

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

Based on the gospel for Sunday 7th July, Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Mark 6:1-6

"What is this wisdom that has been granted him?"

"What is this wisdom that has been granted him?" Those listening to Jesus in his home town, are puzzled by the wisdom of the carpenter. They lack faith and do not respond positively to his teaching. "A prophet" declares Jesus, "is only despised in his own country." We may not consider ourselves to be prophets, just ordinary people who are followers of Christ. But Saint Oscar Romero reminds us "Wherever there is someone who has been baptised... There is a prophet there. Let us not hide the talent that God gave us on the day of our baptism, let us truly live the beauty and responsibility of being a prophetic people".

As a prophetic people we may not use the language of theologians. We may share Christ's teaching in a simpler and more relatable way, speaking of injustice and what can be done to bring about a fairer, more equitable world. Others may not listen to what we say, but they may take note of how we live our lives. We do not expect to work the miracles of Jesus. But using our God given talents, we take small steps to bring about change for good in our world; water for the thirsty, food for the hungry, shelter and protection for the migrant and refugee.

There may be those, even within our own community, who do not accept or respond to our words and our actions. But others witnessing our fight against injustice and inequality, may stop and ask, what is this wisdom which has been granted to them?

Lord Jesus, thank you for the different talents you have given us all, to be a prophetic people through our words or actions. May our witness inspire others to bring about change in our troubled world. Amen.

Reflection for 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

This week we hear two famous images from Scripture with St Paul's "thorn in the flesh" and Jesus' powerful response: "my grace is enough". The biggest secret in humanity's history is that we struggle in all sorts of ways and repeatedly find thorns in ourselves and others. Often it's our very humanity that we find most difficult, be that identity, sexuality, sense of purpose, or health. Yet, salvation never bypasses our humanity. In fact, it hinges upon it and so we are all encouraged to ask for an increase in love for our humanity.

If we chose to focus on thorns, we might reflect on the Glastonbury thorn (hot on the heels of last week's festival), which would always flower unseasonally at Christmas. The poet George Meredith sees the thorn akin to the "Tree of Life" and ends his poem hoping that "all the thorns of life may show / Nought but sweet flowers above the snow!".

With whatever thorns we face, can we see how God's grace might help us – and others – to flower at an unseasonable time, perhaps when we least expect it? Do we have faith in the possibility of a breakthrough and do we celebrate the little 'successes'?

It starts with loving God and love of God depends upon us loving ourselves too.

Fr Ryan Service is Assistant Priest at Holy Trinity Church in Sutton Coldfield

Make a Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes

All are welcome on the Annual Pilgrimage to Hednesford, Sunday 7 July

Sea Sunday, 14 July: Let us pray for seafarers, fishers, and the work of Stella Maris. When seafarers and fishers arrive in a foreign port, they are strangers, often thousands of miles from home. Stella Maris' chaplains and volunteer ship visitors welcome them, listen to their concerns, and help provide what they need. Stella Maris' chaplains and volunteer ship visitors answer Jesus' call to give hospitality to the stranger. **Next week there will be a second collection for the Apostleship of the Sea.**



Parish of St. Gerard, Castle Vale
(Part of the Erdington Cluster which includes The Abbey, St Peter and St Paul's
and St Mary and St John's)
part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham—Registered Charity No. 234216
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FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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O God, who in the abasement of your Son have raised up a fallen world, fill your faithful with holy joy, for on those you have rescued from slavery to sin you bestow eternal gladness.

Mass Times

Sunday 7th July

**Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary
Time**

Confession 9.30am

*Mass 10.00am for James Pell-
Wallpole RIP*

with Children's Liturgy

Monday 8th July

Baptism 9.00am

Mass 10.00am

Tuesday 9th July

Mass 10.00am

Wednesday 10th July

Mass 10.00am

Thursday 11th July

Mass 2.00pm

Friday 12th July

School Mass 9.00am

Saturday 13th July

Mass 5.00pm

Sunday 15th July

**Fifteenth Sunday of Ordinary
Time**

Confession 9.30am

*Mass 10.00am with Children's
Liturgy*



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.

Altar Servers

For those who have received their First Holy Communion and wish to take up the role of Altar Server in our parish, there will be the first altar server training session after 10.00am Mass today. This training is applicable for those new to serving and we hope that as many people as possible will be able to attend. Thank you to the two parishioners that have come forward to lead this training.

Erdington Cluster group meeting

Thank you to those parishioners that attended the recent meeting at St Peter and Paul's Church Hall. It was disappointing that St Gerard's was so poorly represented at such an important meeting regarding the future of our parish, but we are hopeful that more parishioners may be able to attend future cluster meetings and any parish meetings/groups that will inevitably come out of this cluster meeting. St Gerard's were recognised as having many good practices which was lovely to hear.

Parish Council Meeting; Tuesday 23rd July 7.30pm after 7.00pm Mass.

We ask that all our parishioners continue to discern how we currently use our skills and talents to assist in the many areas of responsibilities here at St Gerard's and consider whether there is more that you could do to keep our parish thriving. Please try your best to attend this parish meeting where you will be able to see what areas of responsibility you may be able to assist with.

Missio- Thankyou to those that have returned their red boxes for counting. After many years Frances Irwin has stepped down as our Missio Secretary. As we have yet to appoint a new secretary, we will not be distributing the boxes until such time we have a new secretary to continue to support Missio in their work as we have so generously for many years. If you are interested in becoming the Missio secretary for St Gerard's then please see Sue Perkins.

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: Sarah Purcell, 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 23rd June

GA	£39.00
NGA	£29.58
Total	£68.58

Attendance:59

Offertory 30th June

GA	£89.00
NGA	£70.85
Peters Pence	£18.70
Total	£178.55

Attendance:63