

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

Harvington Pilgrimage 2024: Annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine of the English Martyrs, Worcestershire. The annual Pilgrimage to Harvington Hall, Shrine of the English Martyrs, will take place on **Sunday 1 September**. This year we are delighted that the principal celebrant will be The Right Reverend Paul Gunter OSB, Abbot of Douai Abbey. Mass is at 3pm with Confessions from 1.45pm – 2.30pm. Free timed tours of Harvington Hall are available to pilgrims on the day.

Organ Recitals at St Chad's Cathedral every Thursday through summer : 40-minute Organ Recitals every Thursday 1 August to 5 September at 1:15pm. Hosted by Thursday Live. Featuring an array of organists. All welcome.

Oscott College Tours Return: St Mary's College, Oscott is happy to announce the return of its popular College Tours. Take a walk through the public halls of the college, visit the chapel, library and newly renovated museum and finish with homemade cake and a cup of tea. Tickets are £15 per person. Want to take things at your own pace? Why not visit us on one of our free-flow afternoons. Take in all the public areas and talk to our friendly volunteers who are on hand to answer any of your questions. Take a few minutes to sit and admire the peace and beauty of the chapel or take the time to discover more in our new exhibition. Tickets are £8 per person.

Warm Welcome every Tuesday

The Erdington Abbey (Parish of St Thomas & St Edmund of Canterbury in Erdington, Birmingham) have a Warm Welcome every Tuesday 11am-2pm at the Parish Hall

Everybody is welcome to come for refreshments, sandwiches and lunch and access food parcels when available. There is also a craft group, fortnightly chair pilates and occasional benefit/energy advice and art classes. There is no charge for this, only a donation asked if possible.

Reflection: Based on the gospel for Sunday 25 August, Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time: John 6: 60-69

"Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life."

How many of us have found our belief in Jesus stretched at times? This was one of the times for his followers. Jesus promised his flesh to eat and his blood to drink and for many of his early followers, who had been attracted by his miracles, this was a statement too far. The disciples too were perplexed but they stood firm, and it is Peter, with an early sign of his leadership, who asks "Who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life." This is our belief too. Belief in the Eucharist is central to our lives of sharing, of service and of ministry. While not all Christians worship in the same way, they all believe that Jesus is God and that he will answer all our needs. Today we pray for all whose faith needs strengthening and all whose needs are many.

Lord, pour into our souls your grace. May the Eucharist be a sign of unity and call us to serve our brothers and sisters with love. Guide us to live each day trusting in your goodness. Amen.

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for Altar Servers-Saturday 5 October at 12noon, St Chad's Cathedral.

Altar servers and their families are invited to join this year's annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Guild of St Stephen. Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Bernard Longley on Saturday 5 October at 12noon at St Chad's Cathedral, followed by refreshments. The Guild of St Stephen is an international organisation of altar servers, founded in England in 1904 by Fr Hamilton McDonald. The Guild has spread and developed since then, and is active in many parishes in the Archdiocese of Birmingham. The Guild of St Stephen in the Archdiocese of Birmingham is administered by the Diocesan Vocations Office.

Those interested in attending are asked to contact the Vocations Office by Monday 16 September.



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



TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, their hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found.

Mass Times

Sunday 25th August

Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Confession 9.30am

*Mass 10.00am for Mary Thomas
RIP*

Monday 26th August

Mass 10.00am

Tuesday 27th August

Mass 10.00am

Wednesday 28th August

Mass 10.00am

Thursday 29th August

Mass 10.00am

Friday 30th August

Mass 10.00am

Saturday 31st August

Mass 5.00pm

Sunday 1st September

Twenty Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

Confession 9.30am

*Mass 10.00am for Oliver Brady
RIP*



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 Pastoral Council.

Thank you to those who have come 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 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 **by the end of August 2024.**

Popes Intentions for September: We pray that each one of us will and take to heart the cry of the earth and of victims of natural disasters and climatic change, and that we all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live.

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 17th September 7.00pm- First Erdington cluster Mass here at St Gerard's

Thursday 17th October 7.00pm- Erdington Cluster Mass at St Mary and St Johns, Erdington

Thursday 21st November 7.00pm- Erdington Cluster Mass at St Peter and St Pauls, Erdington

Thursday 20th December 7.00pm-Erdington Cluster Mass at Erdington Abbey

Upcycle Bank Holiday Fun Day -Monday 26th August 11.00am- Craft Stalls, Caribbean Cuisine, Water fights, Hot dogs, Candy Floss, Popcorn and so much more. Hosted here at St Gerard's Church centre and church garden.

Help needed ahead of **Tuesday 17th September 7.00pm- First Erdington cluster Mass here at St Gerard's-** church cleaning, gardens, flowers, choir, refreshments, altar servers **Please do what you can to make this a very special welcome to our neighbouring parishioners.**

Recently died and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Michael Patrick Doyle & Theresa

Farrell: 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

18th August 2024

GA £62.00

NGA £31.49

Attendance: 69

Thank you for your continued generosity.