

**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)

Dates for the diary:

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.

### 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.



## 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)



### Third Sunday of Lent

**3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024 Year B Volume 1 Page**

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy.

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

#### Third Sunday of Lent

*Confession 9.30am*

*Mass 10.00am with Childrens*

*Liturgy*

#### Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March

*Mass 9.00am*

#### Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March

*Mass 10.00am*

#### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March

*Mass 10.00am*

#### Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March

*Mass 10.00am*

#### Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March

*School Mass 9.00am*

#### Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March

*Mass 5.00pm*

#### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March

#### Fourth Sunday of Lent

*Confession 9.30am*

*Mass 10.00am with Childrens*

*Liturgy*



### CAFOD's Family Fast Day.

Envelopes can be left today for any offerings from CAFOD's family fast day.. 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.

**Today's second collection is for Cathedral Maintenance.**

### Soup and Roll afternoon

Parishioners of St Gerard's Church are invited to a Soup and Roll afternoon at St Gerard's school 2.00pm on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Please come along and enjoy being served free tomato soup and a bread roll by our schools Mini Vinnies!

**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 10th anniversary supporting the Castle Vale community.

**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 . Initially this would be overseeing Children's Liturgy and Altar Servers each week ensuring that rotas are in place and coordinating activities. It has always been our wish to expand our offerings for our youth but we really do need some more volunteers if we are to do this. 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

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

GA	£76.00
NGA	£36.36
CAFOD	£34.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 146.86</b>

**Attendance:53**