

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

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

Sunday, 28 July 2024

The fourth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly falls on Sunday 28 July 2024. Pope Francis has given the day the theme "Do not cast me off in my old age" from Psalm 71:9.

In a special section on the Archdiocese website, you can read the full message from the Holy Father as well as prayers, podcasts, and links to help you celebrate the day.

As the Pope says, we should cherish the elderly and recognise that there's no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel and handing down traditions to grandchildren.

Reflection: Grandparents and the Elderly

The saying goes: *"God has no grandchildren."*

All are called to have an intimate relationship with their Creator – to be a child of God. He wants us to know Him personally, which means that if we call ourselves Christian, it's not because our parents or grandparents were Christians, or that we come from a Christian family or country; it will be because we know God as our Father, and are disciples of Jesus Christ.

Of course, human relationships are necessarily different. And those relationships across generations are so vital for us – for both our emotional and physical health – and ideally we grow in our capacity to give and receive love over a lifetime. This experience can also communicate something about the faithful love of God, which does not diminish over time.

When relationships and families are strong, we feel secure, but when they fail we observe very different kinds of fruit: resentment, jealousy, suspicion, unforgiveness.

The theme for this year's Day for Grandparents & the Elderly on Sunday 28 July is: *"Do not cast me off in my old age"* (cf. Psalm 71:9). The bad fruits just mentioned are symptoms of the greatest human tragedy: estrangement from God. For all the fruits of this estrangement, the Good News is that there is nothing that can separate us from the love of God! (see Romans 8:39) We remain precious to Him, and we remain useful to Him, at whatever stage of life. As St John Henry Newman wrote: *"I can never be thrown away!"*

During this day for grandparents and the elderly, perhaps we can ask God to show us – through our elders in the faith – the indispensable role he has for each person to play in the Body of Christ.

Paul Northam, Diocesan Advisor for Evangelisation & Discipleship (with Marriage & Family Life)



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
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SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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O God, protector of those who hope in you, without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy, bestow in abundance your mercy upon us and grant that, with your mercy upon us and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may use the good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those that ever endure.

Mass Times

Sunday 28th July

**Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary
Time**

**World Day for Grandparents
and the Elderly**

Confession 9.30am

*Mass 10.00am with Children's
Liturgy*

Monday 29th July

Mass 10.00am

Tuesday 30th July

Mass 10.00am

Wednesday 31st July

Mass 10.00am

Thursday 1st August

Mass 10.00am

Friday 2nd August

Mass 10.00am

Saturday 3rd August

Mass 5.00pm

Sunday 4th August

**Eighteenth 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.

Thank you to all those parishioners that attended this meeting, where we discussed the need for a Parish Pastoral Council to pull together all the wonderful work that some do currently and oversee the future running of our wonderful parish.

Thank you to those who came forward to offer their time to take up a position on the Council. We still require more parishioners to make up the Council and therefore

ask that all our parishioners continue to discern how they currently use their 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 strengthen our parish, keep our parish thriving and carry out the important work that God has entrusted to us in spreading the Gospel.

Remembering we are brought together through Baptism as one family in God, how can we do our bit to support our Parish.

Please see Fr if you have any questions or would like to put yourself forward as part of our Parish Pastoral Council.

Popes Intentions for August: We pray that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and for the common good, especially caring for the poor and those who have lost their jobs.

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

Total:£123.01

14th July 2024

Total:£296.16

21st July 2024

Total :£88.45