be with it forever. It has had enemies and opposition from the beginning; they may be more numerous and more destructive than ever today. But the promise of Christ still holds good, his word cannot fail.

"If God is with us," it matters not "who is against us."

Recently died and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Timmy Miller: Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. 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

7th January 2024

GA £46.00

NGA £29.53

Total £75.53

Attendance: 54

Thank you all for your generosity.