

**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](mailto:stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk).

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

**YOUTH:** 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.

**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](mailto: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

**Easter Raffle:** Sarita and Bernie will be organising a raffle again this Easter. Any donations of Easter gifts/chocolates would be appreciated and can be left at the back of church. Thank you for your support.

**Spring into Spring- Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April 11.00am-3.00pm**

Upcycle have organised a fun filled family day to be held here at St Gerards church, church garden and centre. Please pick up a flyer at the back of church and gather up family and friends to come along for what will be a great day in celebration of Upcycles 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary supporting the Castle Vale community.



**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)

Today is the Day of Prayer for the Candidates for the Sacraments. Please keep in your prayers our children preparing for First Holy Communion as well as those who recently received their Confirmation. May the Holy Spirit be with them.

### **Preparing our hearts, minds and spirits for the journey of salvation. A Time of Preparation ... Lent**

In the Eucharistic Prayer, each time we attend Mass, Christ's Last Supper, Passion, Death and Resurrection are made present to us. It is these same events that we grow towards in our Lenten journey each year. It is for these events that we are now preparing anew. The priest who celebrates Mass gives us three simple, yet profound sets of words, to prepare our hearts, minds and spirits for the journey of salvation which we take with Christ in the Eucharistic Prayer. These are worthy of reflection for our Lenten journey too:

**"The Lord be with you"** All the spiritual disciplines of Lent, fasting, almsgiving and prayer, should chip away at our self-reliance. In so doing they enable more aspects of my life to be bathed in the presence of Christ. May Christ be with us and fill us more deeply this Lent.

**"Lift up your hearts"** An early Christian writer on prayer, St Cyprian, reminds us that, when we pray, God is not listening to our words, but rather to the cry of our hearts. In this, our time of preparing, good words are never enough. Preparing with holy thoughts is never enough. Preparing with pious actions is never enough. The heart, as centre of my power to love, needs to arise and, of all human faculties, the loving heart needs to be pre-eminent.

**"Let us give thanks to the Lord, Our God"** The self-giving love of Christ, the redeeming power of his passion, death and resurrection, and the freedom from all evil brought about by the salvific victory of the risen Christ, are the central events of love. They shine through and beyond all time and space. In our very desire to continually express our thanks to God for these events, lies the beauty of our recognising the magnitude of the gift and our treasured acceptance of it.

**Fr Robert Taylerson, Spiritual Director at St Mary's College, Oscott**



## 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)



### Second Sunday of Lent

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O God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory.

### 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.

### Mass Times

#### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February

##### First Sunday of Lent

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00am with Childrens

Liturgy for Doeren Mooney

and Ivy Davies RIP

#### Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February

Mass 10.00am

#### Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February

Mass 10.00am

#### Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February

Mass 10.00am

#### Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February

Mass 10.00am

#### Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March

School Mass 9.00am

Stations of the Cross 7.00pm

#### Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

Mass 5.00pm

#### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

##### Third Sunday of Lent

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00am with Childrens

Liturgy



Based on the gospel for Sunday 25 February, Second Sunday of Lent: Mark 9:2-10

***"This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him."***

Jesus goes to the mountain with Peter, James and John, and a wonderful change comes over him. The disciples are able to see him in all his glory as the Son of God. There are times in all our lives, when we might fail to see what is right in front of us. A helping hand, or a word of explanation, a new way of looking at something can open our eyes to see what was there all along. At sea, it can be difficult to navigate and find fish to catch. Before he received training and a GPS tracker, fisherman James, in Liberia, had to try and line up his boat with points on the land to remember where the good fishing grounds were.

It was often hard to catch enough to feed his family, as James' partner Cynthia explains, "Sometimes there wasn't any food at all to eat. Sometimes we hoped that if there was no food in the morning, we would get food in the evening. But when the evening comes, there is no food." Now that he has the fish finder, James is able to navigate with ease. The fish that were there all along, are much simpler to find, so he brings home a larger catch.

Let us pray today, that our eyes may be opened to the glory of God all around us, in places where we may not have perceived it before. And let us "listen to him", holding God's word in our hearts, by loving our neighbours and supporting them wherever they are in the world.

**Prayer:** Loving God, help us to listen to you and to live out your word in our lives. Open our eyes to situations where we can make a difference and grant us the courage to take action to support one another. **Amen.**

### CAFOD's Family Fast Day.

Today there is a second collection for CAFOD's Family Fast Day. Envelopes are available at the back of church to make your offerings. These can be brought back next week. Funds collected is helping families like James the fisherman in Liberia and in many other countries, with resources so they can feed their families for good. Thank you and please continue to pray for CAFOD's work with our sisters and brothers around the world.

**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:** Kath McMullen, Margaret Ludlow, Rose Cogan, Andrew Trueman, Eileen Morrissey, Frances Irwin, George Irwin, Debbie Johnson and all the sick priests of the diocese. May the Lord grant them the healing they require.

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### Offertory

#### 18<sup>th</sup> February 2024

GA	£73.00
NGA	£46.36
100 club	£150.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 269.36</b>

**Attendance: 49**