

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.

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 SERVERS CHAPERONE LEAD: Hayley Macilwraith

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

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.

"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. 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.

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 7.00.

Each May half Term, the **Archdiocese of Birmingham organises a pilgrimage to Lourdes**, in France, for a week of prayer and service at the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes. If you are interested in going to Lourdes on Pilgrimage, but need assistance with personal care, medication, or mobility then we encourage you to apply to the Pilgrimage as an Assisted Pilgrim. Should you be successful, you will be accepted into 'The Accueil' (meaning welcome) which is a purpose-built facility within the Domain itself and will have access to support from carers, nurses, doctors and physiotherapists whose purpose it is to help you for your Pilgrimage week. It is important to note that you will be expected to pay for yourself to attend, though there are funding streams you can apply to for assistance. If you are interested in this, please contact the pilgrimage office on Tel: 0121 230 6288. We are also advertising for carers, nurses and doctors to volunteer for the week in Lourdes to help assist those who need help throughout their Pilgrimage. You will work as part of a supported team of other healthcare professionals of varying experience and will have free time to enjoy your own Pilgrimage also. Would you be willing to give up a week of your time to assist sick pilgrims in Lourdes? If so, please email Kathryn, our Chief Nurse, on chiefnurse.lourdes@rcaob.org.uk or visit the Diocesan website for more information.



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.

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time 21st January 2024 Year B Volume 1 Page 129

Almighty ever- living God, direct our actions according to your good pleasure, that in the name of your beloved Son we may abound in good works.

Mass Times

Sunday 21st January

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Confession 9.30am

*Mass 10.00am with Childrens Liturgy
for Timmy Miller RIP*

Monday 22nd January

Mass 10.00am FOR David Bacchus RIP

Tuesday 23rd January

Mass 10.00am for Ann Doyle RIP

Wednesday 24th January

Mass 10.00am FOR John Palmer RIP

Thursday 25th January

Mass 10.00am

Friday 26th January

School Mass 9.00am

Prayer Group 7.00pm

Saturday 27th January

Mass 5.00pm

Sunday 28th January

Confession 9.30am

*Mass 10.00am for Timmy Miller and
Sheila Walker RIP*

Based on the gospel for Sunday 21 January, Third Sunday in Ordinary Time: Mark 1:14-20

"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."

In today's Gospel, Jesus invites us to come and follow him. He asks us to leave behind all of our material possessions and earthly desires to love and serve him.

Reading this passage, I thought about how many times my parents have called for me while I sat scrolling on my phone. I thought about how many times I've ignored their calls or asked to delay their requests. How often do I ignore or delay when it comes to answering God's call?

Jesus asks us to surrender everything we have to grow in friendship with him. This message uniquely resonates with today's materialistic culture. Too often we forget that this world is temporary and that we are called to eternal life in Heaven. We've grown attached to the distractions of this world and forgotten the blessings that await us.

Imitating the disciples, let us joyfully respond to God's call and grow in communion with him. As we follow him, we are asked to love our neighbour, to treat others as we would wish to be treated and to stand up for justice in our world. One way we can do this is by supporting CAFOD's work, helping those in most need around the world.

Lord God, help me to desire you. Help me to hear your voice and choose to follow you. I ask for the courage to live for you and not for this world. Amen.

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.

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: 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

14th January 2024

GA	£84.30
NGA	£28.21
Votives	£83.19
100 Club	£150.00
Bonus Ball	£ 95.00
Total	£440.70
Attendance:	64
Thank you all for your generosity.	