

**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

#### 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)

Lent Confession in School: Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March

Year 3 Commitment Mass Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April 10.00am

First Confession for Year 3: Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 9.00am

Year 3 confession Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June in school

First Holy Communion: Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> 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 worlds 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.

#### Fourth 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](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)



**Fourth Sunday of Lent  
Mothering Sunday**



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**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 10<sup>th</sup> March**  
**Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
**Mothering Sunday**

*Confession 9.30am*  
*Mass 10.00am with Childrens*  
*Liturgy*

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March**

*Mass 10.00am*

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March**

*Mass 10.00am*

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March**

*Mass 10.00am*

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March**

*Mass 10.00am*

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March**

*School Mass 9.0 0am*

*Stations of the Cross 7.00pm*

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March**

*Mass 5.00pm*

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March**

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

*Confession 9.30am*  
*Mass 10.00am with Childrens*  
*Liturgy*



**Based on the gospel for Sunday 10 March, Fourth Sunday of Lent: John 3:14-21 "God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son."**

This Sunday is Mothering Sunday. As we give thanks for and celebrate those who have cared for us, we are also reminded of God's great love for us. We are all God's children. As Saint Paul says so beautifully, "We are God's work of art" (Ephesians 2:10). God loves us so much, that he gives his only Son, that we might have eternal life. Parents throughout the world are doing their best to give their children the opportunities they need for the future. Cynthia in Liberia sells fish that her partner James catches. But there was a time when James was not catching enough fish to feed the family or to sell. Things were very difficult, as Cynthia explains: "I was determined not to let my son go hungry. I couldn't bear it, so I asked to borrow food. I took out loans... I asked him to trust us. It will get better. There were days when we didn't eat anything. I felt terrible. But we had to keep going."

During this time Cynthia watched others braiding hair and learned to do it herself so that she could earn some money. Things are easier for James and Cynthia now. James has a GPS fish finder which helps him find the best fishing spots and make his way home safely with an even bigger catch. Cynthia is able to sell this for a profit. Eventually, when she has saved enough, she wants to open her own beautician business. "I feel very proud of what we've achieved. I look at the past and see how far we have come. We have got over so many difficult challenges from before. We have overcome so much together."

**Prayer:** God our Father, grant that all your children may know what it is to feel loved and cherished. We give thanks for mothers throughout the world who give everything for their children despite the challenges they face. **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.

**Youth Officer:** We are still looking for a willing volunteer to run our youth offerings here at St Gerard's. Please see Fr if you feel this is something you might be interested in.

**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.

**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**

**3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024**

GA	£63.00
NGA	£84.53
CAFOD	£5.00
Cathedral Maint	£24.34
Votives	£39.58
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 216.45</b>

**Attendance: 63**