

PASTORAL:

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.

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 confession Wednesday 12th June in school

First Holy Communion: Saturday 15th June 10.00am.

VACANCY: Foundation Governor at St Gerard's Catholic Primary School. Training is provided to help governors fulfil this very important role. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact the school office on 0121 464 2613.

Reflection: Holy Trinity, Sunday 26 May

I wonder who taught you to make the sign of the cross. Have you taught others to make that powerful sign? Anyone who has been involved in schools will know the importance of mirroring so that children learn to make the sign the right way round.

The lesson goes deeper than bodily co-ordination. Tracing on our bodies the reality of the cross and the promise of resurrection we learn how God touches our humanity; that we are personally embedded in God's eternal love, which we are called to incarnate. The cross is visible in more places than we realise. Nearly every village has a cross at its heart with a memorial dedicated to the war fallen. Athletes and footballers often make the sign of the cross as they begin games, and the poet priest John Donne noticed how we make the shape of the cross every time we stretch our arms when swimming.

Emperor Constantine witnessed a cross in the sky with the words: "in this sign, conquer". While we might remove the cross from the theatre of war, we see the sign of the cross in the name of the Trinity as a triumph that says 'I hope' and 'I believe'. It's an Amen writ large and whatever battles we face, let us rest in the knowledge of Christ's victory over sin and death.

Fr Ryan Service, Assistant Priest at Holy Trinity, Sutton Coldfield

"Transformed in the Holy Trinity".

By Fr. Marion Nguyen, OSB*

Begin with the end in mind. It is Steven Covey's second of seven habits of highly effective people.

A similar idea is presented when Jesus enjoins the disciples, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" (Mt 28:19). This is the official beginning of the life of the Trinity on earth because the Father sent the Son into the world and has accomplished the work of salvation, and the Holy Spirit has descended upon the apostles and believers.

Now is the beginning of the life of believers that initiates with the Trinity. The presence of the Trinity should make all things new for us (cf. Rv 21:5). Trinitarian life changes our life and transforms it. It changes our life by becoming its new end, or, telos. We no longer live for ourselves but for God by invitation (cf. 2 Cor 15:5; Jn 17:21). Because of this new end, our life is transformed.

It does not need to be mastered by desires and inordinate inclinations; instead, these are tamed by wisdom, self-control, fortitude, and according to their ability to bring us to our end. A transformative effect of this reality is that our desires are not negated, but find deeper meaning and give glimpses of the life to come. Desire for food no longer needs to be a temptation for gluttony, but simply gives life to the body. This alludes to the feeding of the mind with the Word (Mt 4:4) and the nourishment of the Body and Blood for the soul (Jn 6). Injustice no longer needs to be an occasion for outbursts of anger, but simply a recognition of a need for healing that can inspire personal commitment to acts of mercy (Mt 25:31-46) and increase hope for the Sun of Justice to return (Mt 4:2).

These are only a few examples of the transformative effects of the Trinity; the truth is, the Trinity encompasses all. Hadewijch of Antwerp, the 13th-century mystic, envisioned it in one of her letters: "God is in everything... God is the unitive storm that condemns or blesses each thing according to its worth. He has fruition in himself in his depth, according to the glory of the being that he is in himself".

Begin with the Trinity and everything regains its appropriate dignity in the Trinity now and in the world to come.



Parish of St. Gerard, Castle Vale
(Part of the Erdington Cluster which includes The Abbey, St Peter and Paul's and St Mary and John's)

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



SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

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God our Father, who by sending into the world the Word of truth and the Spirit of sanctification made known to human race your wondrous mystery, grant us, we pray, that on professing the true faith, we may acknowledge the Trinity of eternal glory and adore your Unity, powerful in majesty.

Mass Times

Sunday 26th May

Holy Trinity

Confessions 9.30am

Mass 10.00am with Children's

Liturgy for Raphael Pidowe

RIP and David Bacchus RIP

Monday 27th May

No Mass

Tuesday 28th May

No Mass

Wednesday 29th May

No Mass

Thursday 30th May

Mass 10.00am

Friday 31st May

Mass 10.00am

Saturday 1st June

Mass 5.00pm

Sunday 2nd June

**Most Holy Body and Blood
of Christ**

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00am



"Happy the people the Lord has chosen as his own"

Erdington Cluster group meeting

Thankyou to those parishioners that attended the first cluster group meeting at St Peters and Pauls church on Friday evening. We heard a lot about how parishes working together could really benefit the Church. In a time when there are less priests and more rigour around maintaining churches and living out the Church's mission, including looking after our old and young, poor and hungry and strengthening our offerings for families, it is exciting to be joining forces with our neighbouring parishes to plan how we can all achieve more. Please note the top of our newsletter where for the first time we acknowledge our clustering!

The next meeting is planned for Tuesday 18th June @ 7.00pm at St Peter and Paul's Church Hall. We are looking for as many parishioners as possible to join this meeting where, in small groups, we will discuss what each parish does well and therefore may be able to help other parishes in our cluster, and what areas we would like to be better at or need help with. This is a real opportunity for us all to live out our parish mission as below and support the Church in its mission going forward. Please attend if possible. It would be great to demonstrate the wonderful parish that is St Gerard's. Please see Sue if you would like to understand more about this clustering of parishes or understand where you may be able to help in these early stages of clustering. There really is something for everyone.

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.

Funeral Arrangements for Marjorie Burke RIP

Body will be received into St Gerard's Church on Wednesday 5th June 2024 at 4.00pm. Requiem Mass will be the following morning Thursday 6th June at 11.30am at St Gerard's Church then onto Sutton Crematorium for 1.00pm. Please keep Marjorie's family in your prayers at this difficult time.

Recently died and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Marjorie Burke: Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.

The sick: Theresa Floyd, Pat Bonner, 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 19th May

GA: £58.00

NGA: £64.25

100 club £150.00

Total: £272.25

Attendance: 78