

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.

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.

Thank you!!

A big thank you to our school community who donated £850 towards the costs of repair and redecoration to our church toilet. There is always maintenance to do on our church and with limited funds available to us we are very grateful for the school's support.

VACANCY: Foundation Governor at St Gerard's Catholic Primary School. Foundation governors are appointed by the Bishop to serve as his representatives on the governing body of diocesan school to ensure the Church's mission is upheld. Governors have oversight of the curriculum and the appointment of staff and are accountable for the performance of the school. They have a strategic role to play as well as acting as critical friend to the headteacher. 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.

"Make your home in me, as I make mine in you"

In John's Gospel Jesus is presented as using the language of being at home and it encourages us to ask whether we feel at home in the church and with God. Feeling at home somewhere goes deeper than a postcode: it's where we are most comfortable, where we are fully ourselves, and where we experience comfort and security. Please God we can instantly call to mind that place where we feel at home. Where is it for you? Give thanks for that place.

It's remarkable to think that God sees his home as within us: that the Son of man who had nowhere to lay his head, in today's Gospel, sees us as the person whom he leans upon to rest. The same Jesus who invites all those who are burdened to find their rest in him, recognises us as his place of comfort and restoration.

Often this way of viewing our relationship with God can be uncomfortable because we experience feelings of inadequacy or guilt. Perhaps this is something to pray about: asking God to increase our sense of self-worth, with a grace to enable us to view ourselves more as God sees us; as his home. Indeed, this is a particular grace we pray for at every Mass: "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed".

Fr Ryan Service, Holy Trinity, Sutton Coldfield

Prayer for Vocations

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit" John 15:16

"Pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest" Matthew 9:38

Heavenly Father, we ask you to send labourers into your harvest. Inspire, in the hearts of your people, vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life. Bless our families with a spirit of generosity, so that those whom you call have the courage to give themselves to your Church in faith. Through Christ our Lord.

O Sacrament most holy, O Sacrament divine, all praise and all thanksgiving be every moment thine.



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



SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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Graciously hear our supplications. O Lord, so that we, who believe that the Saviour of the human race is with you in your glory, may experience, as he promised, until the end of the world, his abiding presence among us.

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 12th May

7th Sunday of Easter

Confessions 9.30am

Mass 10.00am with Children's

Liturgy

Monday 13th May

Mass 10.00am

Tuesday 14th May

Mass 10.00am for James

Whelan RIP

Wednesday 15th May

Mass 10.00am

Thursday 16th May

Mass 10.00am

Friday 17th May

School Mass 9.00am

Saturday 18th May

Mass 5.00pm

Sunday 19th May

Pentecost Sunday

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00am



Cluster Meeting re Birmingham Diocese re modification and amalgamation of parishes:

"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.

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Offertory 5th May

GA: £68.00

NGA: £39.73

Donation: £990.00

Total: £1097.73

This week Second
Collection for Catholic
Communications

Attendance: 68