

#### **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](http://www.stgerard.bham.sch.uk)

**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.

#### **Caritas Social Action Network-General Election 2024.**

With a general election on our national horizon, we, the Catholic community, have an opportunity to exercise active citizenship and contribute to the building up of God's Kingdom of "love, justice and peace". We are encouraged to prioritise that which contributed to both our individual and collective flourishing. The church gives us the principles by which we can discern which candidate and which party will best advance the common good.

The common good has been a keystone of Catholic Social Teaching from the outset. The common good is defined as "the sum of those conditions of social life which allow social groups and their individual members relatively thorough and ready access to their own fulfilment". The Bishops of England and Wales remind us of our responsibility "all are responsible for all, collectively, at the level of society, not only as individuals".

The promotion of the common good, the key criterion for determining who we vote for, means the flourishing of all people and the whole person, with no-one left behind. Every person has a right to what is required to live a fully human life such as food, clothing and shelter, the right to raise a family, the right to education, to employment, to a good reputation, to respect, to medical care and social services and dignity of the human person. The will of God for human beings is that we live in unity and love.

With love at the heart of our approach to the General Election we are called to see what is going on with people in our society- children and mental health, people who are sick, food banks because for some income is inadequate for a dignified life, homelessness, people in prison, people in care homes, people coming into our country to seek asylum- we need to be attentive to seeing maybe our own prejudices and see our world as God sees it. This way with prayers in the General Election we choose to vote for the candidate and political party that we believe in good conscience will most effectively build up the common good.

**Based on the gospel for Sunday 16 June, Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time: Mark 4:26-34** "the birds of the air can shelter in its shade."

What does it mean to be a part of the kingdom of God? Jesus uses a range of parables that shed light on different aspects of this kingdom. In today's gospel reading, I am particularly drawn to the image of birds being sheltered by a large shrub. Beyond being a pleasant image for a bird lover, it speaks to me of both the refuge we find in the Church, and the refuge that we as members of the Church are called to offer to all people.

Many of CAFOD's partner organisations work to ensure that people have safe places to live. In Brazil, local organisation, Semeando, enables low-income families to access housing, in line with their constitutional and human rights. In countries such as Ukraine and Sudan, CAFOD's partners provide shelter and other support to people displaced by war. Just as the mustard plant is able to shelter the birds because of the size it grows to, CAFOD and its partners form an extensive network that can respond to both crises and ongoing situations of poverty and violence, from Guatemala to the Philippines. CAFOD and its partners try to play their part in working towards God's kingdom, by responding to Christ's call to address the needs of our brothers and sisters. May we too accept his invitation through our responses to these needs.

***Lord, we thank you for the people all over the world who work tirelessly to shelter others. We pray we too may be a small part of this work. Amen.***



**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](mailto:stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk)  
**Presbytery:** 2 Renfrew Square, Castle Vale, Birmingham B35 6JT T: 0121 747 7390  
W: [www.stgerardschurch.co.uk](http://www.stgerardschurch.co.uk)



### ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

16<sup>th</sup> June 2024 Year B Volume 2 Page 95

O God, strength of those who hope in you, graciously hear our pleas, and, since without you mortal frailty can do nothing, grant us always the help of your grace, that in following your commands we may please you by our resolve and our deeds.

#### Mass Times

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June**

**Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*Confession 9.30am*

*Mass 10.00am for Timothy Miller RIP  
and Rev Fr John Basil Harrington RIP  
(2016) with Children's Liturgy*

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June**

*Mass 10.00am for Marjorie Bourke RIP*

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June**

*Mass 10.00am for Marjorie Bourke RIP*

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June**

*Mass 10.00am for Marjorie Bourke RIP*

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June**

*Mass 10.00am for Marjorie Bourke RIP*

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June**

*School Mass 9.00am*

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**

*Mass 5.00pm*

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June**

**Twelfth Sunday of Ordinary Time**

*Confession 9.30am*

*Mass 10.00am with Children's Liturgy*



**Today there will be a Second Collection  
for Day for Life.**

#### Erdington Cluster group meeting

**Reminder:** next meeting on **Tuesday 18th June @ 7.00pm** at **St Peter and Paul's Church Hall.**

We very much hope that as many parishioners as possible will be able to attend, where, in small groups, we will discuss what each parish does well and therefore may be able to help other parishes in our cluster, and what areas we would like to be better at or need help with. This is a real opportunity for us all to live out our parish mission and support the Church in its mission going forward. It is important to demonstrate the wonderful parish that is St Gerard's.

We are, as ever, looking for volunteers to strengthen our Parish Council here at St Gerard's. We ask that ahead of attending the meeting we all 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. This discernment may help you decide which small group you would wish to join with at the meeting.

#### 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.

#### First Holy Communion:

We welcome today all the children who received their First Holy Communion yesterday. Lord Jesus Christ, bless the children who came forward to receive Holy Communion for the first time. May this day be the step toward a life-long love of the Eucharist. Give them a hunger for this sacred food so that they turn to you for comfort, guidance, and wisdom as they grow into full discipleship. Thank you for their innocence and goodness. May their hands, extended in anticipation of your body and blood, inspire all of us to cherish this sacred Sacrament. Amen.

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> June

GA: £111.00

NGA: £80.88

**Total: £191.88**

**Attendance: 67**

#### Offertory 9<sup>th</sup> June

GA: £59.00

NGA: £59.85

Donation: £88.80

**Total: £207.65**

**Attendance: 72**