

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 1 September, Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

"Nothing that goes into someone from outside can make that person unclean; it is the things that come out of someone that make that person unclean."

The Pharisees, as we see in today's reading, kept rules that dated back to Old Testament times, when the children of Israel needed to set themselves apart from the idolaters of the surrounding culture. In the New Testament, the idea of being set apart is still present but in a totally different sense: Jesus' values are uncompromising, and we are called to be in the world but not of it. What does this really mean for us? If we look more closely at the list of sins in Mark 7:21-22, we can see that they are all offences against love. Faith breaks down walls between people and leads to reconciliation. Our values should set us apart, yes, but in the paradoxical sense of bringing us closer to others. Pope Francis said, "Let us imitate Jesus: he goes to the streets" (address, 14 June 2014). We, the Ordinary People of the Streets is the English translation of a book by the French social activist and Venerable Madeleine Delbr  l, another of whose works has just appeared in English. I am challenged by her journey from unbelief through an interest in Carmelite spirituality to a commitment to ordinariness as a means of solidarity and thus as a way to love. I find this an inspiring example because it mirrors my own spiritual trajectory.

Lord, help us to commit to your values and look at how we can, through prayer and action, live in solidarity with our fellow humans. 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.



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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TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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God of might, giver of every good gift, out into our hearts the love of your name, so that, by deepening our sense of reverence, you may nurture in us what is good and, by your watchful care, keep safe what you have nurtured.

Mass Times

Sunday 1st September
Twenty Second Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Confession 9.30am
Mass 10.00am for Oliver Brady
RIP followed by Baptism of
Nathan

Monday 2nd September

Mass 10.00am

Tuesday 3rd September

Mass 10.00am

Wednesday 4th September

Mass 10.00am

Thursday 5th September

Mass 10.00am

Friday 6th September

Mass 11.30am

Funeral of Teresa Farrell

Saturday 7th September

Mass 5.00pm

Sunday 8th September

Twenty Third Sunday of

Ordinary Time

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00am



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

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.***

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.

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.

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

25th August 2024

GA £72.00

NGA £31.52

Votive Candles £24.22

Attendance: 54

Next Sunday there is a second collection for