

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

Year 3 Commitment Mass Sunday 21st April 10.00am

First Confession for Year 3: Wednesday 1st May 9.00am

Year 3 confession Wednesday 12th June in school

First Holy Communion: Saturday 15th June 10.00am.

Great news! 100 schools nationwide have now achieved the Live Simply Award. A third of which are schools in the Archdiocese of Birmingham and one of which is our very own St Gerard's school!!!! The Live Simply award recognises schools and parishes that pledge to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the world's poorest communities. Congratulations

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 6th 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 10th anniversary supporting the Castle Vale community.

Fifth Lent Reflection on Prayer - Stations of the Cross

One of the beautiful Lenten disciplines we undertake is praying the Stations of the Cross. St Francis of Assisi, at the time when pilgrims were unable to go to the Holy Land because of the Crusades, was the first person we know of to encourage a prayer procession using a sequence of scenes from the passion and death of Christ. Through the following centuries, a range of sets of 'stations' were used throughout the Church. In the 18th century St Alphonsus of Liguori composed a set of reflections and prayers based on a set of 14 stations. Partly through the popularity of St Alphonsus' 'Way of the Cross', this set of 14 stations now adorns many Catholic churches, and his prayers and reflections are still popular today.

In St Alphonsus's prayers, at each station, we pray: **"I love you Jesus, my love above all things. I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always and then do with me what you will."**

It is one of my favourite prayers throughout the year, but especially in Lent. There is so much in it that I find it difficult to focus my heart on all the phrases at once. This year I find myself drawn most often to the phrase, "Never permit me to separate myself from you again." Read through the prayer slowly and ask yourself, "Which phrase do I find myself most drawn to?"

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

Presbytery: 2 Renfrew Square, Castle Vale, Birmingham B35 6JT **T:** 0121 747 7390

W: www.stgerardschurch.co.uk



Fifth Sunday of Lent

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St Patrick Day

O God, You deigned to send Blessed Patrick, Your Confessor and Bishop, to preach Your glory to the Gentiles; grant by his merits and intercession, that those things which You command us to do, we may be enabled to accomplish by Your mercy. Through our Lord Jesus Christ. Your Son. Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit. world without end. **Amen.**

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 17th March Fifth Sunday of Lent

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00am with Childrens

Liturgy for Jack George RIP

Monday 18th March

Mass 10.00am for Agatha

Maher

Tuesday 19th March

Feast of St Joseph

Mass 10.00am

Wednesday 20th March

Mass 9.00am

Thursday 21st March

Mass 10.00am

Friday 22nd March

School Mass 9.0 0am

Stations of the Cross 7.00pm

Saturday 23rd March

Mass 5.00pm

Sunday 24th March

Palm Sunday

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00am with Childrens

Liturgy



Based on the gospel for Sunday 17 March, Fifth Sunday of Lent: John 12: 20-30

"Unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest." Jesus knows that the hour is coming for him to be glorified. Reflecting on this reading, Brother Myers, a pastor in Liberia, shared these thoughts:

"Jesus was talking about his death. He was trying to say that if the Son of Man doesn't go to the cross, salvation won't take place. Deliverance won't take place. Before the wheat germinates, it needs to die. Jesus says he has come to die, he will be resurrected, the gospel will spread.... He was talking about himself when he was talking about the wheat.

"The seed must die to bear fruit. Healing will come. He must die to be resurrected. Go to the cross, redeem your life." In today's reading, Jesus is clear that he cannot turn away from what lies ahead. Let us, then, not turn away from the difficult things that lie in our future, or that we can see in the world around us at this time. Instead, we trust that God is with us as we face them, and as we walk alongside one another seeking a future of peace and justice for all.

Prayer

God of sacrifices, help us to follow you and to serve you. Lead us to new life with you and work through us so that we may better reflect our kingdom of peace here on earth. Amen.

Offertory Collection Boxes: Available for collection at the back of church. If any parishioners would like to take a box to provide for their weekly offerings then please see Sue.

Easter Services 2024

Palm Sunday Mass: Sunday 24th March: 10.00am

Maundy Thursday Mass: Thursday 28th March: 7.00pm

Good Friday service: Friday 29th March: 3.00pm

Easter Vigil Mass: Saturday 30th March: 6.00pm

Easter Sunday Mass: Sunday 31st March: 10.00am

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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