

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

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". 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 30 June, St Peter and St Paul: Matthew 16:13-19

"Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.'"

This week we are reminded that Jesus is "the Son of the living God." The centre of all human history. The beginning and the end. It is his kingdom that we are working to build. A kingdom of love and justice. It is the living God that we encounter in our neighbours. He is the cause and inspiration of our social justice work. This gospel also reminds us that our Father in heaven is revealing the truth to Peter and so to the Church. The mission we have been entrusted with, to share God's love to the ends of the earth, comes from the heart of the Father.

As Pope Francis has recently prayed: "May the Holy Spirit, who inspired the Scriptures and now breathes with them, help us to grasp this love of God in the concrete situations of our life."

How beautiful it is that we have been given leaders, successors of Peter and examples of saints to guide us in this special work. That we are united universally to this treasury of grace. The gospel also encourages us to consider the question, "Who do you say I am?" Who is Jesus to you? What is Jesus calling you to help with in the building of his kingdom?

Lord, we thank you for the gift of our Church and leaders, for the instructions and encouragement we receive. We pray that all people may know the love of God and that we may be moved to play our part in building the kingdom. Amen

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 on **Sunday 7th July**. This training will also be 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.



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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SOLEMNITY OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL

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O God, who on the Solemnity of the Apostles Peter and Paul, give us the noble and holy joy of this day, rant, we pray, that your Church may in all things follow the teaching of those through whom she received the beginnings of right religion.

Mass Times

Sunday 30th June

Feast of St Peter and Paul

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00am with Children's

Liturgy

Monday 1st July

No Mass

Tuesday 2nd July

No Mass

Wednesday 3rd July

No Mass

Thursday 4th July

No Mass

Friday 5th July

Mass 10.00am

Saturday 6th July

Mass 5.00pm

Sunday 7th July

Fourteenth 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.

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.

In small groups, we discussed 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. St Gerard's were recognised as having many good practices which was lovely to hear. Members of our school staff were present to represent our school and contribute to how better we could work together to grow our family numbers. Thank you to them and we look forward to seeing where we can go with this.

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.

Popes Prayer intentions for July:

We pray that the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick confer on those who receive it and their loved ones the power of the Lord and become ever more a visible sign of compassion and hope for all.

Missio-Please arrange to bring any red boxes into church for counting. After many years Frances Irwin has to step down as our Missio Secretary. If anyone is able to take up this role going forward please speak to Sue Perkins. We really would like to continue to support Missio in their work as we have so generously for many years.

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 16th June
To Be Announced.

Attendance: 59

**Today there will be a
second collection for
Peters Pence.**