

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

Reflection for 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reflection After the events in the synagogue of Nazareth recounted last week, Jesus chooses a dramatic response, calling the Twelve together and sending them out on mission two by two. It is a dramatic response to be sure, but one that has relevance to each and every one of us who desires to wear the label of 'Christian'.

The call to mission given by Jesus requires the Twelve to travel light, trust in God's providence for their daily needs, preach repentance, heal the sick, and drive out demons. The mission that Jesus gives to the Twelve has a sense of urgency attached to it, an urgency that requires simplicity on the part of those who are sent. It is a mission that requires faith and trust in God's power and the cultivation of humility on the part of the ones who are sent. Were the Twelve prepared for what they were commissioned for?

We can never be sure, but whether they were or not, they went. They bravely answered Jesus' commission, just like Amos, who, despite being a shepherd and a carer for sycamore trees, answered the call to become a prophet of God. Their unwavering faith and courage should inspire us all. Amos was faithful to God's call to 'prophecy to my people, Israel,' and would not be turned from that course even when confronted by Amaziah, the king's household priest. He may not have been brought up in the prophetic tradition and thus prepared for what he was called to do, but Amos remained faithful to his calling, speaking truth to power, and calling for repentance and justice. It was in that tradition that the Twelve embarked on their mission, ready or not, faithful to the one who sent them, whether they were welcomed or not. The Twelve will eventually return from their mission, but that is yet to come, and we will have to wait to hear what happened. Yet the example of the Twelve and Amos reminds us that being a Christian involves a preparedness to embrace what God asks us to do, just like the Twelve and Amos.

Being a Christian is not a comfortable undertaking, nor is it always a safe profession. It involves a willingness to go where we might not want to go and do what we might not want to do, all for the sake of being faithful to God and God's purpose. Embracing the call to prophetic action requires us to step out of our comfort zones, take risks for the sake of the Gospel, and, most importantly, trust in God's unwavering guidance and provision. It may involve speaking out against injustices in our communities, advocating for the poor and vulnerable, or reaching out to those who are marginalised or excluded. It may also involve being willing to forgive, to reconcile, and to work for peace. In our world today, marked by division, violence, and injustice, the call to prophetic action is not just urgent; it is crucial.

We are not just called, but we are needed to be voices of hope, agents of change, and witnesses to God's love and mercy. That is the task of the disciple of Jesus. That is the mission we are entrusted with. That is the mission for which the Church exists.

Make a Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes

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



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
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



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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O God, who show the light of your truth to those who go astray, so that they may return to the right path, give all who for the faith they profess are accounted Christians the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ and to strive after all that does it honour.

Mass Times

Sunday 14th July

**Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary
Time**

Confession 9.30am

*Mass 10.00am with Children's
Liturgy*

Monday 15th July

Mass 10.00am

Tuesday 16th July

Mass 10.00am

Wednesday 17th July

Mass 10.00am

Thursday 18th July

Mass 10.00am

Friday 19th July

School Mass 9.00am

Saturday 20th July

No Mass

Sunday 21st July

**Sixteenth 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.

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. From cleaning the church, chaperoning our Altar Servers, leading Children's Liturgy, Visiting the Sick, preparing people for receiving Sacraments, helping maintain our beautiful Church..... there really is something for everyone. As we hear in today's Gospel:

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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.

Today there will be a second collection for the Apostleship of the Sea.

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.

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Offertory 7th July 2024

To be announced.

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second collection for the
Apostleship of the Sea.**