

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.

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and Renew the Face of the Earth

The feast of Pentecost, which we celebrate this weekend, is not to be minimised!

The Spirit is active in each of our hearts, and throughout the Church, whether it be in family prayers, in parish or diocesan celebrations, or in the whole body of Christ which is his universal Church. We are called now and each day to invite the Spirit's energy and love to guide and make fully alive our thoughts, our prayers and our actions.

The original Jewish feast of Pentecost celebrated a grain crop, grown from seed, ripened, and now producing its harvest. Our lives filled with the Holy Spirit have the power to be fruitful beyond our imagining. "Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth" is one choice of response for the Responsorial Psalm (Ps 103 [104]) for the liturgy of the Mass of Pentecost. It comes from verse 30 of that psalm which speaks of the power of the Spirit of God working through all of creation.

In Pope Francis's great document on Creation, *Laudato Si*, he laments the human evil which can destroy the beauty of creation, but even where such harm has been done, he lifts our spirits by reminding us of what the power of the Holy Spirit can achieve in cooperation with willing human hearts ... "The work of the Church seeks not only to remind everyone of the duty to care for nature, but at the same time "she must above all protect mankind from self- destruction" Yet God, who wishes to work with us and who counts on our cooperation, can also bring good out of the evil we have done.

"The Holy Spirit can be said to possess an infinite creativity, proper to the divine mind, which knows how to loosen the knots of human affairs, including the most complex and inscrutable". "Creating a world in need of development, God in some way sought to limit himself in such a way that many of the things we think of as evils, dangers or sources of suffering, are in reality part of the pains of childbirth which he uses to draw us into the act of cooperation with the Creator." (*Laudato Si* 79/80)

Reflection by Fr Rob Taylerson

Based on the gospel for Sunday 19 May, Pentecost: John 15:26-27; 16:12-15 "And you too will be witnesses."

On Pentecost Sunday, Jesus tells the Apostles that he will send the "Spirit of Truth" from the Father and that they are to be his witnesses. Just as the first Apostles boldly proclaimed the message of Jesus at the first Pentecost, we too, as spirit-filled people, are called to be his witnesses today.

St Paul describes the signs of the Spirit as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self-control. We may fail to live up to this ideal, but perhaps re-energised by the Spirit this Pentecost we can strive once again to witness to the Spirit of Truth.

Our world today needs more than ever a Spirit of Truth so that the rights of all people and our environment, both at home and abroad, are respected. So, as well as endeavouring to witness to the Spirit by the way we live out our day-to-day lives, we could call upon our politicians and all those in power to advance respect for all people and our planet. By tapping into the Spirit of Truth in prayer, aided by the gifts of knowledge, understanding, wisdom, right judgement, piety, courage and fear of the Lord, may we discern how we can be witnesses for Jesus today.

Prayer

Spirit of Truth, fill us, teach us, guide us, empower us to witness to the Truth in the way we live our lives. Amen.



Parish of St. Gerard, Castle Vale

part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham—Registered Charity No. 234216

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PENTECOST SUNDAY

Solemnity

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O God, who by the mystery of today's great feast sanctify your whole Church in every people and nation, pour out, we pray, the gifts of the Holy Spirit across the face of the earth and, with the divine grace that was at work when the Gospel was first proclaimed, fill now once more the hearts of believers.

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 19th May

Pentecost Sunday

Confessions 9.30am

Mass 10.00am with Children's

Liturgy

Monday 20th May

Mass 10.00am

Tuesday 21st May

Mass 10.00am

Wednesday 22nd May

No Mass

Thursday 23rd May

Mass 10.00am

Friday 24th May

Mass 10.00am

Cluster meeting @ St Peters

and Pauls 6.00pm

Saturday 25th May

Mass 5.00pm

Sunday 26th May

Most Holy Trinity

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00am



Preparing for Pentecost: Sunday 19 May 2024

Pentecost will be celebrated on Sunday 19 May, fifty days after Easter Sunday. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Our Lady and the Apostles.

"O God, whose Son ascended to the heavens as the Apostles looked on, grant, we pray, that, in accordance with his promise, we may be worthy for him to live with us always on earth"

Please take a copy of the Archbishops letter which has been placed at the back of church. This was read out at Mass a few weeks ago but includes important information regarding the reduction of serving priests and the consequences on the number of parishes expected within our Archdiocese moving forward. It is so important that we, as witnesses to Jesus Christ, continue to follow the example given to the Apostles and do our bit in maintaining our churches. Through our baptism we all have a share in the Priesthood of Christ and that invests in all of us a responsibility for the future of the Church. The Archbishops letter calls for all parishes to establish pastoral councils to assist parishes, and recently formed clusters, to move from collaboration to co-responsibility for the local mission of the Church. The pastoral councils will act as consultative bodies, informing and guiding the decisions that need to be taken forward as we look to the future of our churches and parishes. Thus, they will help us prepare for a closer working together of neighbouring parishes, with the likelihood of fewer clergy, the possible merger of parishes and the likely need to close some of our churches in the years ahead.

The first meeting will be held at St Peters and Pauls church on Friday 24th May 6.00pm.

Each parish is expected to bring along 4 parishioners who would be willing to establish a parish council for our parish. Refreshments will be provided. It would be wonderful if St Gerard's parish was well represented. Please consider if you would be able to attend and if so, let Fr know. As I say at this stage it is understanding the nature of the pastoral councils and the pastoral priorities of each parish.

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 12th May

GA: £91.00

NGA: £29.37

Donation: £50.00

Catholic Comms £41.72

Total: £212.09

Attendance: 93