

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 23 June, Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Mark 4:35-41

"He woke up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, 'Quiet now! Be calm!'"

This is a dramatic story of a storm at sea so ferocious it even troubled veteran sailors, four of whom were Jesus' first disciples. They are astonished that Jesus is able to sleep through all the hurly burly and they cry out in fear to wake him up.

When Jesus does awaken, the disciples are even more afraid as he calms the storm with a word. They are left questioning, "Who is this man?"

Our lives too can be storm-tossed. We can be frightened by the circumstances we find ourselves in and have no idea of a solution. We may also begin to wonder if God is really listening to our prayers. We can feel abandoned and alone. Sometimes things suddenly change and the problem becomes an opportunity. Perhaps it is a new beginning at work or a family reunion with estranged members. We then realise that God has been seeking our trust and the answer becomes a moment of blessing and peace. Other times the resolution is not so simple, but this story reminds us not to give up hope. If we place our trust in God, we will never be abandoned and we will be guided safely to shore.

**Creator God, we ask you to bless and keep safe all who spend their lives at sea. We pray also for their families who wait anxiously for their safe return. May we, like them, find a safe haven and a joyous homecoming when our voyage in life is over.
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
Presbytery: 2 Renfrew Square, Castle Vale, Birmingham B35 6JT T: 0121 747 7390
W: www.stgerardschurch.co.uk



TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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Grant, O Lord, that we may always revere and love your holy name, for you never deprive of your guidance those you set firm on the foundations of your love.

Mass Times

Sunday 23rd June

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00am for Robert Smith RIP on the 10th anniversary of his death with

Children's Liturgy

Monday 24th June

Mass 10.00am

Tuesday 25th June

Mass 10.00am

Wednesday 26th June

Mass 10.00am

Thursday 27th June

Mass 10.00am

Friday 28th June

School Mass 9.00am

Saturday 29th June

Mass 5.00pm

Sunday 30th June

Thirteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00am with Children's Liturgy



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.

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.

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.

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Offertory 16th June

GA: £83.00
NGA: £41.99
Day for Life £52.00
Total: £ 176.99

Attendance: 74

Next week there will be a second collection for Peters Pence.